

THE EVIL EMPIRE



GENRE

Documentary series

NO. OF EPISODES

6 episodes

RUNNING TIME

45 min

LOGLINE

We will tell you how the Evil Empire that committed crimes against humanity for 70 years hid behind the mask of an "ideal country".

PROJECT TEAM

AKIM GALIMOV, PRODUCER

Series of documentary films "Ukraine. Returning Its Own History" (Parts 1-4). Documentary series "Mysteries of the Great Ukrainians". Digital project "Ukrainian Palaces. Golden Age" (Seasons 1-2). YouTube project "The Real History with Akim Galimov" (2022-2023).



DARIA SARYCHEVA, DIRECTOR

Series of documentary films "Ukraine. Returning Its Own History" (Parts 1-3). Documentary series "Mysteries of the Great Ukrainians". Digital project "Ukrainian Palaces. Golden Age" (Seasons 1-2). TV Shows "The Voice" (Seasons 5-12), "The Voice. Kids" (Seasons 2-4), "Dancing with the Stars" (2017-2021), "Ukraine's got talent" (Seasons 3-6).

ANNA SHMULIAR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Series of documentary films "TSN Stories" (Season 2). TV Show "The Velvet Season". YouTube project "The Real History with Akim Galimov" (2022-2023). Digital project "Ukrainian Palaces. Golden Age" (Season 2).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The development of the Soviet empire was based on the **commission of mass crimes and terrible abuse** of people. During the 20th century, the Kremlin authorities killed thousands of people using poisons, torture, psychological pressure, and other dirty methods of special services. For 70 years, these crimes remained classified or hushed up.

THE EVIL EMPIRE project will expose the mechanisms and perpetrators of these crimes. We are investigating the tools the Bolsheviks successfully used to hide their inhuman policy towards dozens of nations. We consider the Soviet Union a criminal who confuses the traces and covers up evidence.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The series consists of 6 episodes. The theme of each episode is a **specific crime or criminal system**. The structure of the episode is built through the exposure of various methods of concealing a crime. We will uncover atrocities that still remain little known.

The geography of our project reaches all territories of the former USSR. It gathers stories of different nations that suffered from the Bolshevik authorities.

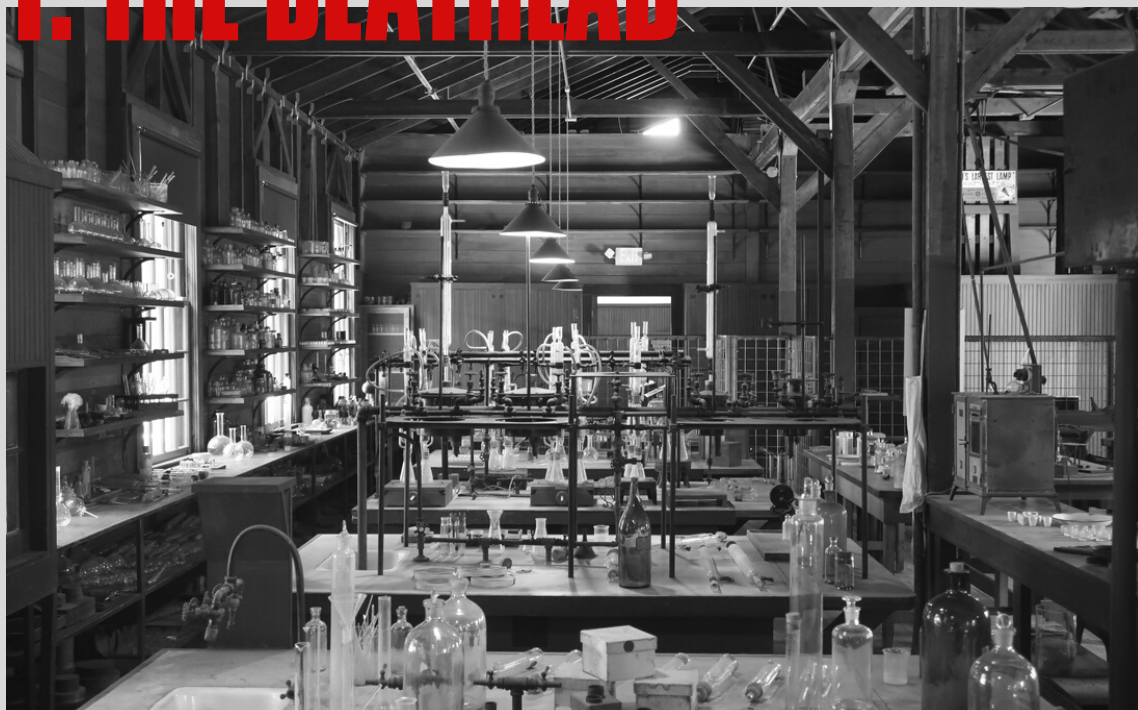
We will draw **parallels between Russia and the Soviet Union** and prove that various methods of retention of power and enslavement of neighbouring peoples are used by Moscow to this day.

