

The Two Popes – Netflix – Politics and Society “Watch Along”

Watch the film on Netflix and pause at the timecodes listed below, answering the relevant questions and noting the significant information. This film can link to many different parts of the course and is very well acted by Anthony Hopkins (**Pope Benedict**) and Jonathan Pryce (**Jorge Bergoglio – Pope Francis – Author of *Laudato Si***)

“Habemus Papem!” – We have a new Pope! Opening Section – Pause at 15:00



The choice of a new Pope during **Conclave** is a useful example of the “Selection of an Executive” that we looked at last year (Learning Outcome 2.2). You may need to refer back to our handout here: <https://polsocpodcast.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/selecting-an-executive.pdf>

Pause the Video and write a brief description of that process in the box below that brings together information from the handout and what you have seen in the film.

Selecting a New Pope in **Conclave**: (Outline the process)

The Two Popes Meet – Pause at 37 Minutes

In this section, the two men discuss some of the challenges facing the Church, such as Liberalization (Married Priests, Homosexuality, Celibacy etc), Abuses in the Church, and their different views on the future of the Church. Consider the implications here for the idea of SOCIAL JUSTICE and try and link them with the ideas that you will see on our Fr Sean McDonagh handout

(<https://polsocpodcast.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/mcdonagh-upload-version.pdf>). Note some of the areas where you think there

might be an overlap with McDonagh and other Key Thinkers on our course.



“**Social Justice**” and the Roman Catholic Church – Competing Perspectives (An effective narrative technique?):

Bergoglio's Early life – Pause at 46 Minutes

A quick section here! What do we learn about the new Pope-to-be and his early life that might influence some of his later decisions? Pay particular attention to his work, social activities, and his faith formation.



How was Bergoglio's early life influential?

Responding to Authoritarianism – Pause at 1 Hr 17 Mins

In this section we hear all about how Bergoglio, as an important Jesuit, responded to the Military Coup that took place in Argentina in 1976. It overthrew President **Peron** and was led by General **Videla** and Admiral **Massera**.



Where Jesuits become Marxists through books.

Investigate the Coup & find links with other forms of **Authoritarianism** you have studied.

How else might Marx and social class shape how we view this film?



We refuse to cease our work.

What leadership failure is evident here?

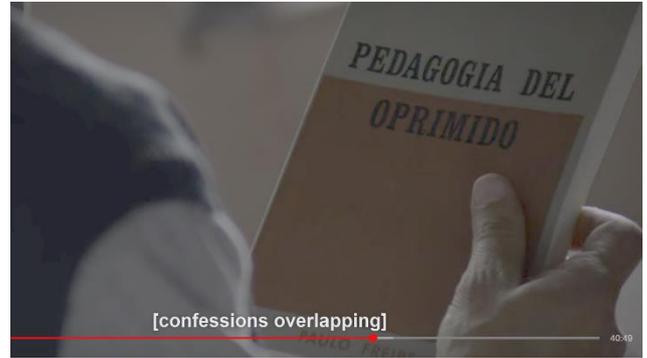
How did Bergoglio respond to that changing situation in the early years of the coup? How did the other Jesuits differ in their opinions? How does he undermine his own authority as a Jesuit leader?

Is Bergoglio initially a collaborator? (A question that remains contentious!)

Bergoglio's Returns to the Poor – Pause at 1 Hr 28 Mins

Having alienated himself from his order, Bergoglio is placed in a kind of exile. He works with the poor, hears many confessions, and begins to educate himself about inequality and the environment. In particular look out for the following screen-shot (do you recognize the book?) →

How might this indicate a link between different key thinkers on our course?



Is it about 'power' or 'poverty'? Outline Bergoglio's transformation

An important speech for understanding Fr Sean Mc Donagh – Listen carefully to the speech that runs from 1:28:24 to 1:31:25 (beginning “We have known tyranny in this country...”)

Analyse what Bergoglio says and how it differs from more conservative perspectives. Answer the questions below:

Why do you think some of the audience members are protesting?

Why are the economic structures unfair?

What supporting evidence does he cite? (quantitative data!)

How does the commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill’ link with economy?

Complete the quote: “Every community is called to be an instrument for _____”

What metaphorical meaning could you draw from Fr Bergoglio's instructions to the football team to ‘pass the ball’ to each other?



“When no one is to blame, everyone is to blame” – Bergoglio becomes Pope Francis. Complete at end of the film.

Montage sequence: Look at the places that the new Pope visits? What kind of “soft power” political statement might be made in the choice of the places he chose to visit at the start of his papacy?

Look at the very quick snapshot of his visit to Ireland in August 2018? What aspects of this image are particularly significant for the future direction of the Roman Catholic Church?



“The Globalization of Indifference” – Listen carefully to the voiceover that accompanies the montage from timecode 1hr 57 mins. What kind of issues that are relevant to our course are mentioned here? How might you refer to some of these issues in the conclusion of an essay in the exam?

Return to the summary text of *Laudato Si* in the Fr Sean McDonagh handout. What links with the broader narrative of The Two Popes can you see within the text of the Papal Encyclical?

Conclude by seeing what links you can find between *Laudato Si* and the **Sustainable Development Goals**?



Critical Evaluation: What criticisms might you find of this movie in general and in attitudes within the Roman Catholic church in general? In what ways might you have presented a more balanced perspective (or does the film achieve that goal well in its overall structure? Would you recommend this film to other Pol-Soc Students?