

the current war movie guide answers

the current war movie guide answers provide a detailed exploration of the 2017 historical drama film "The Current War," directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon. This article delves into the film's plot, historical context, characters, and the technological rivalry it portrays between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse. Through comprehensive insights, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the movie's narrative, its depiction of the late 19th-century electrical industry, and the broader implications of the war over electrical power distribution. This guide also addresses common questions and clarifies key elements that might arise while watching or studying the film. The aim is to offer a thorough resource for enthusiasts, students, and anyone interested in the cinematic portrayal of this pivotal moment in technological history.

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Overview of The Current War Movie

"The Current War" is a biographical drama that chronicles the fierce competition between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse during the late 1800s. The film focuses on their battle to establish dominance in the electrical industry, specifically over the distribution of electrical power. It highlights the transition from direct current (DC) systems favored by Edison to alternating current (AC) systems promoted by Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla. Featuring a star-studded cast, the movie combines historical events with dramatic storytelling to engage viewers in this technological rivalry.

Production and Release Details

The movie was directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon and written by Michael Mitnick.

It stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Thomas Edison, Michael Shannon as George Westinghouse, and Nicholas Hoult as Nikola Tesla. Although completed in 2017, the film faced delays and was widely released in 2019. Its production involved meticulous research to authentically portray the period's atmosphere and technological challenges.

Historical Background and Accuracy

The film is set during the late 19th century, a time of rapid innovation and industrial growth in the United States. The so-called "war of currents" was a real conflict between competing electrical systems. Edison's direct current had limitations in long-distance transmission, while Westinghouse's alternating current offered greater efficiency. The movie captures this rivalry but takes some creative liberties for dramatic effect.

Comparison to Real Events

While the core conflict remains true to history, certain character interactions and timelines are condensed or altered. The film portrays Edison in a somewhat antagonistic light, emphasizing his competitive and sometimes ruthless approach. Westinghouse is shown as a visionary businessman, and Tesla appears as an eccentric genius. The depiction of key events such as the use of AC electricity to power the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition is historically accurate.

Technological Context

The movie effectively explains the technical differences between DC and AC systems. It highlights the challenges of electrical transmission, safety concerns, and the economic implications for cities and industries. The historical context frames the technological war as not just a business battle but a struggle that shaped modern electrical infrastructure.

Main Characters and Their Roles

The story revolves around three central figures whose innovations and ambitions changed the world of electricity forever. Understanding their roles enhances comprehension of the movie's narrative and the stakes involved in their rivalry.

Thomas Edison

Portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch, Edison is depicted as a fiercely competitive inventor and businessman. The film shows his determination to

promote DC power despite its limitations. Edison's character embodies both brilliance and a controversial approach to business ethics, particularly regarding patent disputes and public relations.

George Westinghouse

Michael Shannon's portrayal of Westinghouse highlights his strategic thinking and commitment to the AC system. Westinghouse is presented as a pragmatic entrepreneur willing to take financial risks to advance his technology. His role in the movie underscores the importance of innovation backed by business acumen.

Nikola Tesla

Nicholas Hoult plays Tesla, whose inventions and theories underpin the AC system. The film explores Tesla's visionary ideas and challenges within the corporate environment. Tesla's character adds depth to the narrative by showcasing the creative genius behind alternating current technology.

Plot Summary and Key Themes

The movie narrates the escalating competition between Edison and Westinghouse, focusing on their efforts to secure contracts and public favor. It portrays the use of propaganda, legal battles, and technological demonstrations as tools in their conflict. The storyline culminates in the successful adoption of AC power, marking a turning point in electrical history.

Major Plot Points

1. Edison's early successes and development of DC electrical systems.
2. Westinghouse's investment in AC technology and partnership with Tesla.
3. The public safety campaign against AC power led by Edison.
4. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition showcasing AC lighting.
5. The eventual dominance of AC power in electrical grids.

Underlying Themes

Beyond the historical narrative, the film explores themes such as innovation versus tradition, ethical considerations in business, and the impact of technology on society. It reflects on how ambition and rivalry can drive progress while also raising moral questions.

Technological Innovations Depicted

"The Current War" highlights several key inventions and technical principles that were central to the electrical industry's development. These innovations not only serve the plot but also educate viewers about the science behind electrical power.

Direct Current (DC) Systems

Edison's DC system is depicted as reliable for short distances but limited in efficiency and scalability. The film explains the technical challenges of voltage drop and the necessity for power stations close to users.

Alternating Current (AC) Systems

Westinghouse's AC system is shown as a breakthrough capable of transmitting electricity over long distances with less loss. The use of transformers and Tesla's patents are emphasized as critical components enabling this advancement.

Additional Innovations

- The incandescent light bulb and its commercialization.
- The electric chair, controversially used in Edison's campaign against AC power.
- Electrical safety standards and public perception of electricity risks.

Critical Reception and Impact

Upon release, "The Current War" received mixed to positive reviews, with praise for its performances and historical insight but some criticism regarding pacing and narrative focus. The film has contributed to renewed interest in the history of electricity and the figures who shaped modern

technology.

