

# The Community Manipulation through Big Brother's Tyranny in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*

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## Abstract

This research aimed on some instruments or agencies that implemented in constructing the community engineering in Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*, describe the logic used and present the community engineering carried out the novel. The writer then uses library research and sociology literature as method in analyzing the novel. The data were collected by using note taking technique which exists in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* accord with the pages. Then, all the quotation classified and analyzed based on the case that had been around by each moment/event in that novel. After doing the considerable study, the writer finds basically the bad effect of human engineering to the society. The over control by agents were bringing individuals' loss of human nature and a critical thinking faculty and the diminished capacity for self-expression. So, finally the human being is not exists as a human with high level values, in fact in this novel, human is less than the animal.

**Keywords:** Agencies; Rules and Policies; Human Engineering.

## Introduction

Nineteen Eighty-four was written by George Orwell in the 1940s after World War II. The story starts, as the title tells us, in the year 1984, and it takes place in England or as it is called at that time, Airstrip One. Airstrip One itself is the mainland of a huge country, called Oceania, which consists of North America, South Africa, and Australia. The country is ruled by the Party (socialist government or Ingsoc in Great Britain in the year 1984) which is led by a figure called Big Brother.

In George Orwell's "1984" the world is divided into three superpowers Oceania, East Asia, and Eurasia. Oceania is alternating at war with one power and allied with the other. The population of Oceania consists of three castes: the Inner Party (1%), the Outer Party (14%), and the Proles (85%). The Inner Party is the ruling caste and its sole desire is to gain power, have power, and keep the power - forever. The official face of the party is "Big Brother", an oversized face on posters

hanging on walls everywhere and staring from every Telescreen (CCTV), seeming to follow everybody with his eyes. Children are instructed to spy on their parents. Adults like the hero Winston Smith, are employed to rewrite history so that it always shows that the dictatorship was right. There is no escape.

Any attempt to express oneself as an individual is discovered and the person is brainwashed. At the time when Orwell wrote "1984", it was fashionable for intellectuals to admire Stalinist Russia. They thought of it as the opposite of Nazi Germany. Not long before his death, Orwell published this warning in the hope that people would realize that all dictatorships are the same.

Another major concern was the how mind and act were being twisted and corrupted for political ends to control the people. 1984 is about life in a world where no personal freedoms exist. Police state, Telescreen, Doublethink, and Newspeak are instruments to engineer society.

The definition of Human Engineering itself is the management of humans and their affairs, especially in industry. It close with the definition of Ergonomics— an applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely —called also biotechnology, human engineering, human factors, or the design characteristics of an object resulting especially from the application of the science of ergonomics.

These definitions have the same parallel with Human Engineering in Orwell's work, but Orwell pictured a society of Oceania (Outer party or Middle Class) in which technology provides all the material comforts required by human beings with the tyrannical leader and his agents. All the strict control reduced the form of human existence, without love, without emotion, without individuality, and the subsequent loss of affect in human beings, the loss of the critical faculty, the loss of socializing, and the inability to think for oneself.

The members of the Outer Party have privileges that the proles do not possess, but the Party influences and ultimately control whom they meet, how they spend their free time, whom they marry, whom they have sexual contact with, and their attitudes to all of these. Orwell believed that the State should provide a social framework for its citizens but not dictate how their private lives are to be lived; if it does, they become, in a basic sense, less than human.

Proles (Lower Class) in Nineteen Eighty-Four remained human beings was that their private lives of emotional ties and individual concerns are their own, untouched by the controlling hand of the State. The proles are also known as Animals that live without rule and punishment. (Orwell, 1983:)

The writers chose the novel "Nineteen Eighty-Four" because this novel is one of the most classic literary works among readers and equivalents from today's real world. The genre of science fiction is a great subject for studying and examining. Especially when the authors try to satirize society and also give the readers a warning by showing them what can happen to the world if people let certain things go too far. George Orwell is the author who respectively made the picture of a dystopian totalitarian country and a dissatisfied revolting hero who tries to fight the system. In "Nineteen Eighty-Four," Orwell draws a picture of a totalitarian power that engineers their society. Although the action takes place in the future, there are a couple of elements and symbols taken from the present and past.

Based on the background above, the writers formulated the research questions

as follows:

1. What instruments or agencies were implemented in constructing community engineering in Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four?
2. What is the logic used?

