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# DEBRIS

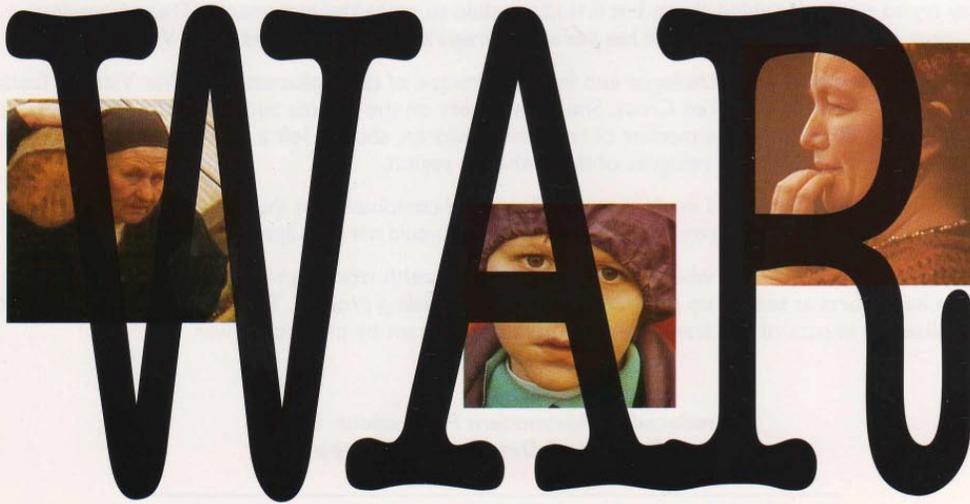


of

Four million people have been traumatized by the war in the former Yugoslavia. This is the story of the struggle to piece together their shattered lives.

Documentary  
1 x 53'

# WAR



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The war in the former Yugoslavia has already had a terrible toll: in hundreds of thousands of dead and missing; for millions of others-uprooting and displacement. Humanitarian and aid groups are just starting to assess and deal with the psychological damage this war has exacted from its survivors, many of whom have witnessed their families massacred, or were victims of ethnic cleansing or rape. They are the debris of war, the cast-offs and homeless-mentally and emotionally traumatized living casualties. This documentary looks at the shattered lives of some of these refugees, and some of the first programs set up to deal with the trauma of war.

- **Cherim Sebanovits** lived through the Second World War. He believes this war is worse than anything he experienced then. He lives in a barracks with his family of eleven, and ten others. They have moved on again and again, from camp to camp.

- **Hasanic Nasar** sings to try to forget the nightmare of his time in internment camps; he hasn't seen his wife and child back in Bosnia for over two years.

- **Dzevad Alispahic** is an artist. He deals with his trauma by drawing the dark, brooding images that flicker through his mind-painful memories from his time in the internment camps.

- **Sajra Cekic** and her young son were separated from her husband and two other children when the fighting began in Bosnia. They had a modest, middle class life but the war changed all that. Her husband is already in Canada. This film follows them in their struggle to be reunited again.

- **Mehmet Puskar** survived torture and starvation only to die of a heart attack at age 43 the day after learning he would be relocated to a new life in Sweden. His wife and young children are in deep mourning.

They try to put it all behind them, but it is impossible to erase the nightmares. These homeless escapees are the big losers in what has become Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.

**Diane Paul** is a clinical psychologist and former director of the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Centre with the American Red Cross. She is an expert on the trauma such victims of war endure. The wife of a doctor and the mother of two small children, she has left a comfortable life in Baltimore to work with the refugees of this war-torn region.

*"One of the decisions I made to myself clearly and consciously was that if something like the Holocaust would ever happen in my lifetime, I would not be a bystander."*

Diane deals with 73 camps, where the ratio of mental health workers to refugees is 1 to 620. We follow her efforts at setting up programs to begin the healing process. Through her work we begin to realize the impact of this tragically overlooked, important by-product of war.