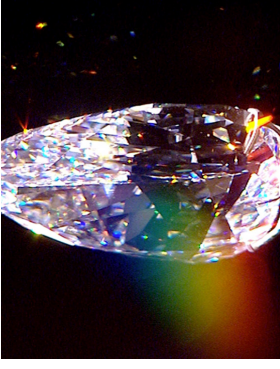


100 Million Carats – The Oppenheimer Diamond Dynasty

When Ernst Oppenheimer emigrated to South Africa in 1902, he never dreamed that just a few years later he would be at the head of the most powerful cartel in the world: the De Beers company. Since that time, four generations of the Oppenheimer clan have ruled the global diamond market. Estimates of their private worth vary between four and six billion dollars. The legendary rise of Ernst Oppenheimer and his son Harry, who built up the company to its current size, has been based on sophisticated strategies to defend the jewel cartel against powerful resistance and to overcome ideological bulwarks. At the height of the Cold War, De Beers made lucrative deals with the communist USSR, at that time a sworn enemy of the apartheid state. The USA was easily conquered with the slogan "A Diamond is Forever". The company was also involved in the turn to anti-apartheid policies; after the abolition of apartheid in South Africa, Nelson Mandela despite pressure from the ANC decided against nationalising De Beers. Today, grandson Nicky and great-grandson Jonathan Oppenheimer run the company together, and from their London sales office control the global trade in these precious gems. The Oppenheimers live a quiet life in their castle-like family home, Brenthurst in Johannesburg. This film has been one of the rare occasions that they give interviews.



100 Millionen Karat – Die Diamanten-Dynastie Oppenheimer

Film by:

Wolfgang Landgraeber,

Friedrich W. Zimmermann

Length: 52', ev

Production: WDR, 2007

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