In January 2013, on an early morning in Guatemala City, soldiers with automatic weapons are standing on street corners. A long line of Mayan women and men head into the high court, an institution historically dominated by the interests of a small, white elite minority. Just three decades earlier, the ruling elite, with U.S. backing, engineered a coup that would topple a democratically elected government and unleash a dark
period of repression. 200,000 mostly indigenous people were murdered; 45,000 urban artists, intellectuals, and activists disappeared.

Thirteen years later, the Mayan survivors and activists prevailed: former president Efrain Rios Montt was brought before the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity and a citizen uprising forced another corrupt president, Otto Pérez Molina, to resign.

This heroic story is the subject of 500 Years, the third installment in director Pamela Yates's The Resistance Saga trilogy. Focusing on universal themes of racism, power, corruption and social justice, 500 Years tells the story through the eyes of the majority indigenous Mayan population in Guatemala. It highlights how the ongoing struggle for human rights galvanized activists, especially women, to emerge as eloquent, powerful leaders of their community and country.

Join New America NYC for a screening of 500 Years and a conversation with the filmmaker, activists, and global experts about justice in the face of structural racism and how the force of sustained nonviolent resistance can make it possible for right to make might.

PARTICIPANTS

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500 Years: A Social Cinema Screening
Wednesday, November 8, 2017
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM ET
Tumblr, 35 E 21st Street, New York, NY 10010

Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Join the conversation online by using #500YEARS and by following us at @NewAmericaNYC.

This event is presented in partnership with Tumblr.

New America is dedicated to the renewal of American politics, prosperity, and purpose in the Digital Age. Our hallmarks are big ideas, impartial analysis, pragmatic policy solutions, technological innovation, next generation politics, and creative engagement with broad audiences.