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THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IDEAS OF GEORGE ORWELL: WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO HIS NOVEL: "1984"

Dr. RADHA MADHAB JHA

Associate Professor of English

B.K. Birla Institute of Engineering & Technology, Pilani.



ABSTRACT

Orwell's "1984" is a scathing satire on modern totalitarian states. Orwell also fears that there are some political states as well which have their own open and subtle designs to strike at the bastion of liberty and the freedom of thought and expression. Orwell's mind was troubled by three evils- class, oppression, and poverty. Against these three evils he set the following three values- decency, liberty, and justice. Around these six terms we would shape the whole story of Orwell's mind and heart, taking his fiction and non-fiction together as a whole. Though the writer's nightmarish visions of 1948 did not come true in 1984, his timely warning was good for the political health of the world of our times. Orwell's protest is against the iron-fisted rule of only 2% people (the politicians and the bureaucrats) over the rest of mankind. In "1984", he warns that if something is not immediately, the future of the world is dark, bleak and dreadful. If the emerging patterns of governance in some socialist or socialistic political states is not challenged and nipped in the bud, they would become totalitarian. And these totalitarian states will dehumanize and totally brutalize mankind. The world is precariously poised on the brink of a precipice. Civilization is in imminent danger of being annihilated. In 1984 Orwell made an intellectual exploration into the simulated model of the political state to which totalitarianism would derive human beings. The political activities of 1984 are in throwing acids on human face, in foot stamping man's face for ever and in betraying even the most personal relations with the least remorse. The political influence of 1984 on the twentieth-century political scenario is comparable to the waves brought about by Hobbes' Leviathan during the muddled political turbulence of the seventeenth century. The title of Orwell's book is a political by word. The terms coined by him have entered the political vocabulary, terms like "Newspeak", "mutability of the past", "Big Brother", "Thought Police", "doublethink", and "Hate Week. It is a fantasy of the political future and serves its author as a magnifying device for an examination of the present. 'Nineteen Eighty-four' is a warning for the future that of what society could become should totalitarianism be allowed to achieve dominance. The objective of this paper is to highlight the political and social ideas of Orwell and also an attempt to show how political systems can suppress individual freedom.

Keyword: Political states, future, Newspeak, Big Brother, Thought Police.

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According to Orwell, gadgets and create permanent revolution by means of social upheaval and revolutionary renewal, the abysmal depth to which man is driven by political 'isms' becomes a reality". The strange logic of perpetuation of poverty for ensuring the party's future adopted by it in order to whip up the desire for equality – the plank of totalitarian ideology-is, as Bernard Crick says, " shockingly original and intellectually brutal". *Anima Farm*, the literary creation of the *Tribune Socialist*, is a spiritual parody of Communist Manifesto and a satire on the betrayed Revolution. Orwell was, the literary editor of the left wing newspaper, '*Tribune*' (from November 1943 to February, 1945), when he wrote *Animal Farm*.

Orwell's vision of this class – divided society is, of course, horrifying. Men in this society have either to live like animals or like machines. Only the members of Inner Party enjoy a certain amount of comfort and have some intellectual satisfaction. The members of Outer Party are automatons. They certainly have minds and intellects capable of thinking, but their thinking is governed by the party code, and they have one – track minds. As for the proles, they do retain their human character but they are incapable of thinking.

The "political " aspects of the book are important; in fact, politics the demands of society and the state upon the individual , are shown as absolutely overpowering . But everything that comes under the heading of politics is so closely related to the internal process that is impossible to say whether what happens to Winston is simply the reflections of events within him, is to be thought of as bringing about these. His world is a nightmare, but one from which he will never awaken; on the contrary, it is one he wakes into. The most striking future of *Nineteen Eightyfour* is its brutal and awful satiric propaganda. Indeed, it is this that accounts for the greatly fame of the book. Its very title has become a household word; and the frightening vision of the future which it describes has haunted its readers.

Nineteen Eightyfour can be approached either as a novel embodying a political argument or as an indictment of materialism cast in fictional form. As a novel it straightforward. The hero, Winston Smith, is a civil servant verging upon middle age who is unable to adjust himself to the totalitarian system under which he works. He falls in love with a clerk in his office, is arrested for subversive views and after much physical and mental suffering, repudiates both his opinions and his girl. Winston Smith himself is portrayed with convincing detail; the girl, Julia, is not intended to be much more than a lay figure; and the remaining characters loom as gigantic thunder-clouds of terror or drift past the narrative in trails of mist. The Inferno atmosphere of the story is cunningly created and well maintained.