### **Method**

The writers applied qualitative research. This research is written based on primary data and secondary data. Primary data are collected from the novel *Nineteen Eighty-four* by George Orwell. The writer reads the novel and quotes some important elements that have a relation to the topic. The arrangement of problems is divided into their possible rules based on the objective of the research. From this division, several aspects of the problems can be identified. The secondary data are taken from various books, articles, websites on the internet, PDF, and the movie of *Nineteen Eighty-four*. Through this secondary data, the writer collected and used the data that was possibly relevant to the topic. In analyzing *Nineteen Eighty-four*, the writer used the Sociology of literature approach, which focused on analyzing Human Engineering in the novel. The data were presented by using the descriptive analysis method by adopting intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The intrinsic approach is where the novel itself is the main source. The writer used a structural approach to analyze the data and make it easier. Another way to analyze data is using an extrinsic approach—this approach makes the critic give more importance to the context of a text. It means that the focuses are mainly interested in the background, history, social conditions, and biography of the author. The critic moves from the text to the context.

### **Results**

#### ***The Instruments or Agencies Implemented in Constructing the Community Engineering in Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four***

Big Brother - Also referred to as simply "B.B.". Similar to America's "Uncle Sam", except this individual is the leader of the nation. In Oceania, *Big Brother* is worshiped almost as if he were a god. And just like the gods of most religions, Big Brother is most likely fictional. Orwell never refers to Big Brother by his 'real' name, and it would appear that nobody in Oceania possesses this information either. Winston's memory is a little foggy, but he does share some of the histories of BB's rise to power with us:

"The story began in the middle sixties, the period of the great purges in which the original leaders of the Revolution were wiped out once and for all. By 1970 none of them was left, except Big Brother himself. All the rest had by that time been exposed as traitors and counter-revolutionaries." (Orwell: 68)

But this doesn't answer the question of whether Big Brother is a 'real' individual or not. But elsewhere in the book, there are hints that Big Brother is a fictional leader:

"Nobody has ever seen Big Brother. He is a face on the hoardings, a voice on the telescreen. We may be reasonably sure that he will never die, and there is already considerable uncertainty as to when he was

born. Big Brother is the guise in which the Party chooses to exhibit itself to the world. His function is to act as a focusing point for love, fear, and reverence, emotions which are more easily felt towards an individual than towards an organization." (Orwell: 179)

Orwell had several things in mind when he created Big Brother, he was thinking of Russian leader Joseph Stalin, and the picture of Big Brother even looks like him. He was also thinking of nazi leader Adolph Hitler and Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. Big Brother stands for all dictators everywhere. Orwell may have been also thinking in certain religious faiths when he draws Big Brother, the mysterious, powerful, God-like figure who knows everything but never appears in person:

At one end of it a colored poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a meter wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black mustache and ruggedly handsome features. (Orwell: 7)

Big Brother is not a real person. Although his pictures glare out from huge posters that shout, BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, nobody sees Big Brother in person. For Inner party members, Big Brother is a leader, a bogeyman whom they can use to scare the people and their authorization for doing what they want. If anybody asks, they can say that they are under the orders of Big Brother:

On each landing, opposite the lift shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran. (Orwell: 7)

Telescreen has some functions like a television. All party members have one in every room of their apartment. Because of this, the party member is never out of earshot of the latest party propaganda, and not one second goes by that they are not under the surveillance of the party. There was no way to change the channel, and the telescreen could not be turned off except by members of the *Inner Party*.

The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely. (Orwell: 7)

there seemed to be no color in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere. (Orwell: 8)

Ingsoc is English Socialism, while Thinkpol is Thought Police. The police force is in charge of eliminating *crimethink*. The thought police monitor the public by way of spies (narcs), helicopters, and telescreens:

Down at street level another poster, torn at one corner, flapped fitfully in the wind, alternately covering and uncovering the single word INGSOC. In the far distance, a helicopter skimmed down between the roofs, hovered for an instant like a bluebottle, and darted away again with a curving flight. It was the police patrol, snooping into people's windows. The patrols did not matter, however. Only the Thought Police mattered. (Orwell: 8)

How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate, they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live — did live, from

habit that became instinct — in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized. (Orwell: 8)

Probably the most interesting thing about O'Brien is that we have only Winston's opinion of him. He is the leader of the Inner Party and is supposed to be head of the secret Brotherhood dedicated to the overthrow of Big Brother. Another very interesting thing about O'Brien is that the reader does not precisely know if he is a friend or an enemy of Winston, even Winston himself does not know it precisely.

