

BRIDGING WORLD HISTORY

EPISODE #23

People Shape the World

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Time Code	AUDIO
1:00:00	ANNENBERG/CPB LOGO
1:00:15	OPB LOGO
1:00:23	WEB TAG
1:00:28	<p>VOICE OF MAO ZEDONG: <i>"Changes in society are due chiefly to the development of the internal contradictions in society... it is the development of these contradictions that pushes society forward."</i></p>
1:00:46	<p>HOST: MAO ZEDONG MAY HAVE BELIEVED THAT CHANGE EMERGED FROM CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN SOCIETY, YET HE WAS ONE OF MANY POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS INSTRUMENTAL IN SHAPING THE WORLD OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.</p> <p>CAN THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE CHANGE THE WORLD? AND HOW ARE THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS SHAPED BY THE HISTORICAL TIMES IN WHICH THEY LIVE?</p>
1:01:39	<p>HOST: WORLD HISTORY IS FILLED WITH MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE NAMES ARE KNOWN BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT THEY MADE ON THE HUMAN STORY. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ALONE PRODUCED SUCH NOTEWORTHY NAMES AS WINSTON CHURCHILL, FIDEL CASTRO, JANE ADDAMS, AUNG SAN SUU KYI, EVA PÉRON, AND ADOLPH HITLER.</p>
1:01:59	<p>HOST: THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS IN SHAPING HISTORY HAS BEEN ENDLESSLY DEBATED. HISTORIANS TRADITIONALLY CELEBRATED HEROES AND HEROINES IN TELLING THE STORY OF THE PAST.</p> <p>BUT MORE RECENTLY, SCHOLARS HAVE TENDED TO HIGHLIGHT COLLECTIVE FORCES IN HISTORY, AND TO DOWNPLAY THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS.</p> <p>HOW CAN HISTORIANS BALANCE THESE TWO PERSPECTIVES: THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL... AND HISTORICAL PROCESSES AND EVENTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE?</p>

1:02:21	<p>SUSAN GLOSSER: What historians are trying to figure out is how much individual agency mattered and how much of what happened in history is the result of economic pressures, cultural change and the larger context of society.</p>
1:02:38	<p>HOST: IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY MAO ZEDONG IN CHINA...</p> <p>THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI IN IRAN...</p> <p>AND LAS MADRES DE PLAZA DE MAYO IN ARGENTINA...</p> <p>...EACH EPITOMIZE THE COMPLEX INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HISTORICAL FORCES AND INDIVIDUAL AGENTS OF CULTURAL REFORM.</p>
1:02:54	<p>HOST: THESE PEOPLE WERE MOVED BY PERSONAL BELIEFS AND COMMITMENTS THAT WERE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THEIR CULTURES AND IN THEIR SOCIETIES. AND WHILE THEY ACTED IN NATIONAL ARENAS, THEY WERE ALSO STRONGLY CONNECTED TO GLOBAL EVENTS AND IDEAS.</p>
1:03:14	<p>HOST: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HISTORICAL FORCES AND HUMAN AGENCY IS PARTICULARLY WELL ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIFE OF MAO ZEDONG, AND HIS ROLE IN THE REVOLUTION THAT LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. TO WHAT EXTENT DID MAO HIMSELF SHAPE THAT REVOLUTION?</p>
