

Top-3: The best three episodes according to the In Europa team – and at the same time three traditional ‘highlights’ of the 20th Century: The First World War, the Holocaust and the Fall of Communism.

Episode 4: 1915 – Ypres, Belgium

The war of 1914 was supposed to be a simple affair, to be over by Christmas. Unfortunately, it proved to be a different, new kind of war. Trench warfare was perfected as both sides tore open the fields of Flanders and France with an ever growing arsenal of destruction. Poisonous gasses and flamethrowers were introduced to tip the balance. In West Flanders, a truck still makes daily runs to collect unexploded ammo: 250,000 kilos a year. For some, this violence proved to be too much and they went crazy with fear: shellshock. Soldiers who lost their nerve were shot. To this day, grandchildren are trying to rehabilitate their grandfathers’ names.

Episode 16: 1942 – Germany

From behind the drawing boards of the furnace manufacturers Topf & Söhne, the engineers could look out the window and see the smoke rising from the chimneys of camp Buchenwald. That smoke came from cremation furnaces that they had designed, and similar furnaces manufactured by them also burned bodies at Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Were you a collaborator if you worked for Topf & Söhne? Should you have refused to service the furnaces at Auschwitz? Did you talk about what you saw at home at the dinner table? There’s only one question that remains after this episode and one that will never be answered: What would you have done back then?

Episode 33: 1989 – Romania

At the end of 1989, peasant dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife Elena were put against the wall after a clumsy trial and shot dead; all of this was filmed and broadcast worldwide. Two soldiers from the firing squad talk in detail about this execution. One of them, Lourentiu Stefanescu, is now a successful businessman with eight shops. But many Romanians now earn less than 150 euros per month and yearn for the "good old days". They have forgotten about the oppression and food shortages. In 1989 dissident poet Mircea Dinescu announced the new freedom with a giggle, but he is now disappointed with the results: parliament is inhabited with the same people as 20 years ago, and according to Dinescu they are the ones who have profited.

Top-5: The best five episodes according to the In Europa team: The First World War, the Holocaust, Germans as victims in World War II, the bloodless revolution in Portugal and the Fall of Communism

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The Nazi monster is defeated, but what to do with the Germans? The German people are punished severely by the end of the war. After sixty years of silence a Russian officer now recounts how his soldiers raped German women. Were these incidents or a deliberate humiliation? And what about the 'moral bombing'? The bombing of German towns so as make the people beg for mercy? Can one talk about this without doing the Holocaust victims wrong? Our Polish-Jewish researcher Sasza Malko objected: the Germans started so they deserved the pain. But does the right to vengeance exist? Dirty tactics in a battle against a dirty enemy.

Episode 29: 1974 – Portugal

The two leaders of the Carnation Revolution, the coup that brought down Portuguese dictator Marcello Caetano, were each others opposite. Vitor Alves was the thoughtful one, scarred by the long colonial war in Africa. Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho was the typical revolutionary, charming and smooth talking. Both paid a high price for their coup. Vitor had to betray his own father-in-law who was a navy chief. Otelo became such a lefty that he was thrown in jail by his own comrades. After the coup many Portuguese dreamt of a country that belonged to all. Farmers occupied the land of large landowners, labourers occupied the factories. But the leftist adventure did not last for long.

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Top-10: The best ten episodes according to the In Europa team. In chronological order, they represent many of the traditional traditional 'highlights' of the 20th Century.

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Episode 12: 1936 – Spain

There's still an invisible wall running through Spain, one which separates the opposing sides of the civil war that tore the country apart in the 1930s. After Franco's death in 1975, the official policy was to keep the past under wraps, to little effect. To this day, every Spanish villager knows which side his neighbor was on. Throughout the country, volunteers are feverishly working to dig up thousands of their family members from mass graves. And with each new found body, another piece of the past resurfaces not to be put back again.