The relationship between O'Brien and Winston has all attributes of a typical relationship between a father and a child: the father is all-knowing, he teaches, punishes, and educates his child, and he is protecting him from anything that could harm the child. But O'Brien seems to be only playing his role

The other person was a man named O'Brien, a member of the Inner Party and holder of some post so important and remote that Winston had only a dim idea of its nature. (Orwell: 14)

Youth League - Mandatory children's group under the control of the Thought Police. Similar to the "Hitler Youth". Their member's primary task is to monitor the activities of their parents.

Parsons was Winston's fellow employee at the Ministry of Truth. He was a fattish but active man of paralyzing stupidity, a mass of imbecile enthusiasms —one of those completely unquestioning, devoted drudges on whom, more even than on the Thought Police, the stability of the Party depended. At thirty-five he had just been unwillingly evicted from the Youth League, and before graduating into the Youth League he had managed to stay on in the Spies for a year beyond the statutory age. At the Ministry, he was employed in some subordinate post for which intelligence was not required, but on the other hand, he was a leading figure on the Sports Committee and all the other committees engaged in organizing community hikes, spontaneous demonstrations, savings campaigns, and voluntary activities generally. (Orwell: 23)

Back in the flat he stepped quickly past the telescreen and sat down at the table again, still rubbing his neck. The music from the telescreen had stopped. Instead, a clipped military voice was reading out, with a sort of brutal relish, a description of the armaments of the new Floating Fortress which had just been anchored between Iceland and the Faroe islands. With those children, he thought, that wretched woman must lead a life of terror. Another year, two years, and they would be watching her night and day for symptoms of unorthodoxy. Nearly all children nowadays were horrible. What was worst of all was that using such organizations as the Spies they were systematically turned into ungovernable little savages, and yet this produced in them no tendency whatever to rebel against the discipline of the Party. On the contrary, they adored the Party and everything connected with it. The songs, the processions, the banners, the hiking, the drilling with dummy rifles, the yelling of slogans, the worship of Big Brother — it

was all a sort of glorious game to them. All their ferocity was turned outwards, against the enemies of the State, against foreigners, traitors, saboteurs, and thought criminals. It was almost normal for people over thirty to be frightened of their children. And with good reason, for hardly a week passed in which *The Times* did not carry a paragraph describing how some eavesdropping little sneak — 'child hero' was the phrase generally used — had overheard some compromising remark and denounced its parents to the Thought Police. (Orwell: 25)

Only the Thought Police would read what he had written before they wiped it out of existence and out of memory. (Orwell: 28)

The telescreen struck fourteen. He must leave in ten minutes. He had to be back at work by fourteen-thirty. (Orwell: 28)

'A spanner,' said Mrs. Parsons, immediately becoming invertebrate. 'I don't know, I'm sure. Perhaps the children -' (Orwell: 24)

Down in the street, the wind flapped the torn poster to and fro, and the word INGSOC fitfully appeared and vanished. Ingsoc. The sacred principles of Ingsoc. Newspeak, doublethink, the mutability of the past. (Orwell: 27)

Even from the coin, the eyes pursued you. On coins, on stamps, on the covers of books, on banners, on posters, and the wrappings of a cigarette Packet — everywhere. Always the eyes watching you and the voice enveloping you. Asleep or awake, working or eating, indoors or out of doors, in the bath or bed — no escape. Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimeters inside your skull. (Orwell: 27)

As soon as all the corrections which happened to be necessary in any particular number of *The Times* had been assembled and collated, that number would be reprinted, the original copy destroyed, and the corrected copy placed on the files in its stead. This process of continuous alteration was applied not only to newspapers but to books, periodicals, pamphlets, posters, leaflets, films, soundtracks, cartoons, photographs — to every kind of literature or documentation which might conceivably hold any political or ideological significance. Day by day and almost minute by minute the past was brought up to date. In this way every prediction made by the Party could be shown by documentary evidence to have been correct, nor was any item of news, or any expression of opinion, which conflicted with the needs of the moment, ever allowed to remain on record. All history was a palimpsest scraped clean and reinscribed exactly as often as was necessary. (Orwell: 39)

A number of *The Times* that might, because of changes in political alignment, or mistaken prophecies uttered by Big Brother, have been rewritten a dozen times still stood on the files bearing its original date, and no other copy existed to contradict it. Books were also, were recalled and rewritten again and again, and were invariably reissued without any admission that any alteration had been made. (Orwell: 39)

