



FILM DESCRIPTION

Long description:

Approximately 550 words

Downing of a Flag is a documentary film that focuses on the Confederate Battle flag and its impact on the people, politics, and perceptions of South Carolina and beyond. Through firsthand interviews featuring various perspectives and a wealth of historical footage, **Downing of a Flag** traces the symbol's controversial relationship with the Palmetto State, exploring its true meaning and how an unspeakable tragedy served as the catalyst for its long-debated removal.

A two-part, two-hour film, **Downing of a Flag** features interviews with former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young; U.S. Congressman James Clyburn; former South Carolina Governors David Beasley and Jim Hodges; and current and former state legislators Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Maggie Glover, Jenny Horne, Gerald Malloy, Kay Patterson, Todd Rutherford and Vincent Sheheen. The film also features interviews with Jennifer Pinckney, widow of Mother Emanuel AME Church shooting victim Senator Clementa Pinckney; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kathleen Parker; Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jennifer Berry Howes; former South Carolina State Representative and current CNN Correspondent Bakari Sellers; activist Bree Newsome Bass; Georgia State University history professor Maurice Hobson; investigative journalist Jerry Mitchell; flag expert Michael Green; former U.S. Congressman Ben Jones of Georgia; and Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander-in-Chief Larry McCluney Jr., among others.

The story begins with the American Civil War, which decimated the economy and way of life in the South, leaving physical and mental scars that would impact the region well into the 20th century. Following Reconstruction — and a brief period of liberation and opportunity for newly freed slaves — an effort was made to rewrite history and erect statues and monuments glorifying the Confederacy. For the South's African American population, this was the era of Jim Crow -- a time of extreme oppression and violence. It was also the time when the Confederate Battle flag was adopted by the Ku Klux Klan, the Dixiecrat party and other white supremacist groups as they advocated for segregation.

In 1961, during the heart of the civil rights movement, the state of South Carolina raised the Confederate flag over its capitol to mark the centennial of the Civil War. For 54 years, the flag remained on the grounds of the State House, sparking debates, protests, celebrations and a multitude of failed legislative attempts to remove the controversial symbol.

In June 2015, an act of evil catalyzed change as nine black parishioners at Charleston's historic Mother Emanuel AME Church were killed by a white supremacist, who championed the flag. Three weeks later, the state legislature debated and finally passed a measure to remove the flag from State House grounds once and for all.

Some might say that the Confederate Battle flag's furling and the days and actions that led to that event could represent the final shots and battles of the Civil War. Despite representing an end to a significant chapter in United States history, **Downing of a Flag** shows that the events of 2015 did not complete the story. Instead, we continue to see the flag used across the country, most recently by rioters during the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol; and, as a result, the divisive symbol continues to haunt American Democracy.

Medium description:

Approximately 250 words

Downing of a Flag is a two-hour documentary film that focuses on the Confederate Battle flag and its impact on the people, politics, and perceptions of South Carolina and beyond. Through firsthand interviews featuring various perspectives and a wealth of historical footage, **Downing of a Flag** traces the symbol's controversial relationship with the Palmetto State, exploring its true meaning and how an unspeakable tragedy served as the catalyst for its long-debated removal.

The story begins with the end of the Civil War and chronicles the flag's more than 150-year journey from the blood-soaked battlefields of Virginia to its use in American popular culture in the 1970s and 1980s, to its final removal from the South Carolina State House grounds in July 2015. Preceded by the killing of nine black parishioners at Charleston's historic Mother Emanuel AME Church by a white supremacist, the Confederate Battle flag's furling and the days and actions that led to that event could represent the final shots and battles of the American Civil War.

Despite representing an end to a significant chapter in United States history, **Downing of a Flag** shows that the events of 2015 did not complete the story. Instead, we continue to see the flag used as a symbol, and as a result, it continues to haunt American Democracy.

Paragraph description:

Approximately 400 characters

Downing of a Flag is a two-hour documentary film that focuses on the Confederate Battle flag and its impact on the people, politics and perceptions of South Carolina and beyond. Through firsthand interviews featuring various perspectives and a wealth of historical footage, **Downing of a Flag** traces the symbol's controversial relationship with the Palmetto State, exploring its true meaning and how an unspeakable tragedy served as the catalyst for its long-debated removal.

Short description:

Approximately 250 characters

Downing of a Flag is a two-hour documentary film that uses firsthand interviews featuring various perspectives and a wealth of historical footage to examine the impact of the Confederate Battle flag on the people, politics and perceptions of South Carolina and beyond.

One-sentence description:

Approximately 100 characters

Downing of a Flag examines the impact of the Confederate flag on the people, politics and perceptions of South Carolina and beyond.



Please contact
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any questions or concerns.