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Episode 18: 1943 – Poland (longer episode: 50 minutes)

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Episode 35: 1992 – Bosnia & The Truth

Bosnian-Serb journalist Goran Trkulja escaped the war in Yugoslavia in 1992 and was granted asylum in the Netherlands. He now visits his former colleagues with painful questions. Why did they continue to work? Did they seriously tried to find out what was important? And did they write about that? Can journalism function as historiography? The recurring question is: does absolute truth exist? Geert Mak and Goran Trkulja ponder over these questions as they sail the Rhine to Rotterdam, where two acquaintances await them: Stalin expert Orlando Figes and Jörg Friedrich, who shared a new, controversial vision on the Allied bombing of Germany. We ask them: If something is history, does that mean it is the truth?

First World War (5 episodes)

Episode 3: 1914 – Vienna & Sarajevo

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Episode 5: 1916 – The Somme

The First World War proved to be a fertile breeding ground for technology. New inventions like the tank were introduced to inflict more damage and win battles, while in surgery and medicine new ways were found to repair those damaged. The thousands of severely mutilated soldiers, the men without a face, were given new noses, ears and jaws thanks to the tender beginnings of plastic surgery. On the home front, film footage shows the horrors of the real war as large as life on the big screen to those who stayed behind. Not only the soldiers, but all of society was traumatized: when an orphaned soldier wandered around not knowing where he was and his photo appeared in the paper, hundreds of mothers, children and girlfriends came forward to claim them as their own husband, friend or father.

Episode 6: 1917 – France

Things looked bleak for the French Army in 1917. It was stuck in its battered trenches while suffering enormous losses with no signs of improvement. On the front, the soldiers rose en masse in mutiny and only large-scale executions succeeded in getting them back in line. In order to support his ally, the Russian Czar sent thousands of his soldiers to the Western Front. From French trenches, they learned that their own fatherland was slowly slipping into chaos. We visit the villages and cemeteries of northern France, where a story is told in family archives and silent monuments about rebellion, desperation and rehabilitation.

Episode 7: 1917 – Russia

In Soviet mythology, the year 1917 was a symbol, a watershed in world history, a Soviet landmark. It was the end of the Tsarist empire! It was the year Lenin rose to power! The October Revolution! The beginning of a socialist society! But in 2007 in St. Petersburg, almost no one wants to be reminded of 1917. History itself has been rolled up like an old painting and stored somewhere in the cellar of a museum.

The Road to World War II, or: Interbellum (7 episodes)

Episode 8: 1922 – Berlin

1922, Germany is still in turmoil after losing the First World War. The defeat intensified disparities, and only one man seemed capable of holding the country together: Walter Rathenau. When this man was killed by right-wing extremists in 1922, it seemed Germany was descending further into the abyss. We go back to Versailles, the cradle of so much suffering in the 20th century. Here, a peace was made that would bring forth new wars.

Episode 9: 1925 – Predappio, Italy

Everything that Hitler dreamt about in the 1930s has already been achieved by Mussolini in the 1920s. In his birthplace of Predappio, we can still visit the grave of the Duce, the man who gave Italy her pride back after so many years of broken ambitions. Mussolini's village is still a place of pilgrimage for Italians who long for the time when their country was a true, powerful nation.

Episode 10: 1929 – Berlin

After his release from the Tegel Prison in Berlin, where he was serving a sentence for the murder of his girlfriend Ida, Franz Biberkopf, the protagonist in the novel *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, starts to panic. The new Berlin grabs him by the throat. The city is adrift; it's decadent, frivolous and lawless. Berlin was the cultural center of Europe and many artists from around the world flocked there. In the meantime, the rumblings of one of the greatest disasters that a European country has ever brought upon itself were resonating from below. The city was dancing on the volcano. Hitler and his followers were warming up for their rise to power four years later. Nowadays, the city has rediscovered its position as a European cultural center.