And the Records Department, after all, was itself only a single branch of the Ministry of Truth, whose primary job was not to reconstruct the past but to supply the citizens of Oceania with newspapers, films, textbooks, telescreen programs, plays, novels — with every conceivable kind of information, instruction, or entertainment, from a statue to a slogan, from a lyric poem to a biological treatise, and from a child's spelling-book to a Newspeak dictionary. And the Ministry had not only to supply the multifarious needs of the party but also to repeat the whole operation at a lower level for the benefit of the proletariat. There was a whole chain of separate departments dealing with proletarian literature, music, drama, and entertainment generally. Here were produced rubbishy newspapers containing almost nothing except sport, crime, and astrology, sensational five-cent novelettes, films oozing with sex, and sentimental songs which were composed entirely by mechanical means on a special kind of kaleidoscope known as a versificator. There was even a whole sub-section — Pornosec, it was called in Newspeak — engaged in producing the lowest kind of pornography, which was sent out in sealed packets and which no Party member, other than those who worked on it, was permitted to look at. (Orwell: 41-42)

A few agents of the Thought Police moved always among them, spreading false rumors and marking down and eliminating the few individuals who were judged capable of becoming dangerous; but no attempt was made to indoctrinate them with the ideology of the Party. (Orwell: 65-66)

Doublethink- Reality Control. The power to hold two completely contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accept both of them. An excellent example of doublethink in modern society is [the war on drugs](#). If you ask people their opinion on alcohol prohibition in the 1920s, most people would agree that it was a complete failure. People agree that it only caused *more* crime; it made gangsters rich, it corrupted politicians, and most importantly ... it didn't keep people from drinking:

Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them. The Party intellectual knows in which direction his memories must be altered; he, therefore, knows that he is playing tricks with reality; but by the exercise of doublethink, he also satisfies himself that reality is not violated. The process has to be conscious, or it would not be carried out with sufficient precision, but it also has to be unconscious, or it would bring with it a feeling of falsity and hence of guilt. Doublethink lies at the very heart of Ingsoc since the essential act of the Party is to use conscious deception while retaining the firmness of purpose that goes with complete honesty. (Orwell: 183)

Winston's heart sank. That was doublethink. (Orwell: 213)

Blackwhite- The ability to accept whatever "truth" the party puts out, no matter how absurd it may be. Orwell described it as "...loyal willingness to say black is white when party discipline demands this. It also means the ability to *believe* that

black is white, and more, to *know* black is white, and forget that one has ever believed the contrary."

Almost unconsciously he traced with his finger in the dust on the table:  
2+2=... (Orwell: 250)

He looked up again at the portrait of Big Brother. (Orwell: 256)

### ***The logic used***

The base logic in Oceania's rules and policies, actually exists in *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*, by Emmanuel Goldstein (Thebook within a novel from George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*):

*The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*

By

Emmanuel Goldstein (Orwell: 163)

"The essence of oligarchical rule is not father-to-son inheritance, but the persistence of a certain worldview and a certain way of life, imposed by the dead upon the living."

This book explains the how and why of the current government of Oceania. This state of existence is not natural in any way or predestined; it is the result of the concentrated efforts of a select group who placed into motion a chain of events designed to perpetuate their power.

#### **Chapter 1: Ignorance is STRENGTH**

The three states essentially coexist with limited contact; that contact is primarily through WAR. As long as they maintain the same level of skill, TECHNOLOGY, and RESOURCES no one state will win over the other. Because there is no contact between the citizens of the states, the superstates can rule as dictators.

In the history of man, society has always divided itself into three classes: upper, middle, and lower.

Throughout recorded time, and probably since the end of the Neolithic Age, there have been three kinds of people in the world, the *High*, the *Middle*, and the *Low*. (Orwell: 174)

The high class wants to remain in power. The middle class wants to REPLACE the upper class. The low class wants a society that has no CLASS DISTINCTIONS. When revolution occurs, THE LOWER and MIDDLE classes join forces:

The aims of these three groups are entirely irreconcilable. The aim of the *High* is to remain where they are. The *Middle* aims to change places with the *High*. The aim of the *Low*, when they have an aim -- *for it is an abiding characteristic of the Low that they are too much crushed by drudgery to be more than intermittently conscious of anything outside their daily lives* -- is to abolish all distinctions and create a society in which all men shall be equal. (Orwell: 175)

