

Teacher Resources for Steven Spielberg's Newest Movie, **Munich**

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Below is a list of websites with information about the movie, including:

Background details of the actual events, articles & interviews about the movie and other movies available about what happened at the Summer Olympics of 1972. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the information so you can take advantage of this "teachable moment" when our students will have seen, be talking about, and have questions about **Munich**.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_Massacre

This site gives provides excellent background information on the Munich Massacre.

<http://www.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,1101051212,00.html>

Time Magazine's December 12th cover story is on Spielberg's Munich. Stories include:

Spielberg Takes on Terror by Richard Schickel: Munich adroitly blends high-pressure action and humanity in a historical story that's all about our times.

His (Spielberg's) Prayer for Peace by Richard Schickel: Spielberg talks about his reasons for taking on Munich, his anger at the International Olympic Committee and his modest plan for improving Arab-Israeli relations.

The Myths and Reality of Munich by Lisa Beyer: After the slaughter of its Olympians, Israel vowed to hunt down the killers. But, says a new book, that's not whom it got.

Time Collection: Murder at Munich: Some of the highlights of Time's coverage of the actual events of Munich.

http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=2&x_outlet=118&x_article=1040

Spielberg's Munich by Andrea Levin for CAMERA

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10397507/from/RL.3/>

Israeli Widows Preview Spielberg's Munich by Dan Williams, Reuters

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10441786/from/RL.2/>

Israeli's Blast Message of Spielberg's Munich by Dan Williams, Reuters

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArtVty.jhtml?sw=munich&itemNo=653593>

Why I didn't like the new Spielberg film from Haaretz

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=656928&contrassID=19&subContrassID=1>

Israel's L.A. Envoy Slams Spielberg's Munich from Haaretz

<http://www.forward.com/articles/7008>

Close Encounters of the Middle East Kind by Steven Zeitchik for The Forward

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1134309568600&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Mysteries of the Mossad by Tom Tugend/JTA, The Jerusalem Post

There are three films (in addition to Spielberg's *Munich*) that deal with the Munich Massacre:

1. **One Day in September** is a 1999 documentary narrated by Michael Douglas that includes an interview with one of the terrorists. Director Kevin Macdonald recreates those harrowing hours with enough clarity to show that the cause was an act of pure barbarism.

2. The events of Munich are dramatized in the 1976 television movie, **21 Hours at Munich**, starring Shirley Knight as an Olympics bureaucrat who negotiates with Franco Nero's lead terrorist, with William Holden as the title city's bumbling police commissioner. The movie is mediocre, failing to contrast the tension with the excitement of the Olympics, which, officials decided, had to go on. But it has merit, showing that the West Germans, against the advice of an experienced Israeli (Anthony Quayle), made staggeringly bad judgments.

3. A third movie, the three-hour 1986 TV movie, **Sword of Gideon**, covers Israel's response. Like Spielberg's *Munich*, **Sword of Gideon**, it is based in part on **Vengeance** by George Jonas and is purported to be an account of Israel's assassination campaign. **Sword of Gideon** recreates the Munich massacre in brief introductory images, which make the incompetent West Germans look downright purposeful, and it is the only one to dramatize Israel's retaliation. Steven Bauer and Rod Steiger are good as Israelis, and Michael York plays it cool as an explosives expert.