

Teacher's Curriculum Guide

Includes essays
and lesson plans



A timeless story of courage against all odds by a people united to preserve their freedom



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Ben Strout

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Ben Strout has been writing and producing television documentaries since 1981. That year, his documentary, *The Deadly Legacy*, produced for WTHR-TV Indianapolis was a national Emmy finalist. Since then Strout has gone on to win numerous journalism and broadcast awards, including awards from Ohio State, AP and UPI.

In 1994, he was a co-founder of the production company Nineteenth Star and writer/producer of programs for the Discovery networks, Court TV and other cable networks. During this period, his awards included two Regional Emmys.

Strout has also been involved in producing media for museums and served as Executive Producer for the new Indiana State Museum opened in 2002.

In 2003, Strout founded MastersWork Media. *Fire and Ice: The Winter War of Finland and Russia* is the company's first documentary release.

He is a member of the Writers Guild of America.



Filming *Fire and Ice: The Winter War of Finland and Russia*.
Ben Strout



Reenactment of a Russian T-26 Tank is hit with a Molotov cocktail.
Ben Strout

www.wfyi.org/fireandice/

Fire and Ice: The Winter War of Finland and Russia is a co-production of MastersWork Media and WFYI TV 20.



CONTENTS OF THIS GUIDE

This curriculum guide is to be used with the *Fire and Ice* DVD. To accompany this DVD there are five essays, each followed by a lesson plan and activity. The lesson plans include objectives, discussion questions, activities and extensions for each of the essays. You might want to use one or all of the lessons and activities, depending on the grade levels taught. All are meant to be used in conjunction with the *Fire and Ice* DVD. You have permission to copy pages of this guide as needed.

It is recommended that you screen the entire program at least once so you can target segments that you would like to review with students prior to the activities. The *Fire and Ice* DVD and lesson plans can be used over several weeks as students become more familiar with the prominent, but often forgotten, role that the Winter War played in the war strategies of World War II. This curriculum guide includes the following sections:

Introduction

In November 1939, when Finland was invaded by the Soviet Union, no one expected this tiny nation would resist the largest military force in the world. Also, no one anticipated one of the coldest winters in recorded history. Outnumbered and outgunned, Finns knew the war was not about territory; it was a total war for their very existence as a people. They united against a common enemy as never before. The Winter War was an epic life-and-death struggle that changed the course of World War II, and saved a democracy.

Communism vs. Fascism discusses the conflicts as well as political and economic rivalries that brought The Soviet Union into World War II and the specific invasion of Finland.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact examines the motive and consequences of the Soviets non-aggression pact with Germany.

The Uniter and the Divider compares the political and diplomatic leadership styles of Josef Stalin (The Soviet Union) and C.G.E. Mannerheim (Finland).

Low Tech Meets High Tech explores the importance of industrial production and the application of technology in the strategies, tactics and overall destruction during the Winter War.

It Was Supposed To Be a Quick Victory describes the Winter War's influence on later warfare in Western Europe and the Soviet Union.



WEB SITE RESOURCES

Kev Os 4 Finnish Re-enactor Site

http://www.kevos4.com/lotta_svard.htm
Site for Finnish Army wartime photos with information on the Winter and Continuation wars. This Web site link gives background information about the Lotta Svard

The Mannerheim Line

<http://www.mannerheim-line.com/>
Background information about the Winter War with information about battles, maps and diary entries of Finnish and Soviet soldiers

MastersWork Media

<http://mastersworkmedia.com/>
Learn about the making of the *Fire and Ice* documentary

Military and War

<http://hkkk.fi/~yrjola/war/#finland>
Web site links to the Winter War

Reader's Companion to Military History

http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/mil/html/ml_057700_weatherinwar.htm
Discusses the influence of weather on war strategies

Virtual Finland, Your Window on Finland

<http://virtual.finland.fi/netcomm/news/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=25937>
Information on the lessons of the Winter War

Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
Resource for information on communism and fascism

The Winter War

http://www.mil.fi/perustietoa/talvisota_eng/
Telegrams from each day of the Winter War



ON THE WEB

The homepage features a large banner at the top with the title "FIRE AND ICE" and a subtitle "The Winter War of Finland and Russia". Below the banner are several sections of content:

- A yellow sidebar on the left contains text about the Soviet invasion of Finland on November 30, 1939.
- A central blue section displays portraits of a woman and a man, with links to "The Women Who Changed the Course of War" and "How a Cocktail Destroyed Russian Tanks".
- A red sidebar on the right features a portrait of a man with a mustache, with links to "Soviet Union's Pact with Hitler" and "Inside the Prison Camp".
- At the bottom, there are three small thumbnail images: "Inside the film with Director Ben Strout", "Live like a Finnish soldier, See inside their barracks", and "War propaganda".
- Navigation links at the bottom include "About the Film", "History", "People & Places", "Timelines & Maps", and "Education Resources".
- Links at the very bottom include "Station Materials", "PBS On-line", "WFYI Indianapolis", "Subscribe", "Feedback", and "Web design by Westcomm".

www.wfyi.org/fireandice/

Web site design
Westcommonline.com

This site is an educational resource with historical information about the people, places and events that shaped the Winter War, along with personal accounts and an interactive activity for students.



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Fire and Ice: The Winter War of Finland and Russia is a co-production of MastersWork Media and WFIY-TV 20.

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