

Discussion Points for Students about the Centropa Film on Jindrich Lion



Jindrich Lion tells us the story of his eventful life and of his love for his hometown Prague, from which he had to escape at age 16, when the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia. After World War II he returned from Palestine to Czechoslovakia and worked as a journalist. In 1968, however, the Soviet Army brutally stopped the “Prague Spring” and put an end to the Czechoslovakian liberalization. Therefore, Jindrich Lion, who was then working as a foreign correspondent in Vienna, decided not to return to Prague.

Answer the following questions to the movie. The [Centropa Study Guide](#), which you can find on www.centropastudent.org next to each film, may be helpful. Please note that the multiple choice questions have only one correct answer.

1. At the beginning of the film, Jindrich Lion recounts his childhood in Prague. What was the Jewish Quarter in Prague called?

- a. Josefov
- b. Kazimierz
- c. The Golden City

2. Jindrich talks about growing up in a typical liberal Jewish family. Use the Centropa Online Study Guide and write down 3-4 differences between orthodox and liberal Jews.

3. *Where was the “Sudetenland”, and what happened to it in the late 1930s?*

4. *Jindrich recounts that his father participated as an active member in the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith. What does this organization do and what values does it represent? (Read more in the Centropa Online Study Guide)*

5. *Jindrich mentions his "Bar Mitzvah". Explain why "Bar Mitzvah" is so important!*

7. *Jindrich shows us photos from Prague; he took them at the same time at which the historical “Munich conference” took place. Which nation-states participated in the “Munich Agreement”, which Jindrich calls the “Munich Betrayal”? When did the conference take place?*

- a. 29th September 1938 (France, England, Germany, Italy)
- b. 25th August 1933 (England, Sweden, Russia, Germany)
- c. 15th March 1941 (Germany, Austria, USA, Hungary)

8. *Which were the implications of the “Munich Agreement” for Czechoslovakia?*

- a. The annexation of the Sudetenland and of other parts of Czechoslovakia to Germany
- b. Czechoslovakia became Germany’s ally
- c. Czechoslovakia declared war on Germany

9. *When did the Nazis occupy Czechoslovakia? What happened to the Czech Jews?*

10. *How old was Jindrich when he emigrated to Palestine? What kind of work did he do there?*

11. *When did Jindrich return to Prague, and which job did he take in his hometown?*

12. *The Communists occupied Czechoslovakia in 1948. Which consequences did this event have for Jindrich's private life and for his career?*

13. *Why did Jindrich decide not to return to Prague when he was working as a foreign correspondent in Vienna, Austria?*

14. *Explain the meaning of the historical term "Prague Spring" by using the Centropa Online Study Guide.*

15. In the film, Jindrich also talks about the opening of the borders in 1989. What is the name of the movement that led to the collapse of Communist Czechoslovakia?

- a. The Velvet Revolution
- b. The Orange Revolution
- c. The Gentle Revolution

16. One of the final film sequences shows several famous people whom Jindrich Lion interviewed during his journalistic career. Name two of them, and explain what they were famous for!