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Freedom for the Wolf

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Abstract

This is a film review of *Freedom for the Wolf* (2018), directed by Rupert Russell.

Keywords

Capitalism, Liberal Democracy, Wealth Inequality

Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



Freedom for the Wolf (2018), dir. Rupert Russell

Freedom for the Wolf is not a movie about religion, it is a political movie. Its theme comes from the quote by Isaiah Berlin to the effect that "Freedom for the wolves has often meant death to the sheep."

The idea is that freedom has become more and more associated with economic freedom. We might call this economic democracy. But the more economic freedom people have the less freedom they have in other areas. Using the examples of Hong Kong, Tunisia, Japan, India, and Trump's America, the movie shows how the sheep are being killed in the name of freedom. Those who succeed gain power and then deny freedom to minorities and those less economically successful.

What makes the movie important for religion is that religious minorities become the sheep. When tyranny rules, religious minorities are not exempt. The importance of liberal democracy is that people can in fact practice their religions. In an illiberal democracy, the majority religion rules.