1:03:36	<p>HOST: MAO WAS BORN IN 1893 TO A PEASANT FAMILY IN THE SOUTHERN CHINESE PROVINCE OF HUNAN.</p> <p>HIS FATHER, A RICE FARMER AND BROKER, TOOK MAO OUT OF SCHOOL AT THIRTEEN, TO HELP RUN THE FAMILY BUSINESS.</p>
1:03:50	<p>HOST: REBELLIOUS AND INDEPENDENT, MAO LEFT HOME AS A YOUNG TEENAGER. HE EVENTUALLY WENT TO SCHOOL IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF CHANGSHA.</p>
1:04:00	<p>HOST: DURING THE 1920S, THE EARLY CHINESE COMMUNISTS WERE A POLITICAL MOVEMENT INSPIRED BY THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND GUIDED BY SOVIET MENTORS.</p> <p>THE 1920S ALSO SAW THE GROWTH OF ANOTHER POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN CHINA, THE NATIONALISTS, LED BY CHIANG KAI-SHEK.</p> <p>THE NATIONALISTS CONCENTRATED ON MILITARY POWER, WHILE THE COMMUNISTS FOCUSED THEIR EFFORTS ON GAINING SUPPORT FROM THE PROLETARIAT OF INDUSTRIALIZED CITIES, LIKE SHANGHAI.</p>
1:04:28	<p>HOST: MAO EVENTUALLY CHALLENGED THIS ORTHODOX MARXIST APPROACH FOCUSED ON THE URBAN WORKING CLASS, AND INSTEAD SAW PEASANTS AS THE KEY TO CHANGE.</p>

1:04:36	<p>VOICE OF MAO ZEDONG: <i>"In a very short time...several hundred million peasants will rise like a tornado or tempest, a force so extraordinarily swift and violent that no power however great will be able to suppress it?"</i></p>
1:04:55	<p>HOST: THROUGHOUT THE 1920'S AND 1930'S, THE NATIONALIST AND COMMUNISTS CLASHED REPEATEDLY. THOUSANDS OF LIVES WERE LOST AS THE 2 PARTIES STRUGGLED FOR CONTROL.</p>
1:05:12	<p>HOST: MAO' S VIEW THAT REVOLUTION WOULD COME FROM THE PEASANTRY EVENTUALLY WON HIM LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. WHEN THE JAPANESE INVADED CHINA IN THE 1930S, MAO AND THE RED ARMY – NOT THE SO-CALLED NATIONALISTS -- WAGED EFFECTIVE GUERILLA WARFARE AGAINST THEM. AFTER 1945, A BRIEF CIVIL WAR BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND THE NATIONALISTS BROUGHT MAO AND THE COMMUNISTS TO POWER.</p>
1:05:38	<p>HOST: DECLARING VICTORY OVER THE NATIONALISTS IN 1949, MAO PROCLAIMED THE BIRTH OF A NEW CHINESE NATION. MAO AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP THEN TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE DUAL CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION OF CHINA.</p>
1:05:54	<p>HOST: THROUGHOUT THE 1950S, THE TENSION BETWEEN CREATING A SOCIALIST STATE AND MODERNIZING THE CHINESE ECONOMY LED TO ENORMOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UPHEAVALS. MAO WAS ALWAYS AT THE CORE OF THESE RELENTLESS CAMPAIGNS TO COLLECTIVIZE AGRICULTURE, PROMOTE SOCIALISM, AND CONTINUE THE REVOLUTION.</p>
1:06:16	<p>HOST: MAO MET RESISTANCE FROM INTELLECTUALS, ARTISTS, AND ABOVE ALL FROM PARTY BUREAUCRATS. BUT AFTER BEING ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN 1954, HE IMPLEMENTED THE "GREAT LEAP FORWARD," A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN TO BALANCE THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY WITH AGRICULTURE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PLAN ENDED IN ABYSMAL FAILURE, AND ALMOST 20 MILLION CHINESE DIED FROM STARVATION AS A RESULT.</p>
1:06:44	<p>HOST: BUT BEGINNING IN 1965, MAO TRIED TO REIGNITE THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT AND TO RESTORE HIS PERSONAL BOND WITH CHINA'S MASSES, BY MOTIVATING THE GREAT PROLETARIAN CULTURAL REVOLUTION.</p>
