

"I must have been inspired" Joseph Conrad

New Netflix docuseries slammed for 'ignoring' Poland's role during WWII

CULTURE | HISTORY



STUART DOWELL DECEMBER 18, 2023



The WWII documentary has come under fire for shortcomings in its coverage of Poland's involvement, specifically its failure to acknowledge that the Soviet Union also invaded Poland in September 1939.

Netflix

A new WWII Netflix documentary has been heavily criticized by historians for 'significant oversights' regarding Poland's role in the global conflict.

The six-part documentary titled "World War II: From the Frontlines," boasts unique, enhanced colorized footage of World War II, offering a visceral and immersive experience. Voices from all sides contribute personal narratives, creating what is billed as an "intense visual chronicle."



Garry Kasparov, former chess champion and a prominent detractor of the Kremlin, Kasparov took to X.com (formerly Twitter) to express his discontent. He said:

Garry Kasparov/X

However, the documentary narrated by renowned actor John Boyega, celebrated for his iconic role in Star Wars, has come under fire for shortcomings in its coverage of Poland's involvement, specifically its failure to acknowledge that the Soviet Union also invaded Poland in September 1939.

Critics argue that this omission deprives viewers of crucial context for understanding various aspects of the war and its aftermath.



Historian Roger Moorhouse, author of Roger Moorhouse/X

Among the vocal critics is Garry Kasparov, former chess champion and a prominent detractor of the Kremlin. Kasparov took to X.com (formerly Twitter) to express his discontent.

He said: "New Netflix documentary series, 'World War II: From the Frontlines,' omits that Stalin also attacked Poland in 1939. Only Germany's attack is mentioned."



Igor Sushko, a US-based Ukraine commentator and race car driver, argued that the documentary's omission of the collaborative invasion of Poland by the Kremlin and Hitler's forces is a glaring oversight, considering its foundational role in initiating World War II.

Igor Sushko/X

He emphasized the importance of acknowledging the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its implications for the war's trajectory.

Historian Roger Moorhouse, author of "The Devil's Alliance" focusing on the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, concurred with Kasparov's critique, noting, "Absolutely. Tired of saying it..."

Igor Sushko, a US-based Ukraine commentator and race car driver, decried what he labeled as "historical malpractice," particularly given current geopolitical events. Sushko argued that the documentary's omission of the collaborative invasion of Poland by the Kremlin and Hitler's forces is a glaring oversight, considering its foundational role in initiating World War II.

The series also faces scrutiny for neglecting to address the Katyń massacre perpetrated by the Soviet Union against Polish officers and reservists in 1940.



Additionally, the documentary fails to highlight the pivotal role played by the Polish 303 Squadron during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Public domain

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On a positive note, the series does delve into the plight of the Polish civilian population under German occupation and the activities of the Polish resistance.

Testimonies from figures such as Julian Kulski, a Polish resistance fighter and Warsaw Uprising insurgent, are featured to provide insight into this aspect of Poland's wartime experience.

TAGS: POLAND, WWII, WORLD WAR II, NETFLIX, DOCUMENTARY, STAR WARS, GARRY KASPAROV, WORLD WAR II: FROM THE FRONTLINES, JOHN BOYEGA, IGOR SUSHKO

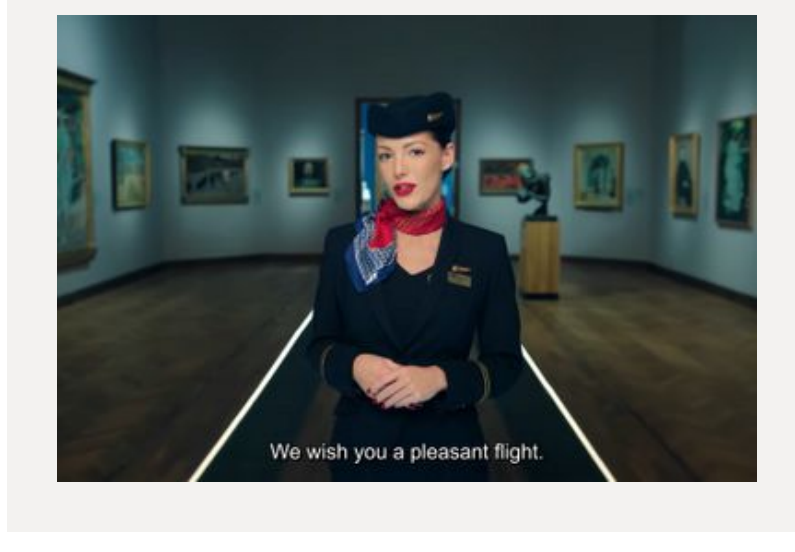
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