

ESPN 30 for 30: Once Brothers

Summary of *Once Brothers*: Drazen Petrovic and Vlade Divac were two friends who grew up together sharing the common bond of basketball. Together, they lifted the Yugoslavian National team to unimaginable heights. After conquering Europe, they both went to America where they became the first two foreign players to attain NBA stardom. But with the fall of the Soviet Union on Christmas Day 1991, Yugoslavia split up. A war broke out between Petrovic's Croatia and Divac's Serbia. Long buried ethnic tensions surfaced. And these two men, once practically blood brothers, were now on opposite sides of a deadly civil war. As Petrovic and Divac continued to face each other on the basketball courts of the NBA, only hatred passed between the two. Then on the fateful night of June 7, 1993, Drazen Petrovic was killed in an auto accident. *Once Brothers* will tell the gripping tale of these two men, how circumstances beyond their control tore apart their friendships, and whether Divac ever came to terms with the death of a friend before they had a chance to reconcile.

Movie Questions:

1. How many republics were there in Yugoslavia?
2. What ethnic group is Drazen Petrovic from?
3. What ethnic group is Vlade Divac from?
4. Describe Divac and Petrovic's relationship when they joined the NBA.
5. What event took place after a basketball game in Yugoslavia that forever destroyed Divac and Petrovic's relationship?
6. What happened to Yugoslavia when communism fell in 1991?

Reflection Questions: (write complete, well-thought out sentences to answer the following):

7. Why is Yugoslavia a good example of balkanization?
8. Do you think a country can survive and stay unified with so many different ethnic groups?
9. What personal (life) lessons can you learn from this film (can be about friendship, family, politics, sports)?