1:06:57	<p>HOST: A PERSONAL CULT OF MAO WAS PART OF THE FRENZIED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE LATE 1960S.</p> <p>MILLIONS OF PEOPLE READ "QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO," KNOWN AS THE "LITTLE RED BOOK."</p>
1:07:07	<p>HOST: THE COMBINED IMPACT OF THE GREAT LEAP AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION TOOK A DEVASTATING TOLL ON CHINA—ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY.</p>
1:07:19	<p>HOST: WHAT BEGAN AS A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION ENDED AS A PROPAGANDA-DRIVEN CULTURAL DEBACLE, THAT COMPROMISED CHINA'S ABILITY TO THRIVE AS A MODERN SOCIETY.</p>

1:07:29	<p>HOST: MAO DIED IN 1976, AFTER LEADING THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR OVER 40 YEARS</p> <p>THOUGH ASSESSMENTS OF MAO'S CONTRIBUTIONS VARY, HE UNQUESTIONABLY PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN 20TH-CENTURY CHINA.</p>
1:07:43	<p>SUSAN GLOSSER: So Mao is extremely important to the past because he's the one who succeeded in inspiring this tremendous loyalty to the communist party, and this zeal to fight for communist victory.</p>
1:07:56	<p>HOST: UNDISPUTED LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR 40 YEARS, MAO ZEDONG IMPACT WOULD INSPIRE LATER REVOLUTIONARIES.</p>
1:08:09	<p>HOST: ONE TWENTIETH -CENTURY REVOLUTIONARY WHO USED CULTURAL TRADITIONS TO ENACT FAR-REACHING CHANGES WAS RUHOLLAH MUSAVI KHOMEINI.</p> <p>LESS INTERESTED IN MATERIAL CONDITIONS THAN MAO, AND MORE ATTENTIVE TO MORAL AND RELIGIOUS VALUES, KHOMEINI DREW ON IRAN'S SHIITE RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS TO OPPOSE A REGIME HE CONSIDERED TYRANNICAL.</p>
1:08:35	<p>HOST: ONCE AGAIN HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND HUMAN AGENCY COMBINED TO CREATE A POWERFUL FORCE.</p>
1:08:42	<p>HOST: KHOMEINI WAS BORN IN 1901 INTO A RELIGIOUS FAMILY. AN ATTENTIVE STUDENT, HE MEMORIZED THE KORAN AND LEARNED ARABIC GRAMMAR, LOGIC AND OTHER BASIC SUBJECTS AT AN EARLY AGE. DURING THE 1920S, HE STUDIED THEOLOGY IN QUM, IRAN. KHOMEINI EVENTUALLY BECAME A TEACHER OF PHILOSOPHY AND AN AUTHORITY ON THEOLOGICAL AND CANON LAW.</p>
1:09:04	<p>HOST: THROUGH THE 20'S, 30'S AND 40'S, IRAN WAS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REZA KHAN, WHO FOCUSED ON SECULARIZATION AS A MEANS TO MODERNIZE IRAN. HE ATTACKED HIS OPPOSITION THROUGH ASSAULTS ON ISLAMIC TRADITION. THIS CAUSED KEY CLERICS LIKE KHOMEINI TO SEE SECULARIZATION AS THE ENEMY OF ISLAM.</p>
1:09:26	<p>HOST: THROUGH THE 1950'S, REZA SHAH STRUGGLED FOR CONTROL OF IRAN. HE WAS SUPPORTED BY THE US AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, WHO ACTED TO PROTECT THEIR OIL INTERESTS.</p>
1:09:38	<p>RICHARD BULLIET: So the United States began to think of the Cold War that-Iran was bordering on the Soviet Union and Iran had oil where Russia wanted oil, we felt that we had to stop them. And the British felt that they had to protect the Anglo Iranian Oil Company. And the Shah became the...tool of our interest.</p>
