

Response after reading the movie review



I will admit that I have never written a review for either a movie or a play. I wonder if I could do it properly. So I am grateful to Dovid Katz for writing a review of the film. I can see that the film's path to Lithuania will not be easy. Therefore, every feedback about the film that reaches Lithuania is important.

[David's review](#)

[movie website](#)

On the other hand, I do not agree with all of D. Katz's assessments. I think he overestimates both my role and that of A. Kulikauskas. I talked to Andrius about it.

I saw that movie. I liked it. And not just because the filmmaker was kind enough to use some of my photos in the film. I'm a bad photographer. But his request to take a photo encouraged me to visit several places in Kaunas scandalously named in honor of the perpetrators of the Holocaust. That request of his became my inspiration. I'm grateful that he mentioned me at the end of that movie, even though he probably shouldn't have. I think he was better to me than I deserved. In my opinion, the film is very important. In the language of the film, he tells about the long-standing pain of Lithuania. The heroization of Jonas Noreika and other perpetrators of the Holocaust.

The film once again said that by worshiping Nazi murderers such as J. Noreika, Lithuania hurts the relatives of Holocaust victims and steals history from young people. There is more in the film. In it, Grant Arthur Gochin, a descendant of people affected by the Holocaust and the activities of Jonas Noreika, and Silvia Foti, granddaughter of Jonas Noreika, talk about truth and justice. It is very important. That turn is especially important to me. Well, maybe I am not objective, I know most of the people mentioned in the film personally, I have met them or received knowledge and warmth of communication from them.

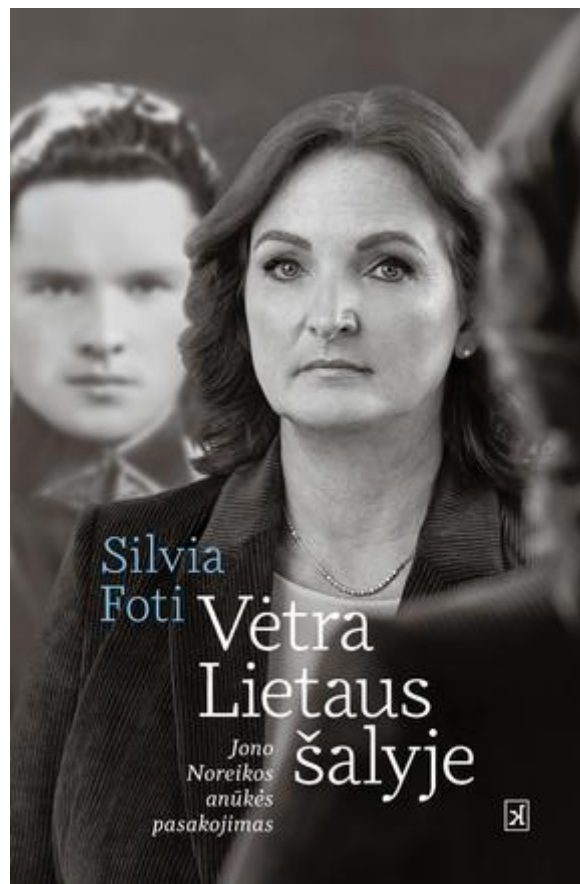
I knew both of those people before they met. Jonas Noreika's personality research led to both. I met Grant Gochin "live" in Šeduva. A wonderful sculpture of a Jewish girl by the sculptor Romas Kvintas was unveiled. A captious acquaintance that might have ended after that, but we were both hurt by Mr. Noreika's heroization and it brought us together again.



The acquaintance gained momentum when Andrius Kulikauskas invited me to contribute to the research on Mr. Noreika's activities. This was a study initiated by Mr. Gochin. Andrius needed someone who knew Russian because some of the documents were written in this language. That research was done by carefully reviewing the sources. I am very grateful to G. Gochin, who made it possible to work with primary sources. This allowed me to find over a hundred documents linking Mr. Noreika to the Holocaust and I was able to introduce copies of those documents to many people. Mr.

Gochin's choice was in a sense a quantitative breakthrough. I think the abundance of documents prompted the International Commission to Investigate Nazi Crimes to speak about Noreika. Those documents moved Lithuanian society. It wouldn't have happened without him.

I was introduced to Silvia Foti by Simonas Dovidavičius. He brought her to me as the author of a critical article about Mr. Noreika. I told her everything I knew about J. Noreika at that time. Basically, it was the research material of L. Lipšicas and P. Dargis published in Šiauliai region. I just put it in one place and published that article on the portal anarchija.lt and from there it was later taken to defendinghistory.com. After showing the commemorative plaque in Šiauliai, I said goodbye to J. Noreika. I was surprised that Silvia is trying to understand and find the truth, before the meeting I was afraid that she would be angry with me for the article. That acquaintance would have ended like that, if not for Andrius Kulikauskas. He has an inner conviction that any people can be reconciled. When I told him about Silvia, he was eager to introduce her to Grant and reconcile. Got Silvia's address and introduced those two people. That acquaintance became a catalyst in J. Noreika's case. Silvia finished her book "Storm in the Land of Rain". Kulikauskas and I finished the research commissioned by Gochin. Kulikauskas called the investigation "Inquiry about the criminal gang of Jonas Noreika", Grant published that investigation.



The duo of Grant and Silvia is much stronger than either of them alone. And so this is a brand new quality, I couldn't possibly give more power to that question. Yes, I wrote the first essay on Mr. Noreika's question more than ten years ago. And the fact that Defending History translated that article into English made it possible to make the issue relevant again. But P. Dargis and the Šiauliai region wrote about it two decades ago. L. Lipšic and L. Olšvang wrote earlier. J. Noreika himself signed the documents preserved in the archives in 1941-1943. This did not stop dishonest politicians from heroizing Mr. Noreika. Maybe the activities of G. Gochin and S. Foti will not stop them either. But now their words, their book, their research has turned into a movie, and it will likely attract even more forces and the truth will finally prevail. I'm happy, that it was Gochin and Foti who spoke in the film. And in this story, everyone is important. L. Olšvangas, A. Pakalniškis, L. Lipšicas, E. Bunka, S. Alperavičius, F. Kuklianski, P. Dargis, S. Dovidavičius, A. Kulikauskas D. Katz, G. Gochin, S. Foti, M. Kretzmer. Sorry if I missed someone.

It is not easy to list even the newspapers that contributed to the publication of that story. These are "Der Spiegel", "Šiauliai kraštas", "Salon", "The New York Times" - the publications were extremely important. I cannot fail to mention that the publishing house "Kitos knygos" translated into Lithuanian and published Silvia's book "Storm, in the land of rain". There are people behind those titles and they are amazing. Everyone has their own position and everyone has their own point of view. In my opinion, no filmmaker would be able to cover everything. And the story is worthy of more than one movie. Mr. Noreika contributed to the death of tens of thousands of people. Remembering those people requires not putting up with lies and appreciating everyone's efforts to tell the truth.

In my opinion, the movie "J'Accuse!" encourages telling the truth. This is important because the monument and commemorative plaques to J. Noreika are still standing in Lithuania. Streets and schools continue to be named after him. The more truth-tellers there are, the faster those lies will collapse.