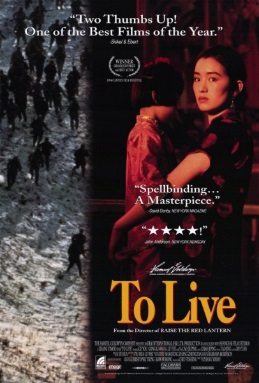
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***To Live***

<https://youtu.be/ZB7HYhUpDz8>

Take notes on the lives of the family in ***To Live***.

|  |
| --- |
| Describe their life **before** the Revolution: |
| How does the **Chinese Civil War** affect them? |
| How does the **Communist Revolution** affect the family? |
| How does the **Great Leap Forward** affect the family? |
| How does the **Cultural Revolution** affect the family? |
| What do you think about the **experience of this Chinese family in the 20th century**? What does this story tell us about **China’s recent history**? |

**To Live**

**Director:**

**Year:**

**Background info about film:**

**88**

**Characters:**

**Unnamed Narrator**is the firstnarrator of *To Live'*s **"narrative frame"** story, a young man who meets Fugui, circa early 1980s, and asks the old man Fugui to tell his story - the main story embedded within the "narrative frame" story. This Fugui does, in several installments, **during one long day they spend together in early summer.**

**Xu Fugui**is the second narrator of the main story embedded within the **"narrative frame"**story(***Xu Fugui*** is pronounced something like **Shoo Foo-gway:** family name:**Xu**;personal name: **Fugui**).

**Fugui's father** is the patriarch of the Xu family until his ignominious death.

**Fugui’s mother: Xu family matriarch**survives the Xu family’s dramatic change of fortune and her husband's death, dutifully follows her son **Fugui** and granddaughter **Fengxia** into impoverished living circumstances, and does her best to bolster up the Xu family until her death.

**Changgen**, a loyal old servant of the Xu family, is reduced to beggary after Fugui gambles away the Xu estate.

**Jiazhen** (pronounced something like **Jya-zhun**) is the admirable long-suffering wife of **Xu Fugui**, who at first neglects, but belatedly comes to love and appreciate his wife and their family. Jiazhen and Fugui have two children: a daughter **Fengxia**and a son **Youqing**.

**Mr. Chen** is Jiazhen's father and Fugui's father-in-law, who takes his pregnant daughter Jiazhen back to live with him in town after Fugui gambles away the Xu family estate.

**Fengxia**(pronounced something like **Fung-shya**) is the daughter of **Fugui** and **Jiazhen**. She develops a close loving relationship with her younger brother **Youqing**; and during her father Fugui's involuntary absence as a Nationalist Army conscript, Fengxia suffers a high fever that leaves her unable to speak and hard of hearing.When **Fengxia**is twelve years old, she is "given away" to a town family so that her younger brother Youqing can go to school, but runs away back home.  Later she is happily married to **Wan Erxi**.

**Youqing** (pronounced something like **Yoe-ching**): the spunky son of **Fugui** and **Jiazhen** adores his older sister **Fengxia**.  He hates going to school, would rather stay home and help out his poverty-stricken family, but becomes a champion runner.

**Long Er**is the cheating gambler to whom Fugui loses the Xu ancestral estate in the House of Qing. But the changing winds of fortune and fate, and his own stubbornness, will ultimately betray Long Er.

**Old Quan**[**Lao Quan**] is a veteran Nationalist Army soldier, originally an involuntary conscript who tried many times to escape/desert this Army.  He dissuades newly conscripted Fugui from trying to run away from the Nationalist Army; and later bands together with Fugui and young **Chunsheng** to try to survive the Chinese Civil War.

**Chunsheng** (pronounced something like **Chwun-shung**): Fugui first meets, then befriends teen-aged Chunsheng during their stint as conscripts in the Nationalist Army.  Together with Old Quan, the three comrades struggle to survive the Chinese Civil War. Years later, as **County Magistrate Liu, Chunsheng**re-enters the Xu family's lives in tragic circumstances. Ultimately, even Chungsheng--known as "**Liberation Liu**" for his valiant war record--will be denounced a "**capitalist roader**" by the **Red Guard** during the **Cultural Revolution**.

**Team Leader** of Fugui's rural village and surrounding farmlands, reorganized into a people's commune (ca. 1958) during Mao Zedung's "**Great Leap Forward**". The Team Leader will serve as matchmaker and help find Fengxia a husband; but will also suffer a reversal of fate (like Chungsheng), when the Team Leader is denounced as "**capitalist roader**" by the **Red Guard** during the **Cultural Revolution**.

**Wan Erxi,**a wealthy town porter with a "crooked head" (175), marries **Fengxia**in one of the most magnificent weddings the village has ever seen. They have one child, **Kugen**.

**Kugen,**meaning "**'Bitter Root'"** (211), is the son of Fengxi and Erxi, and is Fugui's grandson.