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### **Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe Reaction**

The film I am reacting to today is Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe. This film is split into five distinct parts and covers the life of Stefan Zweig, a very popular writer during the second world war. He is a very famous writer who clearly has a lot to say, but chooses to say less and have humility in most situations and stay neutral.

One thing which I found very interesting early on is how Zweig said that he believed one day there would be a Europe which wouldn't have borders and passports and peace, however he would not live to see that day. This mirrors the end of the film where Zweig again says that he hopes others will see the end of the nightmare, but he is too impatient to wait for it. This sets up a lot of Zweig's personality and his perspective of the world. He is an important figure who is able to make a difference, but often doesn't want to be a proactive change in the world. This is not to say he does not care about the people who are victims of the war in Europe. We see that through the countless letters he attempts to write to get people on lists so they are able to leave. His influence and way of helping is much more passive than the other writers we have seen who openly criticize and analyze like Bertolt Brecht or Anna Seghers. It is not specifically that one is more effective than the other, but it is true that his way of helping is less obvious at first glance. He is a famous writer, but he does not view himself as someone who is extremely able to speak out about these matters. He focuses on the people, not the politics. This attitude is highly contested even in the movie itself, and in the end I believe it is a matter of perspective if an individual views his ways as cowardly or noble.

Though he is largely passive, we see the care he has for people in smaller moments like how he treats the residents of Brazil and the people around him. He will make conversation with locals and appreciate the land he is living on. He notes the nervousness of those around him and even though he is a famous writer, he has compassion in his everyday interactions. He is someone who made a difference both in big ways through his writing and in these little ways.