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Episode 13: 1937 – Munich

In 1937, Hitler opened the House of Art in Munich. Inside, visitors could view art that the Fuhrer had approved. A short distance away, was an exhibition showing work he loathed, the so-called *Entartete Kunst* with works by Marc Chagall, Wassily Kandinsky and Otto Dix. In this episode, we peer into Hitler's world through the eyes of the artist that he actually wanted to become. Even in his first drawings of a square in Vienna, he simply left out a modern house that he didn't like, as if it had

never existed. This is how he would work on his thousand-year empire, as the artist who erased everything that wasn't to his liking.

Episode 14: 1939 – Germany

How could educated people from middle-class circles, people of good taste, fall for the garish ugliness of the Nazi regime? In this episode, their children attempt to answer this impossible question. What possessed the noble father of the former German President Richard von Weizsäcker? Why did he maintain his position as a high-ranking German diplomat until the end of the war? What drove Baldur von Schirach, Richard von Schirach's father? He was the son of a manager at the Weimar Opera and became the man behind the Hitler Youth. And how could Heinrich Himmler, Katrin Himmler's great-uncle, turn into a mass murderer? The son of a school principal, he was raised with humanist values. This is an episode about the burden of family history.

Second World War (8 episodes)

Episode 15: 1940 – France

Until the late 1970s, the French pretended that they had fought against Nazi Germany en masse, but that was a lie. After the surrender in 1940, one-third of the country more or less joined the German side. From the town of Vichy, Marshal Pétain governed the so-called French State. Without any pressure from Germany, Pétain proclaimed the *Statut Juif*, which condemned all Jewish people to second-class status. This episode is about Marshal Pétain's right-hand man: Marquis Fernand de Brinon, a good friend of Von Ribbentrop's and a welcome guest of Hitler's. The marquis was married to a Jewish woman and had two Jewish stepchildren. With one of them, we travel back to the Vichy of those days – a painful journey through French collective memory.

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Episode 17: 1943 – Stalingrad

The Battle of Stalingrad was Hitler's first defeat and a turning point in the war. The Russians are proud of their victory, one that cost the lives of more than a million civilians and soldiers. But there's something strange about the way Russian veterans remember the war. No one seems to remember the fact that Stalin made a pact of friendship with Hitler before the war, or that they were almost defeated by the Germans in 1941, let alone the horrors they inflicted in Poland. Starting the day after the Battle of Stalingrad, history was carefully rewritten by Stalin and his propaganda machine.

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Episode 19: 1944 – Warsaw & Prague

Long before Hitler's fall, Stalin and The West secretly divided Europe. The Russians, for instance, were given Poland and Czechoslovakia. When the citizens of Warsaw revolted against the Germans, their radioman begged for help for two months. He still doesn't understand why the Russian army didn't help and instead watched how the Germans completely ruined Warsaw. The Americans could have easily taken in Prague, but they didn't because the city was promised to the Russians. And yet, General Patton's grandson nowadays climbs the stage as a guest of honour to celebrate the liberation. Sometimes, you have to lend history a hand.

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Episode 21: 1945 – Yugoslavia

By the end of the war Tito's partisans slaughtered tens of thousands of unarmed opponents in Austrian Bleiburg. The victims were mostly Ustasha's, Croatian fascists who had sided by Hitler and who were responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths. Croatia has two villages (one Serbian and one Croatian) that are separated by the little river The Connection. It's peaceful, but there are still many accounts to be settled. For forty years Tito managed to impose his "Brotherhood and Unity". But after his death the former opponents started working on their continuation of a heinous past.

Episode 22: 1946 – Israel & Europe

How long was it going to take before Europe could live with the shame of the Jewish persecution? For a long time European countries suppressed their share in the Holocaust, and some still haven't come to terms with it. In Israel the Avengers met for a reunion: aged Jewish men and women who tried, and failed, to poison drinking water for six million Germans. *In Europe* followed the trail of the 'big denial' and travelled to Germany, Hungary, Poland and Holland. The latter country urged the Jewish community to set up a 'monument of acknowledgement' for the country that had deported 75% of the Jewish population. Even in Auschwitz, Israeli and Polish guides argue about who suffered most there.

