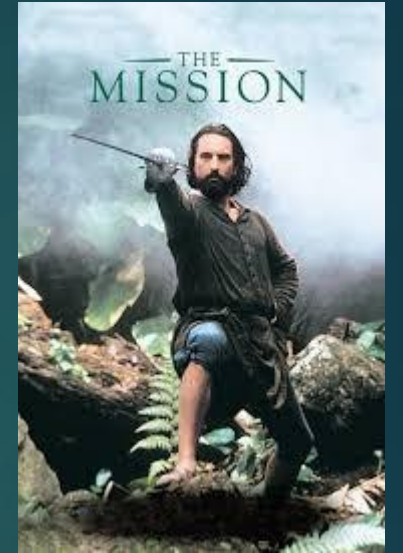



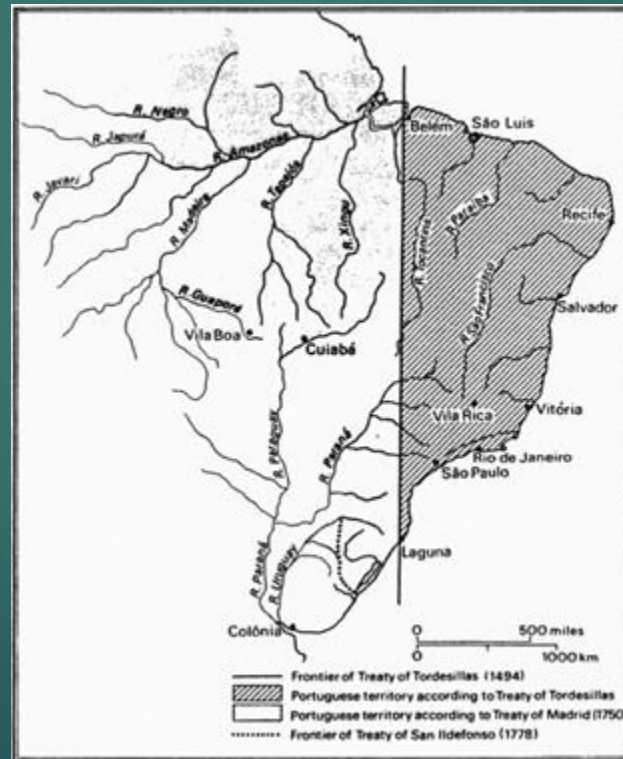
The Mission (1986)



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- ▶ Written by Robert Bolt
 - ▶ Directed by Roland Joffe

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- ▶ Clash between ecclesiastical and political interests in South America (mid-eighteenth century)
 - ▶ ‘Spain and Portugal fight over territory that includes several sanctuaries founded by Jesuits who have been converting Guarani Indians and establishing them in what might be called semi-socialistic communities...and live as Catholics without altogether abandoning their own traditions’
 - ▶ Michael Dempsey, ‘Light Shining in Darkness: Roland Joffe on *The Mission*’, 2

► Treaty of Madrid (1750)



Father Mendoza (Robert De Niro) [former slaver]



Father Gabriel (Jeremy Irons)

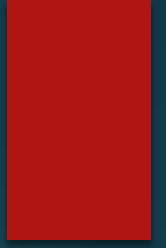




Cardinal Altamirano (Ray McAnally)



Battle of Caibale (1756)



Was Mendoza's decision to take up arms again an act of authentic love?




Or was Father Gabriel's non-violent disobedience a greater act of love?



Conscience


- ▶ How does Cardinal Altamirano's manner of consulting his conscience differ from Father Gabriel's?
- ▶ 'The Cardinal was a very interesting man because he is more worldly than anybody else in the film. He is also more hamstrung.... Because he knows more, he actually finds it much more difficult to really find a decision that sits with his sense of justice.
- ▶ *He says at one point, "I'm going to follow my conscience, what else?" But does he?*
- ▶ No. I don't think he does.' (Joffe)
- ▶ Ibid, 6.
- ▶

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- ▶ 'I think the Cardinal was threatened by Gabriel's innocence, in that Gabriel gets to the heart of the moral dilemma.' (Joffe)
 - ▶ Ibid. 6

 - ▶ For discussion: is it the case that the Cardinal didn't follow his conscience?

agape-love

- ▶ '[Father Mendoza is] seeing [Father] Gabriel, he's seeing Gabriel surrounded by Indians, and he's seeing the Indians marching courageously towards people who are shooting them. He sees that they don't break, he sees that Father Gabriel maintains his faith. I think that in that moment he truly understands love, he truly understands what love of the world is' (Joffe)
- ▶ Ibid. 4

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- ▶ Father Gabriel – non-violent disobedience (Christ-like?)
 - ▶ Father Mendoza – liberation theologian?

 - ▶ For discussion: which is the more appropriate form of love?
 - ▶ which response better serves the common good?