

Document Citation

Title	[Attila '74]
Author(s)	
Source	<i>New West</i>
Date	1979 Jun 04
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	72
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Attila '74, Cacoyannis, Michael, 1975

WE ARE BOMBARDED with so much information these days that we feel grateful to a documentary that clarifies even one complex international problem. Michael Cacoyannis (the director of *Zorba the Greek* and the recent *Iphigenia*) answers some of our questions in ***Attila '74***, a documentary about the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Cacoyannis does not pretend to be objective. He narrates the film himself and tells us that he is a Greek who was born in Cyprus. Although he admits his bias, the film is remarkably evenhanded. Cacoyannis does not shrink from acknowledging that the Greek military junta helped to provoke Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. Although Cacoyannis explores the events leading up to the invasion, his main purpose is to demonstrate the human costs of war. The scenes of devastation that his camera captures transcend any narrowly partisan position. The plight of the 200,000 refugees has improved slightly since 1974, but many of them are still homeless and out of work; their faces haunt our consciences.

And we do bear some responsibility for the fate of those refugees. The most troubling segment of the film is Cacoyannis' criticism of America for its military aid to Turkey. *Attila '74* raises disturbing questions about America's continuing support for some of the most repressive military regimes around the world. The film will be screened for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week, and it may have an effect on Congressional opinion. But whatever its political consequences, *Attila '74* is a film that demands to be seen; it illuminates the tragedy of a divided land. ■