Rise and Fall of the USSR (5 episodes)

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Episode 34: 1991 – Soviet Union

Physics professor Stanislav Shuskevitsj had nothing to do with politics, but friends persuaded him to run for the Supreme Soviet. He consented, was elected and before he knew, he was President of Belarus. Four months later he tore down the Soviet Union, together with Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kravtsojok. Gorbachev's openness had led to a wave of rebellion and criticism in the eighties. Rebellious musician Misja Borzykin scored hits with sarcastic titles like "The fish rotten from the head" and "Daddy is a fascist." Communism made way for the free market, but Borzykin remained the same. He now criticises the "KGB clique of Putin" with the same enthusiasm.

Eastern Europe (5 episodes)

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Episode 23: 1948 – Czechoslovakia

In 1948 the little glassworks factory that belonged to Jirzi Horak's father was disowned by the communists. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he was given back a part of the factory. Party officials bought up the houses that surrounded it very cheaply. The turbine in the middle of the area was given to an amateur inventor who threatened to enter the property with a pitchfork. Jirzi began a hopeless fight to restart the factory, but the village is cautious. The early day communists ignore their past. Nobody wants to be remembered of the communist days. Except for that one party official, who, as if dictating, claims that he need not be ashamed of anything.

Episode 25: 1956 – Hungary

Holland was eager to take in refugees after the Hungarian revolution of 1956. Geert Mak also took in a Hungarian couple in his attic. The place smelt of goulash for months. Shortly before that Chroetshov had spoken of 'mass murders' and of Stalin's 'terror reign': the great leader turned out to be a merciless tyrant. People revolted in Poland and Hungary. In Budapest a peaceful demonstration turned into a genuine people's revolution. In Mosonmayarovar soldiers shot at demonstrators after which the mob a number of the shooters. On November 4 1956 Russian tanks brutally ended the revolt. Ever since fear reigned in Mosonmayarovar and even after the fall of communism things were never the same again.

Episode 27: 1961 – Eastern Germany

Former Stasi officer Hagen Koch shows on the Friedrichstrasse the place where he had to draw a thick line with white paint through the city. It was the spot where the Berlin Wall would rise; a desperate measure to stop the exodus from the GDR. The GDR became a park where they worked on the 'new socialist man'. Director Winfried Junge followed a group of children for 40 years from the model village where only a few turned fit to be 'a new man'. Gudrun Klitzke was one of them and she even became mayor. But after the fall of the Wall in 1989 the dream of the 'new man' ended suddenly and Gudrun and her fellow villagers could not cope with the new rules.

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Former Yugoslavia (3 episodes)

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Communism (11 episodes)

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Episode 17: 1943 – Stalingrad

The Battle of Stalingrad was Hitler's first defeat and a turning point in the war. The Russians are proud of their victory, one that cost the lives of more than a million civilians and soldiers. But there's something strange about the way Russian veterans remember the war. No one seems to remember the fact that Stalin made a pact of friendship with Hitler before the war, or that they were almost defeated by the Germans in 1941, let alone the horrors they inflicted in Poland. Starting the day after the Battle of Stalingrad, history was carefully rewritten by Stalin and his propaganda machine.

Episode 19: 1944 – Warsaw & Prague

Long before Hitler's fall, Stalin and The West secretly divided Europe. The Russians, for instance, were given Poland and Czechoslovakia. When the citizens of Warsaw revolted against the Germans, their radioman begged for help for two months. He still doesn't understand why the Russian army didn't help and instead watched how the Germans completely ruined Warsaw. The Americans could have easily taken in Prague, but they didn't because the city was promised to the Russians. And yet, General Patton's grandson nowadays climbs the stage as a guest of honour to celebrate the liberation. Sometimes, you have to lend history a hand.