There have, of course, been totalitarian societies in the past. But in most of them it was possible to find an oasis of freedom, if only because none of them had the resources to enforce total obedience. But the totalitarianism of Oceania, permits no freedom at all; it offers a total "solution" to the problems of the 20th century, and that means a total distortion of what might be a solution. To be sure, no totalitarian states have been able to reach the extreme stage, but Orwell thought it worthwhile to visualize the extreme of totalitarianism. This totalitarian states assume that given the modern technology, complete political control, the means of terror, and a contempt for moral tradition- anything is possible. Anything can be done with men, anything with their minds, anything with history, anything with words. Reality is no longer something ng to be acknowledged or experienced; it is fabricated according to the need and the will of the state, sometimes in anticipation of the future and sometimes as a retrospective improvement upon the past.

Orwell's declaration of purpose about *Nineteen Hundred Eighty Four*, with Miltonic élan, as given in his footnote to the better addressed to the American Automobile Workers` Union, has the weight of a manifesto. He writes:

My recent novel is NOT intended as an
Attack on socialism or on the British
Labour party but as a slow-up of the
Perversion to which a centralized
Economy is liable and which have already
Been partly realized in communism and
Fascism. I do not believe that the kind
Of society deserve be necessarily will

Arrive, but I believe (allowing, of
Course, for the fact that the book is a satire)
that something resembling is could arrive.
I believe also that totalitarian idea
Have taken root in the minds of
Intellectuals everywhere and I have tried
To draw these ideas out to their logical
Consequences.-1

The horrors of *1984*, the sado-masochism, infant conditioning and narco-hypnosis on the lines of Huxley's "Brave New World" and the "Foot on the Face" metaphor resembling the Gulag, are the perversions of the political autocracies of the twentieth century. Inquisition and confession were the modes of dissent treatment of the religious Orthodoxies of the past. Totalitarian political ideologies, not satisfied with the horrifying physical and genetic human conditioning to ensure conformity, borrow the methods of the authoritarian religious; leaving nothing to chance.

The novel was written in 1948 not many years after the end of World War II which was in 1945. It is an artist pre-vision of the shape of things to come in the post war world hardly a generation away. The picture which George painted of this world is given the writers did not take as the work so much for the endearment of readers as to warn him of the future terror if something is not done immediately.

The horror of world war II were still fresh in the mind of men though Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and imperialist Japan, called the axis power there convulsively defeated yet the world was not out of the wood. The specter of another greater and more formidable evil was raising its head. Totalitarianism as a philosophy and the emergence of totalitarianism states was in the new danger, "*1984*" was the warning an alarm bell rung in 1948.

In picture world of *1984* is dark and black world. The condition of people in the future totalitarianism state as anticipated by Orwell sends shivers down the spines. He warns the political are unscrupulous unfeeling and unthinking people if they are not checked and controlled effectively all the games of civilization down the ages shall soon be washed away the tendency, the designed the sure movement and its direction show that the *he man and capturing and controlling* his thought and his mind.

Orwell uses wit, humor and irony to hit hard the totalitarian ideology his chief weapons is wit dry sharp and cutting he is very serious concerned about the future. He uses wit and satire not to entertain or amuse his readers. Tolstoy ones wrote to show that the dramatist treated life like joke. Shaw replied that life was huge joke. Tolstoy could not bring this change against Orwell nor would Orwell have ever said "life is, indeed a huge joke."

Thomas more imagined a Utopia where there was no exploiting of man by man where the governing principal of the state is love and respect for the individual. More Utopia is the physiological fantasy ...a happy dream of a perfect world. Orwell's *1984* is a political fantasy ...a nightmare...a premonition of a horrible future that await mankind. Gilbert Broman describe *1984* as a "Voyage between the reality of our world and the unreality of fiction and the full range of possibilities in between."

The first thing one sees in the totalitarian region of oceanic is a poster showing "the enormous face...more than meter wide of the big brother" and on the poster is printed a warning."Big brother is watching you."Orwell satire on the region and the doctrine of governed of this state fills us with anger, fear and contempt. Every now and then helicopter of the "thought-police" fly past the window of multi-stored building tale screen at once transmit and receive message. The party slogan are paradoxical "freedom is slavery" "ignorance is knowledge", "war is peace". In this state the ministry of tureen spreads falsehood the ministry of peace conduct wars the ministry of love ratherlessly stamps out the sentiment from the human heart and the ministry of plenty ensure perpetual shortage. These ministers are examples of Orwell bitter irony.

In this regime there is regular daily programmers' "two minutes hate". The programmers' is intended of feed and water the aggressive instinct in the citizen of oceans. The programmers' desire to kill to torture

and of smash the fauve of men. All this is not narrated to produce mirth in the reader. It is a warning again totalitarian regimes dehumanized people.

