

**FILM SUMMARY**

**Where to Invade Next**

**Director: Michael Moore**

**Year: 2015**

**Time: 120 min**

**You might know this director from:**

**Capitalism: A Love Story**

**Slacker Uprising**

**Sicko**

**Fahrenheit 9/11**

**Bowling for Columbine**

**The Big One**

**Canadian Bacon**

**Roger & Me**

**Michael Moore is known for his tendency to question the status quo, to poke a comical finger at the more questionable policies of his American homeland. Having tackled everything from handguns to heath care, his work has primarily been directed inwards as he documents real people living real lives on U.S. soil.**

**In *WHERE TO INVADE NEXT*, Moore leaves the North American continent, with flags in hand ready to plant them on foreign soil. He heads to Europe with a stop-over in North Africa, ready to stake claim to the great policies in action elsewhere as America’s own.**

**Presented as an invasion on some of the most utopian examples of governance alive today, the film maintains a relatively upbeat tone. Never resting for too long on criticisms of American policy, Moore instead lets the happy examples elsewhere do the convincing.**

**Rather than leaving the humanity of a Norwegian prison or the political potency of women in Iceland feeling resentful of his own nationality, Moore turns it on its head with a statement of patriotism: “These weren’t European ideas. These weren’t new ideas. These were our ideas.” Many of the interviewees point out that many of their own policies mirror the intentions of America’s founding fathers.**

**Taking his cue from the Germans, who actively engage with the remembrance of their past, Moore directs their sentiment at his fellow Americans, “If you acknowledge your dark side and make amends for it, you can free yourself to be a better people and to do well by others.”**

**FILM THEMES**

**Moore and team travel abroad to investigate many of the policies working so well on foreign soil. Here we list their takeaways from each of the countries they invade.**

**ITALY: WORK / LIFE BALANCE**

**With one of the highest rates of paid vacation, maternity leave, and honeymoon allowance, not to mention two-hour workday lunches, Italians take the stress out of a working life.**

**FRANCE: LUNCH AND THE TRUTH ABOUT SEX**

**School children shun Moore’s offer of soda and feast upon a whole-food four-course lunch, and adolescents learn about the realities of sex and respectful relationships. The French say “Oui!” to life.**

**FINLAND: LET THEM PLAY!**

**“They should have more time to be kids, to enjoy life,” stated a teacher in Finland. Children spend less time in school, no time doing homework, and lots of time playing, all while ranking at the top of global education stats.**

**SLOVENIA: FREE SCHOOL FOR ALL**

**In this eastern European country, school is considered a public good and a basic human right, and a complete college education is afforded to anyone showing up for class, whatever passport a student may hold.**

**GERMANY: RESPECT AND REMEMBER**

**Moore is shocked at the civility of working regulations in Germany, where employees are given an equal say in company matters and government funded spa stays prioritize health. As for Hitler and the Holocaust,**

**a policy of acknowledgment and understanding of the past fuels the potential to affect a positive future.**

**PORTUGAL: HUMANY DIGNITY AND DECRIMINALIZED DRUGS Portugal’s answer to the War on Drugs? Decriminalize their usage and offer free treatment and comprehensive healthcare. In the words of a Lisbon police officer, “Human dignity is the backbone of our society.”**

**NORWAY: BREED FORGIVENESS, NOT HATRED**

**As a place for rehabilitation, not revenge, prisons in Norway offer a chance for prisoners to rehabilitate and regain humanity. Not even Breivik’s killing spree could spark hatred, instead inspiring national unity.**

**TUNISIA: FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

**Government funded abortions and free women’s health clinics ensure women are in control of their reproduction and in turn their basic rights. Let the individual focus on the private and government the public.**

**ICELAND: WOMEN ARE THE ANSWER**

**“When women don’t work, nothing works.” Strong words from Iceland’s first female president, who testifies to the power of the women that changed the tide of a nation, making it both potent and sustainable.**