1:09:59	<p>HOST: MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO FELT OPPRESSED BY THE SHAH'S AUTOCRATIC MEASURES LOOKED TO TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC BELIEFS FOR SUPPORT. WITH MANY SHIITE LEADERS BEING DEPORTED, ARRESTED AND TORTURED TO DEATH BY GOVERNMENT FORCES, KHOMEINI, STILL-A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN CLERIC, CAME FORWARD TO CONDEMN THE SHAH'S REPRESSIVE REGIME.</p>

	<p>KHOMEINI STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE SHAH'S SUBSERVIENCE TO THE UNITED STATES. REPRISALS AGAINST KHOMEINI AND HIS STUDENT FOLLOWERS WERE SWIFT AND DEADLY. IN MARCH OF 1963, GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACKED A SCHOOL FOR THE STUDY OF ISLAMIC LAW, KILLING A NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND ARRESTING KHOMEINI.</p> <p>KHOMEINI'S WORDS INSPIRED THE PROTESTING CROWDS.</p>
1:10:43	<p>VOICE OF KHOMEINI: <i>"Keep calm. Many a great figure of Islam suffered death in order to uphold Islam and entrust it to you. Therefore it is up to you to preserve this sacred heritage."</i></p>
1:10:58	<p>HOST: WHEN HE WAS RELEASED A FEW DAYS LATER, KHOMEINI RETURNED AT ONCE TO THE OFFENSIVE. DEMONSTRATIONS ESCALATED, USING TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC RITUALS FOR MOURNING THE DEAD TO INTENSIFY POLITICAL FEELINGS. THE GOVERNMENT USED TANKS TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM ATTENDING PRAYERS IN THE MOSQUES OF TEHRAN. STUDENTS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, AND HUNDREDS OF IRANIANS DIED.</p>
1:11:25	<p>HOST: EMERGING FROM THE DEMONSTRATIONS AS A HERO, KHOMEINI BECAME A VOICE FOR THOSE WHO WERE OPPRESSED BY THE INEQUITIES OF THE SHAH'S REGIME.</p>
1:11:32	<p>RICHARD BULLIET: When the Shah forced Khomeini into exile in the 1960's, he expected that Khomeini would fade away. It was in exile that Khomeini wrote the book in which he said that there should be religious jurist and he had hundreds of students and admirers in Iran among the clergy who were able to spread his ideas even though he was out of the country. The shah pressured the Iraqi government to expel him and he went to Paris.</p>
1:12:08	<p>VOICE OF KHOMEINI: <i>"There is no redress for the Iranian people. I am deeply concerned about the condition of the poor next winter, as I expect many to die, God forbid, from cold and starvation. The people should think of the poor and take action now to prevent the atrocities of last winter."</i></p>
1:12:29	<p>HOST: AFTER THE SHAH DEPORTED KHOMEINI HE BEGAN ARRESTING, TORTURING, DEPORTING AND MURDERING OTHERS WHO WERE VOCAL IN THEIR CRITICISM.</p>
1:12:38	<p>HOST: KHOMEINI CONTINUED TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT FROM EXILE. IN 1971, AT THE AGE OF 70, HE WROTE A REVOLUTIONARY PROPOSAL FOR SHIITE CLERICAL RULE OF IRAN. TO HIM, THE SHAH'S REGIME WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH TRUE ISLAM.</p>
1:12:54	<p>RICHARD BULLIET: When Khomeini wrote his book dealing with Islamic government, he enunciated a, ah...a principle that a properly educated, ah, cleric had a greater likelihood of governing in the way that the hidden imam, the theoretical divinely appointed ruler of the Shiites, would rule if he were here in...on earth in human society. Khomeini said that a cleric is better qualified to know how to rule than a Shah who does not have the background and the religion.</p>