These people are "little dumpy men growing stout early in life, with short legs." In the world, all fine feeling, kindness, charity etc., are systematically stamped out of the human heart, they are callous to human sorrow and suffering. **Children energy the sight of hanging criminals.** In oceans everybody is a criminal... an error and since everyone is a criminal ,nobody shall escape vaporization ,sooner or later even same the exponent of newspeak, is vaporized you may or may not be a criminal... though shaft be vaporizing people the state its absolute power, the objective of power is power.

In the totalitarian state criticism of or opposition to the government is not tolerated in oceans ,the mind is controlled through 'newspeak 'double-think and think-crime the object of newspeak is to make it impossible for men to say or think anything contrary to state-policy or action This objective is relished through restricting the range of through by violently re-modeling language and cutting down the vocabulary of the new language to its barest minimum so that only those **ideas and though** are articulated which the state **allows oceans his changed** and reinterpreted history. Anyone who remembers real history or shows any sign of intelligence is inconvenience and need to be vaporized .Orwell warns that the modern political states are also subtly the same foot-steps.

Loaded words like friendship, victory and national constitute the vocabulary of the new language. Smith during the process of his dehumanization shall be taught this vocabulary. In his cell no.101. Smith shall also be given the rat-experience and training in the art of betraying even his dearest ones like Julia. After he emergence from this training –cum-education become a true lover of the Big Brother. The satire here is neither to castigate, nor to amend nor to provoke mirth. Its sole aim is to warn to strike to arouse anger and to inspire the world to awake arise and to strikes before it is too late.

Man's contact with an empirically verifiable political reality in his saving grace; it stops man's slide to totalitarianism. According to Alan Sandison, "to permit the infringement of the individual's right to act on the evidence of his sense on to allow the violation of the natural laws or to deny objective reality, was it take the first step towards subservience to the totalitarian." Orwell and Mark Twain both changed their names , though not legally both exhausted all the established literary genres, their range of style was so exhaustive and comprehensive that the short stories of Mark Twain , Orwell's political essays and popular culture essays of both got bracketed. The stylistic devices of Orwell , irony , satire , parody , streak of prophecy and psychology loaded into the text of *1984*, complete with the variegated stylistic variables of Mark Twain's Mississippi style. Mark Twain, like Orwell, exemplified the truism that the twain, journalism and literature, could meet to make serious literary writings. The anti-utopian stance, biographical implications, fear of the novel, simply defy an exclusive literary genre for 984. The significance of Orwell is UN interpreting political experiences in human terms. Modern management theorists are the originators of the mathematical model; Orwell was the econometric model builder for the past war society both on the fronts of politics and political authority. The Oceanic Society with its satellite status for Air Strip one, is the modern political model- brutal and bountiful. O` Brien, who inspires fear and awe, yet offers hope of succor of political authority. Political paradoxically is the distinguishing mark of the ferocious tyrannies of the present era. The ritualistic observances of Oceania, in the forms of the Anti-sex League, two minutes` hale, compulsory exercises, child spies, sadistic war films etc. are indicative of state citizen conformity. The totalitarian state wants to project Winston hoping to find public companions in rebellion and Julia using sex as means of rebellion as the last vestiges of the rebellions society. The power hungry intellectuals, woolly-headed bureaucrats, arbitrary busses and pre-programmed media contrivances are the trappings of repressive regimes. A passive population, glued to the radio, cinema and sport pages of newspapers incapable of reaction, is the conditioned and emasculated followers of a traditional autocracy.

The seven satiric thrust of *1984* according to Bernard Crick are : the political division of the world, the mass media and proletarianisation, power hunger and totalitarianism , betrayal of the common people by the intellectuals the debauching of language, destruction of history and truth and anti-Burnham. The meaning and the multi- layered themes of *1984*, in combination with the novel's science, fiction, dystopia and antiOutopia

elements, whose style is clothed in satire, parody, allegory and morbid prophecy, become all the more eerie in the context of contemporary references. Gulliver's Travels and Leviathans, while outliving their topicalities, become memorable when linked to the politics of eighteenth century England. In the introduction to the Clarendon Press (Oxford) edition of 1984, published to coincide with the apocryphal year 1984, Bernard Crick identifies the diversity of critical interpretations, and their authorship. David Kubal looks upon it as a deterministic prophecy in *Outside the Whale*. Irving Howe in *Politics and Novel*, interprets it conditional perfection. Julian Symonds sees it only as a humanistic satire of events as illustrated in his 1984-Introduction and Appreciation. To Christopher Small, it is a religious allegory, as given in *Road to Miniluv*. In an article entitled "Decency and Death" (*Partisan Review*1950), the novel stands for 'nihilistic misanthropy'. According to Issac Deutcher, the anti – utopian writing typifies a total rejection of socialism. George Woodcock sees Orwell as libertarian socialist almost an anarchist protestant against totalitarian tendencies within his own and in any other time.