Episode 23: 1948 – Czechoslovakia

In 1948 the little glassworks factory that belonged to Jirzi Horak's father was disowned by the communists. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he was given back a part of the factory. Party officials bought up the houses that surrounded it very cheaply. The turbine in the middle of the area was given to an amateur inventor who threatened to enter the property with a pitchfork. Jirzi began a hopeless fight to restart the factory, but the village is cautious. The early day communists ignore their past. Nobody wants to be remembered of the communist days. Except for that one party

official, who, as if dictating, claims that he need not be ashamed of anything.

Episode 25: 1956 – Hungary

Holland was eager to take in refugees after the Hungarian revolution of 1956. Geert Mak also took in a Hungarian couple in his attic. The place smelt of goulash for months. Shortly before that Chroetshov had spoken of 'mass murders' and of Stalin's 'terror reign': the great leader turned out to be a merciless tyrant. People revolted in Poland and Hungary. In Budapest a peaceful demonstration turned into a genuine people's revolution. In Mosonmayarovar soldiers shot at demonstrators after which the mob a number of the shooters. On November 4 1956 Russian tanks brutally ended the revolt. Ever since fear reigned in Mosonmayarovar and even after the fall of communism things were never the same again.

Episode 27: 1961 – Eastern Germany

Former Stasi officer Hagen Koch shows on the Friedrichstrasse the place where he had to draw a thick line with white paint through the city. It was the spot where the Berlin Wall would rise; a desperate measure to stop the exodus from the GDR. The GDR became a park where they worked on the 'new socialist man'. Director Winfried Junge followed a group of children for 40 years from the model village where only a few turned fit to be 'a new man'. Gudrun Klitzke was one of them and she even became mayor. But after the fall of the Wall in 1989 the dream of the 'new man' ended suddenly and Gudrun and her fellow villagers could not cope with the new rules.

Episode 32: 1986 – Chernobyl

In 1986 a part of the Ukrainian nuclear power plant in Chernobyl exploded. Large radioactive clouds went over Europe. The authorities tried to keep quiet about the disaster for days. Igor Kostin was the first photographer who photographed the devastated plant, and he's one of the few journalists who survived. Vasily, Ludmila Litvinjenko's husband, was one of the fire fighters who extinguished the fire. Seventeen days later he died: his body literally fell apart. A huge area surrounding Chernobyl was declared a prohibited zone, nobody knew for how long. In the mean time a number of residents has returned illegally. Travel agencies now offer day trips to the plant and the deserted ghost town Prypiat.

Episode 33: 1989 – Romania

At the end of 1989, peasant dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife Elena were put against the wall after a clumsy trial and shot dead; all of this was filmed and broadcast worldwide. Two soldiers from the firing squad talk in detail about this execution. One of them, Lourentiu Stefanescu, is now a successful businessman with eight shops. But many Romanians now earn less than 150 euros per month and yearn for the "good old days". They have forgotten about the oppression and food shortages. In 1989 dissident poet Mircea Dinescu announced the new freedom with a giggle, but he is now disappointed with the results: parliament is inhabited with the same people as 20 years ago, and according to Dinescu they are the ones who have profited.

Episode 34: 1991 – Soviet Union

Physics professor Stanislav Shuskevitsj had nothing to do with politics, but friends persuaded him to run for the Supreme Soviet. He consented, was elected and before he knew, he was President of Belarus. Four months later he tore down the Soviet Union, together with Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kravtsojok. Gorbachev's openness had led to a wave of rebellion and criticism in the eighties. Rebellious musician Misja Borzykin scored hits with sarcastic titles like "The fish rotten from the head" and "Daddy is a fascist." Communism made way for the free market, but Borzykin remained the same. He now criticises the "KGB clique of Putin" with the same enthusiasm.

