



THE DICTATOR'S PLAYBOOK

6 x 60 HD



PBS
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They were ruthless men with unchecked power, controlling their people with an iron fist. Suppressing all dissent, they demanded absolute loyalty, jailing or killing those who opposed them. They ruled by force of personality, but were plagued by secret fears and private demons. They were dictators—tyrants who shaped the twentieth century and left their mark on our own.

From Mussolini to Saddam Hussein, dictators have shaped the world we live in. What drove their thirst for domination and control? How did they seize and wield power? What forces rose up against them or resisted them in secret? How did they finally come to the bitter end?

Today, with authoritarian leaders on the rise from the Philippines to Venezuela, these questions are more relevant than ever. We'll answer them in six immersive hours, each a revealing portrait of brutality and power.

As we meet the most ruthless rulers of recent history, we'll trace their rise and fall—and discover that they traveled a well-worn path. As different as these men were from each other, all of them followed a series of essential steps, from seizing power to eliminating enemies—an unwritten *Dictator's Playbook*.

EPISODE ONE: Witness Kim Il Sung's transformation from guerilla fighter to brutal dictator of North Korea. How did he build the most controlled society on earth and launch a dictatorship that has lasted for three generations?

EPISODE TWO: Learn how Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq with an iron fist for almost 30 years. To maintain power, he used fear, intimidation and violence like few other dictators in history, but he made the fatal mistake of believing his regime could take on the world.

EPISODE THREE: See why Benito Mussolini was considered a pioneer among 20th century dictators. From undermining judges to indoctrinating children, he forged key tactics for seizing power. He also created fascism, an ideology that would plunge Europe into darkness.

EPISODE FOUR: Watch Manuel Noriega rise through the Panamanian military to become chief of intelligence—and then, military dictator. He spied for the United States, but in the end, money laundering, drug trafficking and political crimes led to his downfall.

EPISODE FIVE: Learn how Francisco Franco used the tactics of colonial war to win control of Spain. Driven by a deeply conservative vision, he used torture, murder and incarceration to transform Spanish Society.

EPISODE SIX: See how Idi Amin used lessons learned in the colonial British army to build a powerful dictatorship in Uganda. Through a combination of populist charm and brutal violence, he ruled for eight years—until his strategic blunders brought him down.

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CREDITS

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