1:13:37	<p>HOST: KHOMEINI DID NOT ENVISION HIMSELF AS THE HEAD OF THE NEW FAITH-BASED GOVERNMENT. BUT HE DID NOT SHRINK FROM THE TASK AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IDENTIFIED HIM AS THEIR "IMAM"- IN THIS USAGE SIMPLY MEANING "RELIGIOUS LEADER." AND THOSE SAME PEOPLE IDENTIFIED THE SHAH AS A ENEMY OF THE FAITH.</p>
1:13:55	<p>HOST: THE SHAH'S GOVERNMENT, CONFIDENT IN US SUPPORT, PUBLISHED A SLANDEROUS ARTICLE ABOUT KHOMEINI THAT BACKFIRED DRAMATICALLY. MORE KILLINGS AND PROTESTS ENSUED.</p>
1:14:04	<p>HOST: MILLIONS OF MOURNERS SWARMED INTO THE STREETS OF EVERY MAJOR IRANIAN CITY TO WEEP FOR THE DEAD AND EXPRESS THEIR OUTRAGE.</p>
1:14:12	<p>HOST: THE DEMONSTRATORS' NUMBERS REACHED NEARLY TWO MILLION. CLERICAL LEADERS URGED IRANIANS TO STAND TOGETHER AND OVERTHROW THE SHAH. THEY ALSO URGED KHOMEINI TO RETURN FROM EXILE. BY MID-JANUARY, PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR NEGOTIATED THE SHAH'S DEPARTURE AND KHOMEINI'S TRIUMPHANT HOMECOMING AS LEADER OF IRAN.</p>
1:14:36	<p>HOST: EVENTS IN IRAN TOOK AN UNFORESEEN TURN, WHEN THE US GOVERNMENT ARRANGED FOR THE SHAH TO RECEIVE CANCER TREATMENT IN NEW YORK CITY. SUSPECTING A PLOT TO RESTORE THE SHAH TO POWER, KHOMEINI HEATED UP HIS RHETORIC AGAINST THE US. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE AGITATION, SOME THREE THOUSAND STUDENTS STORMED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN. NINETY HOSTAGES WERE TAKEN AND FIFTY-TWO OF THEM WERE HELD FOR 444 DAYS.</p>
1:15:02	<p>RICHARD BULLIET: Because the people who seized the embassy called themselves "students in the line of the Imam" in the line of Khomeini, um, there was a very clear association with Khomeini and no one was ever able to determine whether Khomeini had ordered the taking or simply acquiesced in it. When he saw what a crisis it was, he clearly, ah, realized that this was a...way of challenging the United States, ah, and he took responsibility for it. So whether he intended it or not, he gained worldwide fame and, um, ah, of recognition of him being a person who could stand up to the United States as a result.</p>
1:15:42	<p>HOST: KHOMEINI DIED IN 1989, LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER THE END OF THE WAR WITH IRAQ. THOUGH AN UNQUESTIONED HERO IN IRAN, AND AMONG MILLIONS OF MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE, HIS MEMORY IS DESPISED BY MANY OF THE IRANIANS WHO WERE FORCED TO FLEE THE REVOLUTION IN THEIR HOMELAND.</p> <p>EVEN THOUGH THE INSTITUTIONS OF CLERICAL GOVERNMENT THAT HE WROTE INTO THE CONSTITUTION HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED WITHIN IRAN, PERSONAL CRITICISM OF KHOMEINI REMAINS RARE.</p> <p>HIS ANTI-IMPERIALIST, FUNDAMENTALIST IDEAS CONTINUE TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON SHAPING IRAN AND OTHER ISLAMIC CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD.</p>
1:16:19	<p>HOST: MAO ZEDONG AND THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI BECOME VIVID EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE WHO ENACTED STRUCTURAL CHANGES WITHIN THEIR SOCIETIES. HOWEVER, HUMAN AGENTS CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES</p>

	ARE NOT ALWAYS SINGLE INDIVIDUALS.
