

# Video: Hollywood's Pro-Soviet Propaganda vs. The "Russia Probe"

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This title might surprise you. But at the height of the Second World War, America and the Soviet Union were allies.

And Hollywood as of June 1941 was involved in producing a very different type of war film.

The United States' attitude towards the Soviet Union shifted on 22nd of June 1941, when Hitler began sending his Panzers towards Moscow, and after December '41 the alliance between the two opposite systems was a necessity. So, the Americans' perceptions of the Soviet Union had to be shaped overnight so that FDR could receive popular support for entering the war on the Soviet Union's side. The responsibility for such a task was put on the back of the OWI (Office of War Information). Understanding the relationship between this agency and Hollywood can help shed light the objectives of pro-Soviet films released between 1942 and 1945. (Andrei Cojoc)

**North Star 1943,** starring Anne Baxter, Walter Houston, Dana Andrews and Walter Brennan.

According to Andrei Cojoc, "The highlight of the movie is the resistance fight of the heroic villagers, portrayed by an all American cast".

The movie was decidedly pro-Soviet, pro-Communist describing Nazi repression in rural Ukraine. A variation of "The International" was used as background music: "Comrades our people are at war... The Germans are 50 miles away."

There was no "Russia Probe" in 1943. "I am a guerrilla fighter of the Soviet Union".

The Soviet people were described as freedom fighters. "It is our land, we swear to give our

lives..."

Hollywood was recounting the courageous battle of villagers against Nazi Germany with the support of the Red Army and how the heroic Soviet peasantry was resisting Nazi occupation.

Every major studio (except Paramount) submitted its share of pro-Soviet movies: Samuel Goldwin's North Star (1943), MGM's Song of Russia (1943), United Artist's Three Russian Girls (1943), Warner's Mission to Moscow (1943), RKo's Days of Glory (1944), Columbia's Boy from Stalingrad (1943) and Counter Attack (1945). The three most important pillars of pro-Soviet propaganda emerged in 1943: The North Star, Song of Russia and Mission to Moscow. (Ibid)

Produced by **Samuel Goldwyn**, the Screenplay was written by **Lillian Hellman**. The concluding words of Marina (**Ann Baxter**) shed a light of hope:

"We will make this the last war, We will make a Free World for All Men. The Earth belongs to us, the people, if we fight for it and we will fight for it..." (1.44')

North Star 1943. MGM View Movie in full 1.46'

#### Author's conclusion:

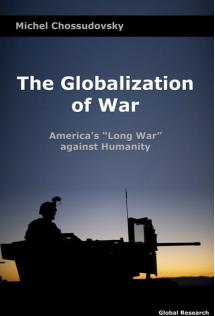
Dump Russia-Gate and the Russia Probe,

Restore sanity in US foreign policy, reestablish diplomatic dialogue with Moscow, say no to World War III.

Wishful thinking? Enlist Hollywood in waging a "propaganda for peace"

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## by Michel Chossudovsky



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