Audience and Scholarly Response

Critics acknowledged the film's educational value and detailed production design. Scholars and historians have noted its role in popularizing a complex historical event, though some debate its dramatization choices. The movie serves as a useful visual aid for understanding the industrial era's technological conflicts.

Common Questions and Answers

Many viewers seek clarity on various aspects of the movie and the historical events it portrays. This section addresses frequently asked questions to enhance understanding of "The Current War."

Why was the war called the "War of Currents"?

The term refers to the competition between two types of electrical currents: direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC). The "war" was a business and technological rivalry to determine which system would power the future electrical grid.

Is the portrayal of Edison accurate?

The film presents Edison as a complex figure, emphasizing his competitive nature and some controversial tactics. While some dramatization exists, his role as a determined inventor and businessman is historically supported.

What was Tesla's role in the conflict?

Tesla's inventions and patents were fundamental to the success of the AC system. His relationship with Westinghouse was crucial for developing and commercializing alternating current technology.

Did the electric chair really play a role in the war?

Yes, Edison's camp promoted the electric chair, powered by AC, as a demonstration of AC's dangers to discredit the technology. This tactic was part of the public relations battle during the war of currents.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main conflict depicted in 'The Current War' movie?

'The Current War' depicts the historical rivalry between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse over the establishment of the electrical power system in the late 19th century.

Who directed the movie 'The Current War'?

'The Current War' was directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon.

Which actors play the lead roles in 'The Current War'?

Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Thomas Edison, Michael Shannon as George Westinghouse, and Nicholas Hoult as Nikola Tesla.

Does 'The Current War' accurately portray historical events?

While 'The Current War' is based on real historical events, it takes some creative liberties for dramatic effect and may not be entirely accurate in all details.

What is the significance of the 'war' in 'The Current War'?

The 'war' refers to the competition between Edison's direct current (DC) system and Westinghouse's alternating current (AC) system for dominance in electrical power distribution.

Where can I find a detailed movie guide or answers for 'The Current War'?

Detailed guides and answers can be found on movie discussion forums, educational websites, or study guide platforms such as SparkNotes or IMDb user reviews.

What themes are explored in 'The Current War' movie?

'The Current War' explores themes of innovation, competition, ethics in business, and the impact of technology on society.

Additional Resources

1. *"War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy*

This classic novel provides a sweeping narrative of Russian society during the Napoleonic Wars. It combines historical detail with deep psychological insight into its characters, exploring the impact of war on individuals and nations. Tolstoy's work is often referenced in war movie guides for its rich depiction of battle and human resilience.

2. *"All Quiet on the Western Front" by Erich Maria Remarque*

A poignant and harrowing account of a German soldier's experiences during World War I, this novel captures the brutal realities of trench warfare. It strips away the romanticism of war, portraying its physical and emotional toll. The book is a cornerstone for understanding the psychological effects of combat, frequently cited in war movie analyses.

3. *"The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien*

This collection of linked short stories delves into the Vietnam War through the eyes of soldiers, blending fact and fiction. O'Brien examines the burdens, both tangible and emotional, that soldiers bear in wartime. Its narrative style and emotional depth make it a valuable reference for war film storytelling.

4. *"Catch-22" by Joseph Heller*

A satirical novel set during World War II, it highlights the absurdities and contradictions of war through the experiences of a U.S. Army Air Force bombardier. The term "Catch-22" has entered the lexicon to describe no-win situations, reflecting the novel's critique of military bureaucracy. Its dark humor and anti-war message are often discussed in war movie guides.

5. *"Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War" by Karl Marlantes*

Drawing from the author's own combat experience, this novel provides a gritty and realistic portrayal of a Marine company's struggles during the Vietnam War. It focuses on leadership, camaraderie, and the chaos of jungle warfare. The book is praised for its authenticity and is commonly referenced in discussions about war film accuracy.

6. *"The Killer Angels" by Michael Shaara*

This historical novel recounts the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War from multiple perspectives. Shaara's detailed characterizations and vivid battle scenes provide insight into leadership and decision-making in war. The book served as the basis for the acclaimed film "Gettysburg" and is frequently mentioned in war movie guides.

7. *"Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War" by Mark Bowden*

A detailed journalistic account of the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, this book chronicles the harrowing experience of U.S. soldiers in Somalia. Bowden's narrative captures the intensity and chaos of urban combat and the complexities of modern warfare. It inspired the film of the same name and is a key reference for contemporary war movie discussions.

8. *"A Farewell to Arms" by Ernest Hemingway*

Set during World War I, this novel tells the tragic love story between an American ambulance driver and a British nurse. Hemingway's sparse prose conveys the futility and devastation of war, intertwined with personal loss. The book has influenced numerous war films and is often analyzed for its thematic depth.

9. *"Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane*

This novel explores the psychological turmoil of a young soldier during the American Civil War, focusing on fear, courage, and self-discovery. Crane's realistic depiction of battle and internal conflict was groundbreaking for its time. It remains a fundamental work for understanding the emotional complexities portrayed in war movies.

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