

# THE WEIGHT OF CHAINS 2

## PRESS KIT – SYNOPSIS & TECHNICAL INFO.

WEIGHT OF CHAINS 2

### LOGLINE

'The Weight of Chains 2' is a documentary film largely dealing with the effects of the Washington Consensus economic doctrine on the newly established former Yugoslav republics, but also with neoliberalism as an economic concept. Through interviews with Noam Chomsky, Oliver Stone and many others, the author, Serbian-Canadian Boris Malagurski, attempts to analyze why so many people in the Balkans are disappointed with the systems imposed after the fall of socialism and how capitalism could be improved. Looking at the examples of Ecuador and Iceland, the film tries to uncover alternatives to the prevailing orthodoxies of Western economic dictates and help developing nations find their own way to shape their economies and their countries.

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### SHORT SYNOPSIS

'The Weight of Chains 2' deals with neoliberal reforms in the Balkans and the effects of these reforms on all aspects of life in the former Yugoslavia, from politics, economics, military, culture and education to the media. Through stories of sold off companies, corrupt politicians, fictional tribunals and various military alliances, the film deconstructs modern myths about everything the people have been told will bring them a better life. Featuring Noam Chomsky, Oliver Stone, Carla Del Ponte and others.

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### LONG SYNOPSIS

'The Weight of Chains 2' is a documentary film largely dealing with the effects of the Washington Consensus economic doctrine on the newly established former Yugoslav republics, but also with neoliberalism as an economic concept, which is assessed from its beginnings in 1970s Chile and other South American countries, through its expansion to Great Britain and the US in the 1980s and the former Soviet lands and the rest of the world in the 1990s.

Through interviews with Noam Chomsky, Oliver Stone, Michael Parenti and many others, the author, Serbian-Canadian Boris Malagurski, attempts to analyze why so many people in the Balkans are

disappointed with the systems imposed after the fall of socialism and how capitalism could be improved. The story starts with regime change - looking at how Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic was deposed with the help of the US government.

Malagurski talks about himself as a child, protesting against Milosevic in Yugoslavia, and the immediate aftermath of the coup d'etat - the company where his father worked being destroyed by measures imposed under the new regime and privatized, which lead to the company's 4000-strong workforce, shrinking to a mere 370. As Serbian economist Jovan B. Dusanic explains the basics of the Washington Consensus, Malagurski names those responsible for implementing it in Serbia. Ivan Pernar, a Croatian activist, does the same for Croatia, noting that everything has been outsourced, even Croatia's national currency, which is printed in Germany and Austria.

Furthermore, Malagurski asks the question of whether a hidden agenda was behind the breakup of Yugoslavia and, with an interview with Carla Del Ponte, looks deeper into the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at the Hague and whether its goal was to punish war criminals, or create a facade that shows that the West condemns war crimes, but actually pardons them if they suit their economic and geopolitical interests. Jewish-Croatian journalist Domagoj Margetic talks about corruption in Croatia as a result of a nation having war profiteers as heroes.

Malagurski also looks at the role of the media and the education system in pacifying the populace. Another tool in keeping the people apathetic, the film asserts, are local non-governmental organizations, financed by Western governments. Leading NGO representatives Sonja Biserko, Jelena Milic, Dusan Gamser and Borka Pavicevic are all interviewed in the film, with comedic scenes of Mr. Gamser, who works at an NGO and is a secretary of a political party in Serbia, tries to explain how there's no conflict of interest in working at both an NGO and a political party by saying that these are 'different things', eventually concluding, in the same sentence, that they are, indeed, 'same things'.

With little hope for the people offered in the first part of the film, Malagurski moves on to the 'big hope' for the population in the Balkans - the European Union. However, American author Diana Johnstone and Greek activist Iraklis Tsavarkidis present the EU as a not so favorable option for developing countries, noting that resentment towards the EU is growing in the EU itself. An exclusive interview with the President of Croatia Ivo Josipovic sheds a different light on the EU, representing the official Croatian viewpoint that the EU is a good thing for Croatia, but very quickly rebutted with the words of Croatian writer Igor Mandic, who says that 'fascism is on the rise in the EU' and explains all the negative aspects of Croatian EU membership.

Cynically disappointed, Malagurski moves on to talk about the myth of 'foreign investments', challenging the mainstream viewpoint that a country needs them if it is to survive. Looking at the example of Vranje, a small town on Serbia's southern tip, where very successful local shoe companies were sacrificed to make way for a foreign company that also makes shoes, emphasizing the disproportionate support the foreigners received in respect to the local companies.

Just when things seem to not be able to get any worse for people in the Balkans, the film chronicles the sharp rise in suicides in Macedonia, with interviews with activist Ljiljana Georgievska and Mila Carovska. However, the film shifts its course towards the end. Looking at the examples of Ecuador and Iceland, the film tries to uncover alternatives to the prevailing orthodoxies of Western economic dictates and help developing nations find their own way to shape their economies and their countries. The Washington

Consensus' official death is announced in the film with the agreeing on a new economic doctrine at the Seoul G20 Summit in 2010.

Malagurski then proposes a three step program aimed at getting rid of neoliberalism: 1. Protecting your local industry - making capitalism work for the national economy by supporting local industries and limiting foreign investments, arguing that this is what every country which is rich today did when it was growing and becoming rich; 2. Creating a functioning welfare state - helping those less fortunate to achieve their full potential and becoming constructive members of society; 3. Making protesting a way of life - inspiring the youth to take action and realize that governments make decisions in favor of the people only when in fear of the public reaction. The final message given by the film resonates in three words: Rebel, network and resist.

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## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Original Title: **The Weight of Chains 2**

Serbian Title: **Тежина ланаца 2**

Croatian Title: **Težina lanaca 2**

French Title: **Le poids des chaînes 2**

German Title: **Das Gewicht der Ketten 2**

Italian Title: **Il peso delle catene 2**

Spanish Title: **El peso de las cadenas 2**

Main Dialogue Language: **English**

Other Languages in the Film: **Serbian, Croatian, Portuguese, Spanish, French**

Date of Film Completion: **November 2014**

Running Time: **2 hours 3 minutes 49 seconds**

Filming Locations: **Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Switzerland, United States, United Kingdom, Canada**

Categories: **Documentary, Feature,**

Genre: **Comedy, Politics, Economics, War, History, News**

Budget: **\$ 45,000**

Picture Format: **Color**

Aspect Ratio: **1.78 (16 x 9 VIDEO)**

Shooting Format: **HDV**