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The movie *Cry Freedom* was made to document apartheid in South Africa, and sticks closely to happenings concerning Stephen Biko. Despite the attempts made to visually show South Africa in the 1970's, the film only tracks Biko's life through white eyes. The main problem with the movie's portrayal of apartheid, similarly to the problem with South Africa at the time, is that Whites occupy most of the screen, leaving the other 80% of the non-white population in shadows.

Cry Freedom tells the story of a liberal white editor, Donald Woods, who befriends an anti-apartheid black activist, Stephen Biko. Despite what the film implies, *Cry Freedom* is not about Biko. It's Woods' story from beginning to end, describing how he befriends Biko, how meeting Biko changes his thinking, how he witnesses black life, and how, after he was placed under house arrest by the South African government, he comes up with the idea for his escape from South Africa.

Biko himself only begins to play a significant role in the film after his death. Although, when he was alive he was a major figure of black culture, but even more so after being killed by the police. After Biko is found dead, Woods and his wife attend

his funeral, and shortly after Woods is put under house arrest, he uses Biko as an example to escape from the country and publish his book in England about apartheid.

Throughout the film, the audience rarely finds Biko alone in a scene without Woods. While we see many scenes of Woods and his family (we even meet his dog and maid) there's only one scene of Biko's home life, which is of authorities searching his home for documents. The film, although perhaps the only of its kind that visually captures South Africa in the 1970's, only shows apartheid through a white man's eyes, which is massively different from that of a black man's in South Africa. Woods claims to have learned about black life in South Africa, yet, the only time we see Woods with other blacks *en masse*, is at Biko's funeral, where he has just begun his idea for his book.

One of the movie's major themes is tolerance. The South African government had no tolerance, and therefore, enforced apartheid (apartness) which enraged the black population. Coincidentally, February is Black History Month, and *Cry Freedom* exposes a dark period in history, where blacks were treated unjustly. South Africa is not the only country that has degraded their people. America too enforced segregation in the 1960's. My views on intolerance have not changed, and I still believe

discrimination is wrong. Despite, what the film is *trying* to demonstrate, clearly discrimination and racism hits more close to home than most would like to think. A film made to be about blacks, turns into a adventure story about a white man.

Cry Freedom was made to depict life in apartheid South Africa, circling around the story of Stephen Biko. But, the movie side-tracks and the film centers around Donald Woods. When the movie was about Biko, it tracked his life through the eyes of whites, and the main problem with the movie's portrayal of apartheid, similarly to the problem with South Africa at the time, is that whites occupy most of the foreground, leaving the black majority silenced.

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