Revolutions (5 episodes)

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Episode 29: 1974 – Portugal

The two leaders of the Carnation Revolution, the coup that brought down Portuguese dictator Marcello Caetano, were each others opposite. Vitor Alves was the thoughtful one, scarred by the long colonial war in Africa. Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho was the typical revolutionary, charming and smooth talking. Both paid a high price for their coup. Vitor had to betray his own father-in-law who was a navy chief. Otelo became such a lefty that he was thrown in jail by his own comrades. After the coup many Portuguese dreamt of a country that belonged to all. Farmers occupied the land of large landowners, labourers occupied the factories. But the leftist adventure did not last for long.

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Civil War (5 episodes)

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Episode 21: 1945 – Yugoslavia

By the end of the war Tito's partisans slaughtered tens of thousands of unarmed opponents in Austrian Bleiburg. The victims were mostly Ustasha's, Croatian fascists who had sided by Hitler and who were responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths. Croatia has two villages (one Serbian and one Croatian) that are separated by the little river The Connection. It's peaceful, but there are still many accounts to be settled. For forty years Tito managed to impose his "Brotherhood and Unity". But after his death the former opponents started working on their continuation of a heinous past.

Episode 26: 1958 – France & Algeria

One colony after the other gained its independence after the Second World War. Even though President De Gaulle exclaimed during a speech in 1958 confidently that 'L'Algérie c'est la France', the French army left Algeria after a lengthy guerilla battle. This enraged the 'Pieds Noirs', children of poor people from Europe who had sought their luck in the French colony. They had to flee to France, where many of them had never been before. The very old general Aussaresses was the first to talk about the way the French tried to retain Algeria. He subsequently lost all of his medals. His torture and contra guerilla tactics would later form the blueprint for George W. Bush's 'War on Terror'.

Episode 35: 1992 – Bosnia & The Truth

Bosnian-Serb journalist Goran Trkulja escaped the war in Yugoslavia in 1992 and was granted asylum in the Netherlands. He now visits his former colleagues with painful questions. Why did they continue to work? Did they seriously tried to find out what was important? And did they write about that? Can journalism function as historiography? The recurring question is: does absolute truth exist? Geert Mak and Goran Trkulja ponder over these questions as they sail the Rhine to Rotterdam, where two acquaintances await them: Stalin expert Orlando Figes and Jörg Friedrich, who shared a new, controversial vision on the Allied bombing of Germany. We ask them: If something is history, does that mean it is the truth?

Dictators (9 episodes): Lenin, Mussolini, Stalin, Franco, Hitler, Tito, Caetano and Ceausescu

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Episode 9: 1925 – Predappio, Italy

Everything that Hitler dreamt about in the 1930s has already been achieved by Mussolini in the 1920s. In his birthplace of Predappio, we can still visit the grave of the Duce, the man who gave Italy her pride back after so many years of broken ambitions. Mussolini's village is still a place of pilgrimage for Italians who long for the time when their country was a true, powerful nation.

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Episode 13: 1937 – Munich

In 1937, Hitler opened the House of Art in Munich. Inside, visitors could view art that the Fuhrer had approved. A short distance away, was an exhibition showing work he loathed, the so-called *Entartete Kunst* with works by Marc Chagall, Wassily Kandinsky and Otto Dix. In this episode, we peer into Hitler's world through the eyes of the artist that he actually wanted to become. Even in his first drawings of a square in Vienna, he simply left out a modern house that he didn't like, as if it had never existed. This is how he would work on his thousand-year empire, as the artist who erased everything that wasn't to his liking.

Episode 14: 1939 – Germany

How could educated people from middle-class circles, people of good taste, fall for the garish ugliness of the Nazi regime? In this episode, their children attempt to answer this impossible question. What possessed the noble father of the former German President Richard von Weizsäcker? Why did he maintain his position as a high-ranking German diplomat until the end of the war? What drove Baldur von Schirach, Richard von Schirach's father? He was the son of a manager at the Weimar Opera and became the man behind the Hitler Youth. And how could Heinrich Himmler,

Katrin Himmler's great-uncle, turn into a mass murderer? The son of a school principal, he was raised with humanist values. This is an episode about the burden of family history.

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