CHARACTERS

Apart from historians and researchers from around the world, historical figures will also become characters in the series. By travelling through their personal stories, we will explain how the Soviet authorities managed to hide the truth. Besides, people who experienced or committed the horrors of Bolshevik politics with their own hands (for example, relatives of repressed, witnesses of events, or former KGB officers) will participate in the documentary series.

LIST OF EPISODES

1. THE DEATHLAB



This classified institution for the development of the newest poisons had different names at different times: Special Office, Laboratory-X, Kamera, Special Laboratory No. 12. The developed chemical and bacteriological weapons were going to be used against the Bolshevik current or future enemies and were tested on alive and healthy prisoners and prisoners of war. Orders for the production of poisons and the names of new "targets" came from the top party leadership of the USSR. Contract killings were carefully planned and often carried out with the help of rare poisons that are difficult to detect during an autopsy.

2. PUNITIVE PSYCHIATRY



Those "dissidents" who could not be repressed in a "legal" way in the USSR were sent for compulsory treatment indefinitely. Soviet doctors in the service of the Kremlin even invented a non-existent diagnosis of "sluggish schizophrenia." In particular institutions, the "sick" ones were pumped full of drugs for years, practiced insulin therapy and electroshock, force-fed, interrogated, locked in cramped cells with indeed mentally ill people, and not allowed to see or correspond with their families. It was almost impossible to remain healthy after going through such institutions.

3. TORTURE FACTORY



It is difficult to find a person detained by the Soviet special services who would not be tortured. Nails in spines, skin removal, torture by fire, flesh gnawing by rats and much more... This is how the agents extracted false confessions beneficial to the Bolsheviks, created "enemies of the people", eliminated inconvenient people, and justified thousands of executions. In this episode, we will reveal the most gruesome and shocking torture methods used by the Soviets and adopted by the Russian secret services.

4. DENUNCIATION SYSTEM



It was hazardous to climb the career ladder in the USSR. The mistakes of top leaders were blamed on their associates. Constant suspicion, denunciation, imprisonment, and mass murder were the atmosphere in the top party leadership. For example, every head of the NKVD was executed at the end of their "term of office." This episode will show the price of maintaining the power of the Soviet leaders and prove that the same thing is happening in Russia today.

5. INCITEMENT TO SUICIDE



The Soviet secret services practiced the so-called method of personality disintegration against enemies of the regime. Its goal was to deprive a person of their sanity. Agents would cause trouble at work, undermine a person's reputation, and spoil personal relationships. They also carried out numerous psychological attacks: spies would break into a person's apartment and rearrange furniture, change the time on clocks or food in the refrigerator, and so on. Intelligence services could blackmail a person or destroy their family or career. Such continuous attacks often deprive people of confidence in themselves and the world and drive them to despair.

6. WEAPONS TESTING



Although the Soviet Union never used nuclear weapons, thousands of people still died from them. Operation Snowball and the Totskoye nuclear exercise, Operation Storm-333, K project, Operation RYAN – the nuclear fever that gripped Soviet leaders led to environmental disasters and numerous human casualties. During weapons testing and military exercises, people were used as experimental animals. In addition to these horrors, to preserve the image of an "ideal country," the Bolsheviks concealed dozens of other disasters: environmental, natural, transportation, and aviation.

EPIISODE STRUCTURE

The structure of the episode is built through the **investigation** of various methods of concealing a particular crime. The story is told in the **detective genre** as if we are following a criminal who covers his tracks. While exposing each method, we dive into the context of historical events and follow the general course of history. Each method will be demonstrated through someone's **personal story**: either historical figures or witnesses of events. At the beginning of an episode, we announce a crime, in the main part, we tell the scheme of its concealment, and at the end, we summarise: how it affected further history.

DIRECTOR'S VISION

COLOR GRADING

We want to use a retro-styled picture in the documentary series, adding aggressive black shades. Yellow and red colours will be used to convey the atmosphere of helplessness and aggression.



INTERVIEWS

Interviews with experts will be filmed indoors, using professional lighting. Interviews with witnesses of events will be filmed as reportage and, in some cases, a speaker's personality will be hidden.



