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Film Review

Spanish 309

The Official Story: A film written by Aída Bortnik and Luis Puenzo and produced for an ~~Argentinian public~~ in 1985. This drama depicts an Argentine middle class family confronting a past which many Argentinians played a role during the dirty or otherwise known as the ~~holy~~ war. I chose this film in particular because the issue being addressed caught my attention. The film deals with the dark side of the dirty war under the rule of Jorge Rafael Videla's military junta government. During the military's junta reign the opposition known as the leftists or subversives who opposed Videla's dictatorship would pay a stiff price for their political views. During the dirty war thousands of opposing individuals were deemed a problem and would soon be abducted and ~~would eventually~~ never again be found. Estimates on the official number of missing fluctuate, but it is thought to be in the thousands.

The purpose of the film is obvious to me, Alicia one of the main characters is troubled by the fact that she and her husband have adopted a girl at birth named Gaby. The reason why she is so troubled by this is because her friend of many years reappears after being exiled to Europe with devastating news. Upon her reappearance her friend tells Alicia how she was abducted by the Argentinian government for opposing the dictatorship in place. She goes on to tell Alicia about other women who were also abducted and ~~whom~~ were pregnant at the time and whose babies were taken away at birth to be sold. This raises doubt in the mind of Alicia because around the time when she adopted Gaby many people were going missing, these individuals

would come to be known as the *desaparecidos*. This raises an important issue in the film because after meeting a woman that could possibly be Gaby's grandmother, Alicia is faced with an ethical dilemma. She is confronted with an issue of morality in which she needs to decide what she is going to do about Gaby and her potential grandmother.

There is a direct correlation between the events portrayed in the film and the course matter, in that Argentina's Dirty war played an important role in Latin American history. A common theme throughout the film was that, like Alicia many others were kept in the dark when it came to the actions of Videla's dictatorship. I would most definitely recommend this film to others because of the strong and direct historical message it offers to the viewer it also has a certain level of empathic value which permeates at the audience[?]. This would absolutely have different reactions from different audiences in particular if those audiences had a connection with the events that took place in Argentina in the 1970's. The emotional toll that people on both sides of the dictatorship had as a result of the dirty war is in my mind similar to that of Hitler's Germany. The reason I feel like it is similar is because both governments made an effort to eradicate the opposition by the use of force and intimidation. This film helped me gain a greater understanding for Latin America, especially for Argentina's troubled history. It became clear to me how Argentina along with many other Latin American countries have undergone radical transformations in order to form a society that could be called civilized. Throughout the course, I have noticed that the common means of obtaining an equal and fair government in Latin America usually comes through a social rebellion and civilian bloodshed. As a result of this review, I have learned that many of the Argentinian people have been confronted with the fact that the history of their country has seen a rise and demise of power by a dictator and as a result of the dictatorship, the country has had a violent past which cannot be forgotten.