

Film Review

Dreams of Sparrows



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"No matter what you think the Iraq war there is one thing we can all agree on for the next days – we have to salute the courage and bravery of those who are risking their lives to vote and those brave Iraqi and American soldiers fighting to protect their right to vote".

Hillary Clinton

Oriental lands have undergone many wars during the whole history. The peoples have suffered a lot both from the invaders and their own rulers. The fate of the Iraqi people is not an exception.

The beginning of the spring 2003 became a turning point in the new Iraqi history. It was the time of the American occupation of the country which later led to the war for the sake of Saddam Hussein's deposition. The Dreams of Sparrows is a documentary movie by the Iraqi filmmakers shot during 2003 and 2004. There are presented the events of the American occupancy of Iraq in the course of the first months. It was shot with the help of a hand-held camera. The film consists of interviews of different people. They explain their points of view and express their feelings about the situation.

The scenes of ordinary people's lives, streets, houses, and different establishments are shown in the movie. They are controversial to the habitual pictures of the country that are commonly shown by the western mass media. This film scrutinizes a sense of various changes and dangers and knowledge that the life is interrupted. In some way, it is broken by the overthrowing of the Hussein's government. The movie

contains sayings of people who support either Bush or Saddam. Their lives are extirpated by the regime. Moreover, there is the point of view of the woman who hates Americans, but approves the actions of George Bush. This documentary movie shows the extreme multiplicity of the streets in Iraq in all the vividness and depth. It is a true life of the ordinary people and the diversity of this life has not been shown to the western audience before.

Some uncanny silences that are deleted from the news can be heard. Also, one can experience the feeling of the strangeness of life in the place where it seems that the life is not possible. There are people in the perpetual queues for gas. It happens in the country which privilege is patrol. The episode showing the children in the parade is really heart-rending. They march screaming "Fuck Saddam!". It is impossible to watch indifferently the schoolchildren who scribble the drawings of war and the kids who are crammed in the temporary orphanages. The tension is growing. Emotions and feelings increase with the scene of the refugee camp of the Palestinians and the police's attempts to determine the actions of the suicide bombers. American soldiers battle to correspond to the actions within the limits of their competence. The whole picture logically ends with the temporary cemetery enabling one to read the signs on the tombstones.

It can be argued that the narration of the film is shaped via cutting and original music, but the movie cannot leave its audience nonchalant. Those who are against the occupation are opposed by the high death rate caused by the totalitarian government. On the other hand, supporters of the war see Iraq as a new country without fear, everyday bombing, destitution, and death. They know that it is hardly possible

without a foreign intervention.

To summarize, sparrows are little birds that live close to the land. They symbolize freedom. Not without grounds, the picture is called Dreams of Sparrows. The Iraqis are the folk that dreams to live in a free country without military enforcement and have peaceful sky above their heads. Their desires do not differ from those of other people, though the different ways are applied and high price is paid. The movie was shot to show that the Iraqis are not terrorists. They also long for peace. They have their points of view on the situation of American invasion, even if it is controversial.