

MATEWAN

1987 James Earl Jones, Mary MacDonald 130min. PG-13

This film is a close representation of conditions and events in the West Virginia coalfields during the 1920's and can be used to illustrate this chapter in the history of organized labor. It also, however, presents an opportunity to put a face on the general climate of intolerance, which typified the 1920's. The Seminar Questions explores this theme.

<p>3:15 African-American strike breakers arrive in Matewan and are attacked by workers.</p> <p>6:00 Union organizer arrives in Matewan.</p> <p>7:40 New workers are told about conditions of employment.</p> <p>12:17 Secret meeting of union organizers.</p> <p>15:00 Anti-union sentiment expressed at a prayer meeting.</p> <p>17:00 Black workers join union meeting.</p> <p>18:00 Union organizer describes unfair labor practices.</p> <p>22:00 Union organizer attempts to explain the union to Italian immigrants.</p> <p>29:30 Horrors of mining accidents.</p> <p>34:00 Inside the mine Blacks and Italians discuss joining the union.</p> <p>37:00 Town sheriff confronts coal company enforcer.</p>	<p>Report topics on the history of organized labor can precede the showing of the entire film as dramatic support.</p> <p>Segment I: 0:00 - 50:00</p> <p>Research topics are intended to provide background for discussion of the general mood of intolerance, which prevailed during the 1920's.</p> <p>Seminar Questioning Sequence:</p> <p>What were the ideals of the American Socialist Party. Why were these ideals popular with immigrants? How did the Progressive movement co-opt some of the Socialist programs? What is Bolshevism? Why was it unpopular in the U. S.? How did this hurt the American Socialist party? In what ways were the ideals antithetical to the ideals of middle class America in the 1920's? What examples of government repression of Socialism occurred in this period?</p>	<p>National Labor Union Molly Maguires Nights of Labor Terence Powderly Haymarket riot of 1886 American Federation of Labor Samuel Gompers Industrial Workers of the World Sherman Anti-Trust Act Clayton Anti-Trust Act John L. Lewis United Mine Workers Company town/store Closed shop Yellow dog contract</p> <p>American Socialist Party Eugene V. Debs 19th Century Immigration Early 20th Century Immigration Ku Klux Klan revival in 1920's Red scare Sacco/Vanzetti Case Progressive movement Palmer raids</p>
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<p>43:00 Workers come together at union meeting.</p> <p>50:00 Meeting between the Mayor and the sheriff and the coal company representatives.</p> <p>55:00 Attack on the union camp.</p> <p>57:40 Debate about the merits of violence.</p> <p>59:00 Company enforcers evict workers from company housing.</p> <p>1:07:00 Skirmish between miners and company men.</p> <p>1:15:00 Attempt to discredit union representatives.</p> <p>1:36:00 Union movement begins to spread.</p> <p>1:44:00 Company enforcers kill union sympathizer.</p> <p>1:58:00 Union men shoot it out with and kill all company enforcers</p>		
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