



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT |

"The Weight of Chains" (2011) is one of the very first documentary films that has been made thanks to hundreds of mostly small donations by contributors who sincerely wanted the given idea to be produced into a movie. The film was not supported by any big production company and didn't have any major corporate sponsors. This is the miracle of "The Weight of Chains" - that a simple idea about making an unbiased film dealing with the Balkans turmoil could spark such interest, and it shows just how thirsty people are for the truth, but also it's the strongest argument in support of the film's neutrality.

In my previous film, "Kosovo: Can You Imagine?" (2009), I documented what happened in Serbia's southern province after the supposed "democracy kicked in" thanks to a NATO "humanitarian" bombing campaign, and discovered ghettos and gross human rights violations in a land under international supervision. This time around, I am explaining *why* it all happened - not just the tragedy in Kosovo, but all of the former Yugoslavia. My new film is also going a step further and analyzing the consequences of the colonial exploitation of the Yugoslav states by Western powers in the economic, political and military sense.

As a 22-year-old film student (aged 20 when I started working on the film), I found that many of the people I've worked with on this film were in disbelief that someone my age would undertake such an ambitious project. Considering that I made my last film at age 19, and the film was shown on the English-language TV channel Russia Today in over 60 countries around the world, I always found that anything's possible, while age is an illusion. The idea and how it's presented are what counts, not who or how old the director is.

I'm aware that there are many who will outright reject to watch the film, as I'm a Serbian Canadian and any argument that can not be perceived as an attack on Serbs or presenting the Yugoslav tragedy in a black and white manner is automatically labelled as Serbian propaganda, but to them I say that if what TV told you was always true, we'd be praising George W. Bush for finding those WMDs in Iraq. My message is also that the real heroes of the Yugoslav wars are not corrupt politicians, army generals or war profiteers, but rather normal people who acted as human beings in inhuman times. Some of these positive stories - people going above and beyond to keep the peace or protecting their neighbours regardless of their ethnicity - are presented in the film to illustrate why there are no such things as "evil nations".

If you have any interest in the Yugoslav drama, do watch the film. Even if you think you know *why* it happened.

Boris Malagurski
Director, Writer and Producer
The Weight of Chains