1:16:34	<p>HOST: GROUPS UNITED BY COMMON GOALS AND INTERESTS CAN BE EXTREMELY POWERFUL IN ENACTING STRUCTURAL CHANGE. IN THE 1970S, IN ARGENTINA, A GROUP OF MOTHERS, NAMED FOR THE SITE OF THEIR PROTEST, BECAME ONE SUCH AGENT OF CHANGE.</p> <p>LAS MADRES DE LA PLAZA DE MAYO—OR MOTHERS OF MAY PLAZA BANDED TOGETHER TO CHALLENGE THEIR COUNTRY’S POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES.</p>
1:17:04	<p>HOST: ARGENTINA’S POLITICAL HISTORY IS ONE OF FREQUENT AND VIOLENT CHANGE. BETWEEN 1930 AND 1976, NINE MILITARY COUPS OCCURRED, TWO PRESIDENTS WERE APPOINTED BY THE ARMY, THERE WERE TWO OPENLY-RIGGED ELECTIONS, AS WELL AS TWO PERIODS OF RULE BY FORMER GENERAL JUAN DOMINGO PERÓN.</p>
1:17:23	<p>HOST: PERÓN BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1946. HE WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1955. BUT CONTINUED TO WIELD ENORMOUS POWER FOR THE NEXT 17 YEARS.</p>
1:17:31	<p>PETER WINN: Peron was a charismatic leader and a populist who incorporated Argentina’s workers and poor into its political system and gave them both dignity and material benefits. They remembered that during his 17 years in exile and that was his enduring appeal.</p>
1:17:47	<p>HOST: WHEN PERÓN DIED IN 1974, HIS WIFE SUCCEEDED HIM. AFTER A CHAOTIC TWO YEARS, RIFE WITH VIOLENCE AND ECONOMIC CRISES, A MILITARY JUNTA REMOVED HER FROM OFFICE. GENERAL JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY, IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED THE CONGRESS, AND FILLED THE COURTS WITH SUPPORTERS OF THE JUNTA.</p>
1:18:08	<p>PETER WINN: Many Argentines supported the coup, although for differing reasons. The elites wanted to restore social order, business interests wanted to smash the powerful unions, and the middle class wanted an end to the chaos and violence of the preceding years.</p>
1:18:23	<p>HOST: TYING THEMSELVES CLOSELY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE JUNTA’S SLOGANS RESONATED WITH DIVINE PURPOSE, BUT THEIR METHODS WERE MURDEROUS.</p> <p>THE PERSONAL STORIES OF LAS MADRES DE LA PLAZA DE MAYO OFFER A POWERFUL TESTAMENT TO THE TIMES, AND TO THE CHILDREN THEY LOST.</p>
1:18:40	<p>VOICE OF LAS MADRES: <i>“...Hugo Hector was about 18 years old. Like all young people he wanted change. Change, as he told me, would be equality for everybody. Why should some people have a lot and others nothing?”</i></p>
1:19:08	<p>HOST: THE REGIME BEGAN SYSTEMATICALLY REMOVING ALL PERCEIVED THREATS, STARTING WITH THE POLITICAL LEFT, MANY OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA AND EDUCATED, SOCIALLY INVOLVED YOUNG PEOPLE.</p> <p>AND HUNDREDS OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS BEGAN DISAPPEARING; TAKEN AWAY BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. THEIR NUMBERS WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH NEARLY THIRTY THOUSAND.</p>

1:19:28	<p>VOICE OF RENE EPEILBAUM: <i>"...All three of my children have disappeared. The eldest, Luis, was a medical student. He was kidnapped on the street, in August 1976. A month after Luis disappeared, I sent the two younger ones to Punta del Este in Uruguay in order to protect them, since here in Argentina, we lived in terror. They were kidnapped in Punta del Este three months later.."</i></p>
1:20:08	<p>HOST: AT FIRST, MANY OF THE MOTHERS BELIEVED THEY WERE ALONE IN THEIR MISERY. SOON THEY BEGAN RECOGNIZING EACH OTHER, COMPARING STORIES AND GATHERING TOGETHER IN THEIR HOMES AND IN CHURCHES.</p> <p>THE MOTHERS WENT TO THE POLICE, AND TO THE CHURCH FOR HELP. AUTHORITIES PROFESSED IGNORANCE OR BLAMED THE MOTHERS FOR RAISING SUBVERSIVE CHILDREN.</p>
