

Matt S  
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ENG 119  
Rodger and me Response

The primary message of the film is that the General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan, the birthplace of General Motors, closed down. This was not expected by the employees and people of the community. Plants usually close down when they are hit with hard times. This plant closed down when its profits were in the billions.

This is Michael Moore's first film. His hometown is in Flint, Michigan. This film is his attempt to illustrate how General Motors betrayed their employees by closing down and starting eleven other companies in Mexico. He also hoped that this film would save the city of Flint from poverty and unemployment.

Rodger Smith is the chairman of General Motors. His plan was to close eleven factories in the US and start eleven in Mexico. Then he would use the money he saved by building cars in Mexico to take over other companies. An example of this is how General Motors bought Hughes Aircraft for five billion. More jobs in the United States were eliminated because General Motors built more foreign factories. Michael Moore makes this message clear in the film. His mission as an activist says that he is more willing to support domestic job growth in the United States instead of corporate capitalism in other countries such as Mexico.

This film has received positive reviews. This shows that a celebrity such as Michael Moore can voice an opinion that is well received by a number of people.

Three things I liked about the film is that it featured interviews with the General Motors spokesperson Tom Kay and Pat Boone. I also liked the scene with Robert Schuller. I liked the interviews with Tom Kay mainly because Michael Moore didn't seem to agree with Tom that lint rollers were going to help the problems created by General Motors. I found the interview with Pat Boone to be interesting because

when Mr. Moore asked him who is to blame for what has happened in Flint, Pat replies by saying, "I don't think it is anybody's fault. In a free society, in a capitalistic, democratic society things do change. There are shifts and trends." I found that to be interesting because those words somewhat oppose each other. If we to live in a democratic society there should be democracy in all areas of the society. There should be a democratic economy, an economy that is controlled by the people. Finally, I liked the segment with Robert Schuller because of some of the encouraging things he said to everyone.

I didn't like the scenes with the girl that skinned the rabbit and the house evictions. These were very depressing scenes but they still needed to be in the film to show the effect the plant closing had on the city. I also didn't like the interview with Bob Eubanks. I didn't like the interview with Bob Eubanks because of that extremely offensive joke about the Jew that he tells Michael Moore. Bob Eubanks then made an attempt later on to denounce the film for being anti-semitic, when Bob is the one who made the anti-semitic joke!

I am rating this film a nine out of ten. I gave this film a nine and not a ten because I found the production of some of the scenes to be somewhat inferior to a newer film such as Bowling for Columbine. It is, however, very good for the time that it was done.

I have been following Michael Moore's work for some time now, but this film really made me aware of how important it really is to support a local community. If an important building such as a factory is taken out of a community, then the whole community may decay or fall into poverty.