

Art or Propaganda?

– See how Aurora Film Festival and Denver Film Society are helping to extend Chinese Propaganda

"Grassland Mongolians' hearts beat toward the capital Peking..." was a major Chinese propaganda theme during the 1950s through 1970s. But while this propaganda was going on, tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of Mongolians were being accused of being "traitors", "class-enemies", "Soviet/Mongolian spies" and "separatists". They were being cruelly tortured, getting shot or maimed, disappearing in various ways, because in fact their hearts weren't beating toward Peking -- and never will.

The torture has not disappeared, nor have the fear and bruises that it created ever died away. The genocide, its results and psychological effects are inherited individually and collectively by all.

The propaganda has never disappeared either, but only changed its forms. One is this "lovely to look at, and well told" (*New York Magazine*) propaganda piece – "Mongolian Ping Pong". Picking up a trashy pingpong and taking it as a "glowing pearl from heaven" or even a "national" treasure (of "the Motherland") and finally to set off to "return" it to the Chinese capital, Peking, from the grasslands of "Inner" Mongolia. This is nothing else but a reemerging of the same-old propagandistic theme – "Grassland Mongolians' hearts beat toward the capital Peking..."!

Besides destroying the people, the Chinese are destroying the same natural environment which they idealize in this movie, and then blame the Mongolian lifestyle for the destruction. This gives them the excuse for more Chinese settlement, leading to more destruction. Wiping out the Mongol land wipes out the Mongol identity, to completely assimilate it, for the ultimate imperialistic goal of control of all Mongolia.

Please see the movie. Enjoy its fantasy world. But also think of the millions of Mongols who are still a target of destruction under the Chinese regime in Southern Mongolia.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.smhric.org/>

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