



Challenging Churchill

Challenging Churchill - a Vidicom Media Production for 2012.
Co-Produced by ZDF/Arte - Co-Funded by EU Media

Written and directed by Peter Bardehle
Animatics by Christof Wolf
Format: 94 min. HD / 52 min. HD



In challenging the British icon of modern times, Vidicom sets new standards in the field of historic storytelling. In over two thousand hours of work, atmospheric animatics were created to recall key moments of the time when Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin changed the fate of Europe.

Churchill, a name typically associated with braveness and altruism.

Recently found evidence from Soviet and British sources however brings up questions about Churchill's doings in the conferences of Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam. Why did he agree to give Stalin large parts of Poland, thus dramatically shifting the borders of Europe?

Churchill's fear that Stalin would cut the frail bond between them is a recurrent theme. Each of the pointed animatics stands for a key moment in history, seen through Churchill's eyes.

The story of two world leaders in times of war – it is also the story of Poland. Our film reveals that the fate of the country was determined by Churchill and Stalin playing a dangerous power game: By 1945, Poland had lost almost half of its pre-war territory and most of the residents were expelled from their homes, returning soldiers were repressed by the installed communist regime.

At that time Churchill has already left world politics. As a tragic hero. As a man who took office not only to save his own country but to fight for his ally Poland and who wasn't re-elected at the hour of his greatest triumph, thus being forced to retreat and lose everything he had been fighting for.