SOCIALISM ON FILM
THE COLD WAR AND INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA

In association with the British Film Institute
**Socialism on Film**

Socialism on Film documents the communist world from the Russian Revolution until the 1980s. This unique collection of documentary films, features and newsreels reveals all aspects of life behind the Iron Curtain, as seen by filmmakers from the USSR, Vietnam, Cuba, China, East Germany, Eastern Europe and more. Providing a counterpoint to Western perceptions of communist states and their actions, the films illuminate how socialist countries saw themselves and the world around them during the major political and social events of the twentieth century.

**A huge variety of topics can be understood through the communist lens:**
- War, peace, revolution, Cold War tensions, the transformation of society, industry, memory, culture and more.
- This is the largest film collection of its kind to survive in Western Europe and is now held at the British Film Institute's National Archive.

**The footage was originally sourced from communist states, then versioned into English language for private distribution in Britain and the West.**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Watch first hand the Soviet fears on President Reagan's Star Wars defence initiative.
- Operation Teutonic Sword is an East German documentary film examining and exposing figures of authority in West Germany. It was banned from general release in Britain due to its allegations about NATO general Hans Speidel’s past.
- Lenin and the progress of the Russian Revolution are memorialised in the titles *Lenin is Always With Us* and *October Days*.
- The Vietnamese perspective on the war with the US is shown in titles such as *War as We Saw It* and the *Pilots in Pyjamas* series.
- Science documentaries like *Attention Weightlessness* discuss Soviet space exploration and cosmonaut training.
- Second World War documentaries such as *Final Mission* feature films like *On the Way to Berlin* review the role in which the Soviets remember their war and its significance.
- Chinese cultural endeavours are showcased in documentaries such as *Actors in the Making* and the *Peking Variety Artists*.
- Newsreel series such as *USSR Today* and *China Today* give vignettes of life in these countries.
Socialism on Film is a collection of films produced in the communist world from countries such as the USSR, East Germany, Vietnam, China and Eastern Europe, presenting the world as seen by these states.

KEY THEMES

MODULE I
WARS & REVOLUTIONS
Dealing with many of the conflicts, tensions and uprisings relating to communist and left ideology:
• Lenin & the Russian Revolution
• Vietnam War & Southeast Asia
• Second World War & the Rise of Fascism
• Holocaust & War Crimes
• Global Tensions & the Cold War
• Revolution in Cuba & Latin America
• Nuclear War & Peace Movements
• Revolution, War, Conflict in China & Korea
• Spanish Civil War

MODULE II
NEWSREELS & CINEMAGAZINES
Showcasing various newsreels, current affairs programmes and magazine series including:
• 10 Minutes Around the USSR
• Agricultural News
• Around the Soviet Union
• China Today
• Czechoslovak Life and Czechoslovak in Pictures
• GDR Magazine
• Soviet Health
• Science and Technology Magazine
• Soviet Military Newsreels
• Soviet Sport
• Vietnam Newsreel

MODULE III
CULTURE & SOCIETY
Examining day-to-day life in socialist countries with some of the following topics:
• Agriculture
• Arts & Culture
• Children & Family
• Education
• Health & Medicine
• History Documentaries
• Industry
• Places & Geography
• Science & Technology
• State & Politics