

THE MINEWARS

1 x 113 HD



PBS

INTERNATIONAL

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At the beginning of the 20th century, coal was the engine of American industrial progress. It ran locomotives, factories, steam ships, electric power plants and home furnaces, and it helped to purify the steel that made possible the rising skyscrapers. Nearly three quarters of a million men across the country spent ten or twelve hours a day underground in coal mines, blasting, shoveling and loading this indispensable mineral onto rail cars bound for destinations across the country.

In the spring of 1901, when miners in West Virginia began organizing to join a union, their efforts sparked a fight that would escalate from an unremarkable skirmish between capital and labor to the largest armed insurrection since the Civil War. *The Mine Wars* brings to life the decades-long struggle that turned the coalfields of southern West Virginia into a blood-soaked war zone where basic constitutional rights and freedoms were violently contested.

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CREDITS

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Executive Producer: Mark Samels

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