After the revolution, the original LOWER class is in the worst position. The people who founded Oceania and the other states wanted to stop the PENDULUM which swung back and forth determining which people had power. Typically, the upper class has fallen because of four reasons. They are CONQUERED FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE MASSES REVOLT, MIDDLE-CLASS REBELS, and THE UPPER CLASS lose THE WILL/CONFIDENCE TO GOVERN:

For long periods the High seem to be securely in power, but sooner or later there always comes a moment when they lose either their belief



in themselves or their capacity to govern efficiently, or both. They are then overthrown by the Middle, who enlist the Low on their side by pretending to them that they are fighting for liberty and justice. As soon as they have reached their objective, the Middle thrust the Low back into their old position of servitude, and themselves become the High. Presently a new Middle group splits off from one of the other groups, or both of them, and the struggle begins over again. (Orwell: 175)

Of the three groups, only the Low are never even temporarily successful in achieving their aims. It would be an exaggeration to say that throughout history there has been no progress of the material kind. Even today, in a period of decline, the average human being is physically better off than he was a few centuries ago. But no advance in wealth, no softening of manners, no reform or revolution has ever brought human equality a millimeter nearer. From the point of view of the Low, no historic change has ever meant much more than a change in the name of their masters. (Orwell: 175)

Three new movements appeared in the middle years of the century, Ingsoc in Oceania, Neo-Bolshevism in Eurasia, and Death-Worship, as it is commonly called, in Eastasia, which had the conscious aim of perpetuating unfreedom and inequality. IngSoc was founded with the explicit agenda of perpetuating INEQUALITY and unfreedom. To do this, they realized they must control not only the ACTIONS of the citizens but their MINDS as well. The philosophy they adopted was called COLLECTIVISM. Essentially, the power base is shaped like a PYRAMID. BIG BROTHER is at the apex, followed by the inner party, the outer party, and the proles.

Given this background, one could infer, if one did not know it already, the general structure of Oceanic society. At the apex of the pyramid comes Big Brother. Big Brother is infallible and all-powerful. Every success, every achievement, every victory, every scientific discovery, all knowledge, all wisdom, all happiness, and all virtue, are held to issue directly from his leadership and inspiration. Nobody has ever seen Big Brother. He is a face on the hoardings, a voice on the telescreen. (Orwell: 179)

Below Big Brother comes the Inner Party. Its numbers are limited to six million or something less than 2 percent of the population of Oceania. Below the Inner Party comes the Outer Party, which, if the Inner Party is described as the brain of the State, may be justly likened to the hands. Below that come the dumb masses whom we habitually refer to as 'the proles', numbering perhaps 85 percent of the population. In the terms of our earlier classification, the proles are the Low: for the slave population of the equatorial lands who pass constantly from conqueror to conqueror, are not a permanent or necessary part of the structure. (Orwell: 179)

You were not born into a class; instead, when you were 16, you WERE TESTED to determine your placement within society (though this is typically the class you were born into). If you were excessively SMART/GIFTED then you would be

eliminated. If instead, you were merely talented and therefore likely to think independently, you would be placed in THE OUTER PARTY To maintain the system.

In principle, membership in these three groups is not hereditary. The child of Inner Party parents is in theory not born into the Inner Party. Admission to either branch of the Party is by examination, taken at the age of sixteen. Nor is there any racial discrimination, or any marked domination of one province by another. Jews, Negroes, and South Americans of pure Indian blood are to be found in the highest ranks of the Party, and the administrators of any area are always drawn from the inhabitants of that area. In no part of Oceania do the inhabitants have the feeling that they are a colonial population ruled from a distant capital? Oceania has no capital, and its titular head is a person whose whereabouts nobody knows. (Orwell: 179-180)

IngSoc is supported by a controlling group known as the THOUGHT POLICE. The worst and only crime that a citizen can commit is to THINK (not act) differently than what the party desires.

A Party member lives from birth to death under the eye of the Thought Police. Even when he is alone, he can never be sure that he is alone. Wherever he may be, asleep or awake, working or resting, in his bath or bed, he can be inspected without warning and without knowing that he is being inspected. Nothing that he does is indifferent. His friendships, his relaxations, his behavior towards his wife and children, the expression on his face when he is alone, the words he mutters in sleep, and even the characteristic movements of his body, are all jealously scrutinized. (Orwell: 181)

But in any case, an elaborate mental training, undergone in childhood and grouping itself around the Newspeak words crimestop, black-white, and doublethink, makes him unwilling and unable to think too deeply on any subject (Orwell: 181).