1:20:26	<p>HOST: TRADITIONALLY, WOMEN IN ARGENTINE SOCIETY HAVE BEEN PROTECTORS OF THE FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND HAVE BEEN WARY OF OPERATING IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE. BUT THE DESPERATION AND GRIEF OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PUSHED THESE WOMEN TO CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS.</p>
1:20:42	<p>STORYTELLER: <i>"They had Martin. Then Horacio disappeared and I said, enough of being afraid, and I went out into the streets.. We went everywhere to make a complaint. Where did we all end up? In the Plaza de Mayo."</i></p>
1:21:00	<p>HOST: THE PLAZA DE MAYO IS THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL CENTER OF BUENOS AIRES, AND IT HAS SERVED AS THE STAGE FOR MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S DEFINING HISTORICAL EVENTS.</p>
1:21:10	<p>HOST: LAS MADRES RETURNED TO THE PLAZA TO DEMONSTRATE EVERY WEEK, DETERMINED TO BE NOTICED AND HEARD. AS WORD OF THEIR DEFIANCE SPREAD, OTHER MOTHERS JOINED THEM AND THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN SENDING POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS TO FORCE THEM TO LEAVE.</p>
1:21:26	<p>HOST: LAS MADRES ADOPTED AS A SYMBOL THE WHITE KERCHIEF, EMBROIDERED WITH THE NAMES OF THEIR CHILDREN. IT BECAME A HOLY IMAGE OF THEIR DUTIES AS MOTHERS TO THEIR FAMILIES. MANY OF THEM CARRIED PICTURES OF THEIR CHILDREN, HOLDING THEIR FACES UP BEFORE THE WORLD.</p>
1:21:42	<p>HOST: IN ADDITION TO THEIR WEEKLY PROTESTS, LAS MADRES EMPLOYED OTHER STRATEGIES TO KEEP THE ISSUE OF THE VICTIMS IN THE PUBLIC EYE, INCLUDING PLACING ADS IN NEWSPAPERS, AND PUBLISHING THEIR OWN NEWSLETTER.</p>
1:21:54	<p>HOST: DURING THE 1978 WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP IN BUENOS AIRES, THE MOTHERS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS.</p>

1:22:01	HOST: PICTURES OF LAS MADRES FLOODED THE WORLD. THEIR DEEPLY PERSONAL ISSUE BECAME THE FOCUS OF GLOBAL CONCERN. DEMONSTRATIONS, BOTH IN ARGENTINA AND AROUND THE WORLD, BEGAN TO BE HELD IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTHERS.
1:22:15	HOST: DETERMINED TO SILENCE THE WOMEN, THE JUNTA TOOK ACTION. MORE PEOPLE, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND SOME OF THE MOTHERS WERE TAKEN.
1:22:23	HOST: THE DETERMINATION OF THE REMAINING MOTHERS ONLY SOLIDIFIED. MANY CLAIMED THAT THE EXAMPLE SET BY THEIR STOLEN CHILDREN GAVE THEM THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE THE RESISTANCE. THE WOMEN TURNED TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR HELP, BUT OUT OF 83 BISHOPS ONLY 3 SUPPORTED THEIR CAUSE.
1:22:37	PETER WINN: In Brazil and Chile in similar circumstances, the Church became the voice of the voiceless, the protector of human rights. Yet in Argentina the Church remained silent. In part the answer lies with the more conservative politics of the Argentine church hierarchy which was wedded to the status quo. In part it was fear as those who did speak out, including a bishop were shot or disappeared.
1:23:05	HOST: IN 1982 THE JUNTA FELL. ELECTIONS WERE HELD, AND A NEW ATMOSPHERE OF DEMOCRACY PREVAILED. LAS MADRES FELT MORE FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE AND SEEK ANSWERS.
1:23:18	HOST: WHEN ARGENTINA RETURNED TO CIVILIAN RULE IN 1983, A COMMISSION WAS CREATED TO INVESTIGATE THE FATE OF THE VICTIMS.
1:23:26	HOST: LAS MADRES THEIR STRUGGLE ON BRINGING TO JUSTICE ALL OF THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION, BUT ONLY THE NINE TOP MILITARY COMMANDERS WERE EVENTUALLY BROUGHT TO TRIAL. ALL OF THEM WERE PARDONED ON ALL HUMAN RIGHTS CONVICTIONS.
