

Socio Political Analysis of *Nineteen Eighty Four*

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This assignment examines the socio-political aspect of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. This assignment emphasis on totalitarianism and control through linguistic and ideological control. This novel has been regarded as one of the most influential pieces of modern literature. The novel was considered visionary and futuristic for its prediction about the future of surveillance. My main concern of this assignment is to show the gloomy picture of the society where citizens are controlled by government through manipulation of the languages.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NOVELIST

Eric Arthur Blair was a real name of George Orwell. He was born in Motihari in 1903 as son of an official of the English society. He was a very eminent writer. His decision to become a writer was made early in his life and after having visited the elite school of Eaton. In 1936 he was volunteered to fight in the famous battle Spanish Civil War for the Marxist POUM which was against the fascist troops of General Franco. He had a war experience, and he was also persecuted by the communist whom he fought for, led Orwell to the deep believe and conviction that there is no justification for totalitarianism. This criticism was the most important reason for him to deal with the problem that is based on absolute power.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NOVEL

The novel 1984 was published in 1949 and this novel can be classified as dystopian novel which paints a darker and negative picture of the future of mankind. A vision of the world in 1984 is created where the world is divided into three states: Eastasia, Eurasia and Oceania. This novel depicts how the government controls over the mind of the people. The main action takes place in London. This novel is also a call for freedom against the one-party system.

POLITICAL ASPECT

This novel also shows the political realities of the future society. George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* reflects the anxieties that prevailed in Europe during the interregnum of the world wars of the twentieth century society. There was a horror effect of the war on the people's lives. The two world wars and the Great Depression cast a sense of horror, shock and also disillusionment. The rise of fascism and Nazism left the people in terrified and confused state. This novel also reveals the political thought of the novelist. He has an important concern that the justice and freedom are the two important aspects of every difficult issue, raised by the problems of society. This is a very important novel of the modern age and it expresses a powerful satire on the political as well as social hypocrisies. For this remarkable work, he has achieved fame and recognition all over the world. He also established a vast relationship between the literature and the politics. *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty Four* show that Orwell was a great political thinker. This novel presents a futuristic society which is governed by a party where people are controlled and conditioned to accept the principles of the party without any dissent. Harold. L .Berger opines that the prominent feature of this novel is that

“The dictatorship of the party whose object is power, the execution or brainwashing of dissident, the divorce from values and memory of the past where people are destructive of the capacity to think, through the perversion of language and the rejection of empirical evidence, the installation of the party as the sole judge and origin of truth, the denigration of self-esteem and the hostility to the joy of personal relationships and the appetite for joy itself, the maintenance of cultural stasis”.

Our country is divided by radically opposing views on domestic and foreign policy and we are engaged in an increasingly costly and risk far off war. (Meyers92). Orwell perfected his rhetorical arsenal and lucid, but flexible prose style during the political battles of the 1930s and 1940s during the time of fascist and totalitarian regimes. When we came to Orwell time,

people suffered a lot with large scale bombing and destruction and after 1945, cold war took place. In an autobiographical note of 1940, he said “the modern writer who has influenced me most is Somerset Maugham, whom I admire immensely for his power of telling a story in a manner of straightforwardly and without frills”. Both writers advocated direct language and unambiguous expression. Orwell treated his audience to share his values and understanding of the world. George Orwell remains at the center of modern political life. Right at the start of the cold war, he has come to be regarded as one of the great exposers of the horror of Stalinism.

DEPICTION OF THE SOCIETY

It presents the gloomy picture of the society. Orwell called 1984 a utopia, “dystopia”, it means the action is set in another realm (Enteen206). This novel is now generally considered a classic of dystopian fiction. Orwell manipulates and usurps the utopian tradition and creates a dystopia, a fictional setting in which life is extremely bad from deprivation, oppression, or terror. Orwell dystopia is a place where humans have no control over their own lives, where people live in mystery, fear and repression. The dystopian tradition in literature is a relatively modern one and is usually a criticism of the time in which the author lives. These novels are often political statements. By using a dystopian setting for 1984, he suggest the possibility of a utopia, and then makes very clear, with each horror takes place, the price humankind pays for “perfect” societies. This novel has a historical background. He lived during a harsh period in which tyranny was a reality in Spain, Germany, the Soviet Union and other countries, where government kept on iron fist around its citizens, where there was little, if any freedom, and where hunger, forced labor and mass execution were common. He espoused democratic socialism. In his essay “*Why I Write*”, published in 1947, two years before the publication of 1984, he states that he writes among reasons, from “The desire to push the world in a certain direction, to alter other people’s idea of the kind of society they should strive after”. He used his writing to express his strong political feelings, and that fact is readily apparent in the society he creates in 1984.

