



From Hollywood to the Vatican: A Friendship that Changed the World

PICASSO^{film}
presents

THE POPE **AND** THE PRESIDENT

A documentary TV series

3x52'

Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were men of the same time. Both were terrified of nuclear war, both hated communism and the Soviet Union, both had been shot but survived, and both had forgiven their attackers. They had also both been top athletes and, interestingly, they had both been actors before becoming major players on a world stage.

The Alliance

Monday, 7th June 1982. In the secret of the Vatican library, the Pope and President Reagan meet for the first time, alone. A year has passed since they both survived an assassination attempt, six weeks apart.

"Your Holiness", says Reagan, "the forces of evil stood in our path, but providence saved us". "It was a miracle" replies the Pope "and there must be a divine purpose". "I believe," Reagan continues, "that God wants to entrust us with a special mission: the dismantling of the Soviet empire."



DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

Reagan and Wojtyla were the undisputed protagonists of the 1980s, culminating in their roles with the collapse and crumbling of the Soviet empire and the end of the Cold War. They appeared on the world stage as two distinct characters within a short distance of each other. In some respects - first and foremost, their background and cultural depth - they are as different as can be. In others, however, they are strikingly similar: great communicators, former actors, sportsmen, staunch advocates of their ideas and convictions, and black beasts of the global left.

Their political and spiritual convictions have led them to crucial roles. Reagan was appointed President of the United States, and John Paul II was set, Pope.



They were soon united by a dramatic experience. Within a month and a half of each other, in 1981, they were victims of assassination attempts that only by a miracle were not fatal.

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

I will delve into this unlikely 'holy' alliance in the series, a couple combining deep faith with political acumen and star power. I will go back in their lives to the beginning. The lives of Ronald Reagan and John Paul II are coincidental or divine. Both boys grew up with complexes: Reagan was raised by a drunken father, and John Paul II never knew his mother. Later, Reagan and John Paul II became political playwrights, performing scripts about the freedom of humanity.

The plot of the three episodes will also include the two assassination attempts, KGB plots, and CIA intrigues. We will try to understand how, after both survived the 1981 assassination attempt, they came together believing that God had intervened to enable them to defeat the ultimate evil, communism.



DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

With experts' help, I will analyze the end of the Cold War, which marked a turning point in world history as it ended a long period of tension and conflict between the Western powers and the Soviet Union. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall were seen as significant victories for democracy and freedom.

We will learn about the policies of Ronald Reagan, whose increased military spending and support for anti-communist forces in Afghanistan and Nicaragua helped to weaken the Soviet economy and hasten the collapse of the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, we understand that Pope John Paul II, through his leadership of the Catholic Church, played a crucial role in supporting the Solidarity movement in Poland, which challenged the communist rule and ultimately contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union.

The peaceful end of the Cold War was a significant achievement that profoundly impacted the world and was made possible in part by the efforts of Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II. Their shared opposition to Soviet communism and belief in the importance of spiritual and religious values played a crucial role in this historic victory.

SPEECHES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were extraordinary speakers, delivering some of the most inspiring and motivational speeches of their careers. Reagan's messages of freedom and democracy, notably his "Tear Down This Wall" speech, resonated worldwide. Similarly, Pope John Paul II's speeches, like his impactful "World Youth Day" sermons, brought people together and emphasized love and peace. Both leaders possessed an exceptional ability to connect with diverse audiences, stirring emotions and instilling hope. Their words continue to inspire, reminding us of the profound impact of effective communication and the enduring influence of inspirational leaders.

„Mr. Gorbachov, tear down this wall“
Ronald Reagan (Berlin, June 1987)



„Let Your Holy Spirit descend and renew the face of the Earth... and this land“
Pope John Paul II, (Warsaw, June 1979)

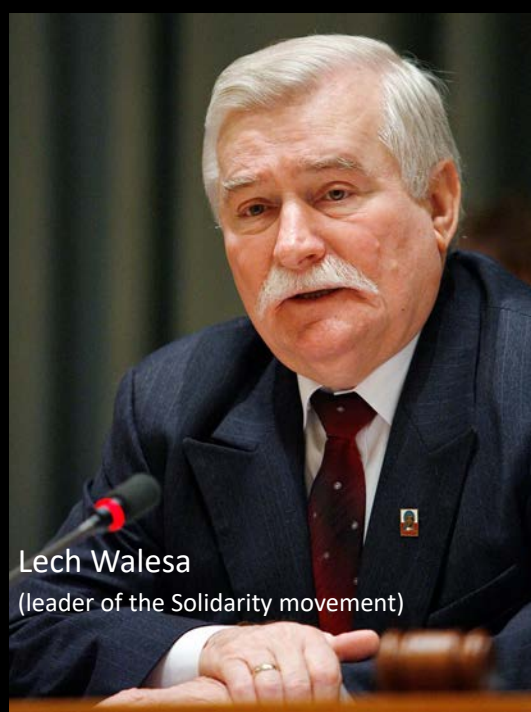




Monsignor Stanisław Dziwisz
(Cardinal at the John Paul II's side)



David Stockman
(Former Reagan administration member)



Lech Walesa
(leader of the Solidarity movement)



Jack Philip Barsky
(former KGB agent)



Charles Hilary Moore
(British journalist)

OUR GUESTS



Ali Agca
(the Pope's attacker)



Cardinal Donald William Wuerl
(former Archbishop of Washington D.C.)

We will have important guests who will support the series with their testimonies: an extended interview with Ali Agca (the Pope's attacker), Lech Walesa (former president of Poland and leader of the Solidarity movement), Cardinal Donald William Wuerl (former Archbishop of Washington D.C.), Jack Philip Barsky, computer specialist, and former KGB sleeper agent.

Charles Hilary Moore, Baron Moore of Etchingham, is an English journalist. He is best known for his authorized biography of Margaret Thatcher, another significant figure of the 1980s, a friend and ally of both. David Stockman, Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Ronald Reagan.

I will have the cooperation and support of the Vatican, with whom I have developed an excellent relationship in recent years, granting me unique access to documents and testimonies. In an interview with Monsignor Stanisław Dziwisz, the cardinal at John Paul II's side throughout his pontificate, on the day of the assassination attempt, Dziwisz was the first to come to the Pope's aid.

Three episodes, 1.THE START, 2.THE FIGHT, 3.THE VICTORY.

THE POPE AND THE PRESIDENT

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