PHOTO AND VIDEO FOOTAGE USAGE

The video chronicle will be colourised for the sake of the integrity of the image of the series, and so that it can fit better into the atmosphere of the show. Archival photos are going to be animated (that is parallax effect), bringing more outstanding dynamics and emphasis.



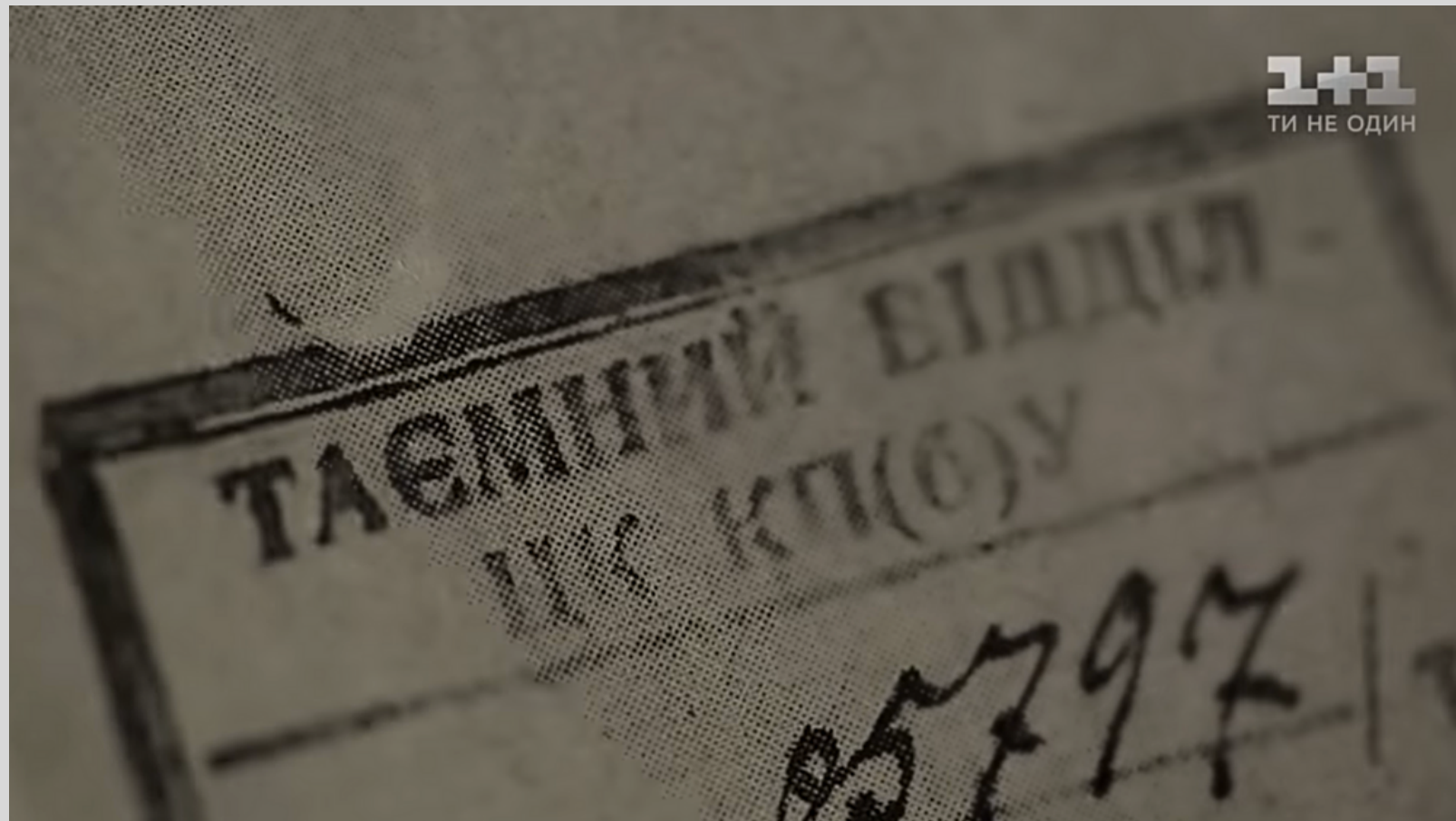
GRAPHICS

Animated maps and documents will also illustrate the story more emphatically. The comic-style animation will be supplemented with a "Soviet art" style.



CLOSE-UP SHOTS OF DETAILS AND ARTIFACTS

will be used to immerse the viewer in the atmosphere.



ON-THE-GROUND FOOTAGE

Quadcopter shots will be used to create and convey the general picture. Point-of-view shots will delve into the narrative and lead viewers along the investigation, allowing them to become a part of it and draw certain conclusions.



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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