

UN
REPORT



United Nations Television

1945: YEAR OF DECISION

Here is a film about one of the decisive years in history, twelve months in which a profusion of historic events closed one chapter of history and opened another.

1945 was the year in which Germany and Japan were defeated, in which Hitler and Mussolini died. Even before the Second World War came to an end (in August), the United Nations had been founded at San Francisco, the first rifts had appeared in the bond between the Soviet Union and its western allies. 1945 was the year in which the atomic age opened, in which the colonial revolution began, in which seeds were planted that were later to give rise to crises in Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East and Greece.

With the birth of the United Nations, the world witnessed an unprecedented opportunity for the creation of international political stability as well as a prospect for striking economic and social progress. "This is the first age since the dawn of history," said historian/philosopher Arnold Toynbee, "in which mankind has dared to believe it practicable to extend the benefits of civilization to the whole human race."

By skillful interweaving of historic footage with the memories of some of the participants in the events of 1945, this film recaptures the highlights of one of the "great divide" years in human experience.

Timing: 27.57
16 mm b/w
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