1:23:43	HOST: ROOTED IN THE MOST INTIMATE FEELINGS OF LOVE AND CONCERN FOR THEIR MISSING CHILDREN, THE MOTHERS HAVE BROUGHT THEIR ANGUISH TO THE GLOBAL STAGE. REVERED AROUND THE WORLD AS HEROINES OF CONSCIENCE, LAS MADRES WERE AWARDED THE 1999 UNESCO PRIZE FOR PEACE EDUCATION.
1:24:00	PETER WINN: In 2003 President Nistorkishner asks for the derogation of the amnesty decree so that those who violated human rights can be tried in Argentina. In the end La Madres may win their battle for truth and justice.
1:24:15	HOST: LAS MADRES DE PLAZA DE MAYO CONTINUE THEIR WEEKLY GATHERINGS IN BUENOS AIRES, TYPICALLY DRAWING 500 OR MORE WOMEN A WEEK. THEY STILL PROTEST A WIDE RANGE OF POLICY ISSUES, WHILE KEEPING ALIVE THE MEMORIES OF THEIR LOST LOVED ONES.
1:24:29	PETER WINN : But that was not the end of the story. Today Las Madres are the heroes of a new generation of Argentines and have won the battle for Argentina's collective memory. Schools spend at least

	one week a year studying human rights and the dirty war.
1:24:46	<p>HOST: IN ALL THREE OF THESE CASES, SOCIAL CHANGE CAME THROUGH THE DIRECT AGENCY OF DETERMINED PEOPLE, BUT EXTERNAL CULTURAL INFLUENCES PLAYED A ROLE AS WELL. MAO ZEDONG DREW INSPIRATION FROM EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHERS AND ADAPTED THEIR STRATEGIES IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM WORKABLE AND ACCEPTABLE IN CHINA. THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI WAS REACTING AGAINST WESTERNIZATION ENFORCED BY LEADERS WHO SEEMED DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE IRANIANS' DEEPEST BELIEFS AND CONVICTIONS. AND LAS MADRES SUCCEEDED LARGELY BECAUSE THEY DREW THE ATTENTION AND SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.</p> <p>IN CASES WHERE HIGH PROFILE HUMAN AGENTS HAVE ACTED IN HISTORICAL CHANGE. DID THE WAVE OF PUBLIC OPINION INFLUENCE HOW THEIR STORY WOULD BE TOLD?</p>
1:25:34	<p>SUSAN GLOSSER: Today, Chinese and foreigners alike are ambivalent about Mao. After his death and the conclusion of the Cultural Revolution, Chinese adulation of Mao was replaced by a sober recognition of the suffering that his ideas and programs had caused.</p> <p>Still, most Chinese and foreigners acknowledge his key role in the Chinese victory in World War II, in the defeat of the corrupt Nationalist Party in 1949, and in the expulsion of the foreign powers who had exploited China for centuries. Mao was also instrumental in raising the status of women and in redressing many economic inequalities. Under Mao China stood up.</p> <p>Mao's mixed record raises an intriguing question. He and his fellow Communist Party members began their revolutionary work with the earnest desire to improve the lives of ordinary people. They launched a revolution with the best of intentions. But for a great many Chinese, the results were disastrous. Historians are still trying to understand what went wrong and how to assess Mao's legacy.</p>
1:26:35	<p>HOST: NOT EVERY PERSON WHO TRIES TO CHANGE THE WORLD SUCCEEDS, AND NOT ALL CHANGE IS POSITIVE OR EVEN DESIRABLE.</p> <p>BUT THE STRUCTURES OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE, RATHER THAN BEING RIGID FRAMEWORKS ARE, AFTER ALL, THE PRODUCTS OF HUMAN AGENCY.</p> <p>AND THE LARGER GLOBAL PATTERNS THAT WORLD HISTORIANS SEEK TO IDENTIFY MAY BE REFLECTED IN THE GLEAM OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S EYE.</p>
1:26:57	WEB TAG
1:26:58	PROGRAM CREDITS
1:27:33	SPECIAL THANKS
1:27:48	OPB LOGO

1:27:55	ANNENBERG LOGO
1:28:10	1-800 ORDER TAG
1:28:25	END