

1991:PEOPLE POWER FILM ANALYSIS

How is power balanced between the government and the people?

Important Quotations

- "I looked down, took one step, then another, then I was over it. I was about this much over the white line, and suddenly it was too much. That wall—I had overcome this monster, this snake of a wall."
- "Decisions were made for you somewhere else. The Party newspaper would tell you what to think. All we could do was chat over a beer, and we were far more interested in sports."
- "I'm not complaining, but things could be better. The wife had to stand in line for a few ounces of ham, but there isn't any. We have so many pigs here, but no pork."
- "I was scared. Why should I take a risk. Nobody knew who might be an informer."
- "When we got there I was arrested. They forced me to sign a document admitting to the role they wanted to give me—a hard currency prostitute."
- "Suddenly I felt like I had grown wings. It wasn't that people liked what I said, but at last I could say what I wanted."
- "I felt he was a block. Never again will someone say, 'You can't go through here.' 'You're not allowed to do that.' No more. I'm going through."
- "All those new freedoms were at risk. We wouldn't be able to travel. Once again we'd be behind an iron curtain. They wanted to break me again, but once you've tasted freedom, you can't do without it."

NOTES WHILE WATCHING

Examples of Government Power	Examples of People Power

USSR Satellite States

- Czechoslovakia
- Poland
- Romania
- E. Germany/Berlin
- Hungary

Vocabulary

- Glasnost: "openness" in discussion of politics and economics*
- Young Pioneers: USSR youth organization*
- Iron Curtain: physical and ideological divide between communism and democracy*
- Solidarity: Polish movement against communism*
- Consensus: agreement / compromise*
- Defiance: daring opposition to authority*

REFLECTIONS BEFORE DISCUSSION

One thing I noticed was...

I predict that...

I wonder...

Select one of the quotes above and explain what it means to you.

Discussion Questions

1. When is it safe to challenge power?

2. What happened that changed the balance of power?

3. Is a balance of power achieved? Explain.