TECHNICALLY ADVANCE SOCIETY

The projected world of Nineteen Eighty-Four is a technically advance society. There are screens, pneumatic tubes, speak writs, memory holes in this society. But the worst thing is that these technical devices are not used to improve the standard of living all the people. At the other side, the Inner Party members enjoy all the comforts; life is made difficult for Outer Party members. This novel shows the conflict between Stalin and Trotsky (Big Brothers and the Goldstein). In a press release made on June15, 1949 he affirmed that the world of Nineteen Eighty-Four could happen because this is only a parody of the contemporary, political, social and economic situation. The idea of the society in 1984 is a fictional mirror the political atmosphere of the societies that existed all around him. Orwell’s Oceania is a terrifying society reminiscent of Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s Soviet Union complete repression of the human spirit, absolute government control of daily life of the citizens, constant hunger and also the systematic” Vaporization” of individuals who do not, or will not, comply with the governmental values.

ASPECT OF MEANS OF CONTROL

Another important aspect of the society is means of control, the principle of means of control in which the whole society of Oceania is based on pursuit of power. It is not only the material and economic power the party is after but also the power and control over people’s mind and thoughts. The powerlessness of the people is guaranteed by different means. Fear is the most important method of constantly subduing people. The party succeeds in using the fear of punishment, torture and finally death to establish its powerful position. Constant observation shows trials and disinformation are means to implement this fear. The condition was so worst that in Russia during and after the Revolution people were not sure whether a person is their friend or foe. A new language called “Newspeak” was created by the government to minimize the use of words and thereby limiting the process of thought itself. Newspeak, the official language of Oceania was created with the intention of meeting the ideological needs of Ingsoc or English Socialism. Newspeak is used not only to provide medium of expression but also to make all other modes of thought impossible. In this novel, language is a powerful tool for supporting the dominant group

within a society. According to Scott.A.Boulding “Language is a tool shaping the very way in which individual construct reality and “it is based infamous of the dominant group. The Party’s ideological background can be stated in one sentence. “War is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength”. (Orwell25). The first slogan refers to the economic situation in Oceania which can only be described as continuing shortage which will be the cause of deficient because of the constant warfare with the other two superpowers. This constant state of war guarantees the survival of the totalitarian system since the shortage of the labor forces and the minimal standard of living caused by the war makes people accept strict rule more easily. The second slogan, slavery is freedom means that an individual can only survive as a part of group. According to the Party’s philosophy a person, having internalized all the principles of the party, become a part of it and thus helps it to continues its existence even after the person’s death. The weariness of the cell is the vigor of the organism.

In 1984, Orwell portrays the perfect totalitarian society, the most extreme realization imaginable of a modern-day government with absolute power. He shows that society where government monitors and controls every aspect of human life to the extent thatb even having a disloyal thought is against the law. Psychological manipulation is the important aspect. The party barrages its subjects with psychological stimuli designated to overwhelm the mind’s capacity for independent thought. The telescreen also monitor behavior everywhere they go, citizens are continuously reminded, especially by means of the omnipresent reading.” BIG BROTHER IS WATHCHING YOU”. Party also controls the bodies of its subject. Winston himself comes to the conclusion that nothing is more powerful than physical pain. Education is almost entirely under the control of the state. The educational method serves the only purpose of indoctrinating the people from their very youth with the propaganda and the ideals of the party and to encourage them to denounce everybody.

CONCLUSION

This novel question that when people do not have their independent thinking, how they feel. When wrong become right. This novel depicts a society that

resembles a concentration camp. The conditions of the citizens were very miserable. The citizens are conditioned, monitored and made to live in eternal fear without protest. They merely exist in this cruel world and also do not protest against the totalitarian rule. The First title of this novel was proposed by Orwell is “The Last Man in Europe”. This title indicates a bleak future where people are deprived from freedom and lose social identity. The citizens are conditioned through coercive method. They lived under a sense of perennial fear so that they cannot think and question the motives and principles of the state.

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