### **Chapter 3: War is PEACE**

Three superstates occupy specific geographic locations. They are Oceania which occupies the lands of The Americas, Britain, And Australia, Eastasia which occupies China, South Asia, Japan, and Eurasia which occupies the Northern part of Europe and Asia from Portugal to the Berlin Straight. Consequently, these states do constant battle over the poles and Africa. Each state has a different belief system. For example, Oceania believes in IngSoc or English Socialism. Likewise, Eastasia believes in the OBLITERATION OF SELF/DEATH WORSHIP, and Eurasia in NEO-BOLSHEVISM.

The splitting up of the world into three great super-states was an event that could be and indeed was foreseen before the middle of the twentieth century. With the absorption of Europe by Russia and of the British Empire by the United States, two of the three existing powers, Eurasia, and Oceania were already effectively in being. The third, East Asia, only emerged as a distinct unit after another decade of confused fighting. The frontiers between the three super-states are in some places arbitrary, and in others, they fluctuate according to the fortunes of war, but in general, they follow geographical lines. (Orwell: 163)

Despite these very different states, they all function pretty much the same. They wage battle in the "no-man" lands to gain a limited amount of physical resources and LARGE "SLAVE" POPULATIONS This also helps the states because they can rid themselves of SURPLUS GOODS which is necessary if they are going to keep their populations at a low comfort level. A low comfort level denies people the opportunity to think and question society.

In the centers of civilization, war means no more than a continuous shortage of consumption goods, and the occasional crash of a rocket bomb which may cause a few scores of deaths. War has changed its character. More exactly, the reasons for which war is waged have changed in their order of importance. Motives that were already present to some small extent in the great wars of the early twentieth century have now become dominant and are consciously recognized and acted upon. (Orwell: 164)

Scarcity allows for a few small LUXURIES like chocolate, tobacco, and servants which allows the people to see themselves as members of the high, middle, or low class.

Nevertheless, the few luxuries that he does enjoy his large, well-appointed flat, the better texture of his clothes, the better quality of his food and drink and tobacco, his two or three servants, his private motor car or helicopter -- set him in a different world from a member of the Outer Party, and the members of the Outer Party have a similar advantage in comparison with the submerged masses whom we call 'the proles'. The social atmosphere is that of a besieged city, where the possession of a lump of horseflesh makes the difference between wealth and poverty. And at the same time the consciousness of being at war, and therefore in danger, makes the handing-over of all power to a small caste seem the natural, unavoidable condition of survival. (Orwell: 168)

A state organized as a HIERARCHY/OLIGARCHY/TOTALITARIANISM with different classes must be in a constant state of war. Because the war is constant, it has essentially stopped being DANGEROUS No country wants to or intends to WIN the war.

The war, therefore, if we judge it by the standards of previous wars, is merely an imposture. It is like the battles between certain ruminant animals whose horns are set at such an angle that they are incapable of hurting one another. But though it is unreal it is not meaningless. It eats up the surplus of consumable goods, and it helps to preserve the special mental atmosphere that a hierarchical society needs. War, it will be seen, is now a purely internal affair. In the past, the ruling groups of all countries, although they might recognize their common interest and therefore limit the destructiveness of war, did fight against one another, and the victor always plundered the vanquished. In our day, they are not fighting against one another at all. The war is waged by each ruling group against its subjects, and the object of the war is not to make or prevent conquests of territory, but to keep the

structure of society intact. (Orwell: 173)

## Conclusion

George Orwell was a British novelist, essayist, and political satirist. Probably the biggest influence on his writings was his experiences from the Spanish Civil War, where he fought together with the Republicans in 1936. In 1937, Orwell was wounded and returned to England, convinced of the decency of the ordinary Spanish people, a hater of all forms of totalitarianism, and disillusioned with Communism. Orwell expressed his hatred and fear of totalitarianism in his two most famous works, *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

After World War II, Orwell focused on the social problems of postwar Britain, as many other writers of this era but he kept focusing on the political problems and he based his works on the European postwar situation and the prevailing tendencies which seemed to be very disturbing and dangerous to him, and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* became a vision of how totalitarian governments, whether right-wing or left-wing, can destroy individual thought and feeling. In 1949, when *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published, one of the sources of inspiration for the character of Big Brother, Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, was in the office of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, the leftwing Labor Party oversaw the administration.

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