The literary echoes and political recapitulations of 1984 connect Orwell to Zamyatin's *We* and Huxley's "Brave New World". On the political plane, the backward linkage of the novel is to the ideas and contexts of Machiavelli, Edmund Burke, Alexis de Toqueville, though the satirisation is of the political events of the 1930s and 40s. As William Steinhoff says, "1984 encompasses all the thematic outlines of Orwell's earlier works and expresses lifetime ideas, attitudes, events and readings. Multiple messages and manifold meanings are the specialties of Orwell's writings. Totalitarianism, in its political, social economics and religious implications, is the dominant theme of 1984, while colonialism and imperialism with their economic manifestation of capitalism are the motifs of "Burmease Days" and "Road To Wigen Pier". An autocrat and hierarchical society which is the societal manifestation of totalitarian ideologies, is born when fifteen percent of the political elites take decision for the eighty five percent proles. Hierarchy is a negation of egalitarian and libertarian sentiments. The humorist in Orwell detested the strait-jacket approach of the Church, especially, her anti-socialist stance in spite of the base of socialist ethics while 'democratic socialism' presupposes political pluralism, diversity, dissent and variety of 'autonomous individuals' Oceania Society harbors only conditioned mass like the Proles or emptied out citizens like the betrayed Winston and Julia- Winston emotional but feeble dabbling in sex were luxuries not required for maintenance of law and order of the state. To the party, love is a negative value, because the ardour of physical relationship is not to be spent but to be channeled for the betterment of the party, and physical energy that will be lost in sexual act is to be preserved for observance of Two Minutes` Hates. As Bernard Crick says:

Mutual trust, fellowship fraternity

And decency are recurrent themes

In all of Orwell's writings after

Wigan and Catalonia. These themes qualify his earlier individualis.-2

Big Brother is a symbol of a tyrannical dictator who demands absolute obedience from his people in all aspects of life. When the state controls every aspect of your life and you have no choices, no freedoms. You don't even have control over your thoughts. Big Brother, although not a tangible character is ever present in the story. The concept of "big brother watching" is all that a society of brain washed drones needs to stay in line. Also, the concepts of Ingsoc and the idea of a Big Brother waiting to catch a person in some sort of crime is enough to keep the members of their society in check.

Orwell conceptualized 'democratic Socialism' without social privileges to the leadership; but the revolutionary ruling class of Animal Farm and the remote distant and 'incommunicado' Inner Party of 1984 arrogated to themselves prerogatives and entitlements. Orwell's socialism is rooted not in ideas or dogma, but in the fusion of relationships. The party had no use for doctrinaire socialism. According to David Wykes (A Preface to Orwell, 1988), "Orwell's socialist proposals are necessary safeguards against the reappearance of a class system". The Party professing classlessness, perpetuated hierarchical social structure. When Orwell saw the elimination of all values he had held close to his heart, the pessimistic streak and recantation of beliefs set in. The long- living donkey, Benjamin, and the 'sluttish' but vibrant Proles kept the embers of the political fireplace glowing. The revolutionary winds of political and economic reforms of the eighties sweeping across

the Iron Curtain nation vindictive Orwell proving that his Nostradamian prophecy, worded in conditional clauses takes place, though not so precisely, yet in general terms. The totalitarian monster still prowls the earth. His permanent caging can be done only through Orwell's socialism. 'Democratic Socialism' which presupposes political pluralism, social mobility and cultural reformation contouring welfare state as the political programme, offering the choice of democracy to the individuals might be the safeguard against the 'Second Coming'; of totalitarian monarchy. The humorous style of 'Animal Farm'., satiric and ironic rendition of the wound have been political realities of 1984 make the dictators tyrants of the world look in to their bathroom mirrors, frequently, in anguish. Wodly headed Bernard Wooly, Humphrey Appleby and Mr. Hacker of democratic governments also require thick smearing of the costume of 'democracy' as shown in the masterly 'Yes Minister' and 'Yes Prime Minister' of Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay respectively. Winston is released to live out his final days as a broken man. Soon, the Thought Police will execute him. Winston has submitted completely and loves Big Brother.

George Orwell makes everybody think of Fascism and Stalinism which made political life ominous, Communism which had not made individuals better, Marxism which on perpetuated poverty and capitalism which would remain 'incorrigibly selfish' in the years to come. The way out is 'democratic Socialism'. Economic advantages, ideological difference and being threatened put people and nations at each other's throat. In Oceania, they were not the motivations.

To Crick.

The military and scientific
Establishments of the super
Powers may have a mutual
Vested interest in the perpetuation
Of the ornament race, in overall
And continuance of the Cold War.
In short as he (Orwell) summarises,
The weapons of war are not actually
Destroyed, their manufacture is
Still a convenient way of expending
Labour power without producing
Anything that can be consumed.

This is a sophisticated exploitation of labour..... And capital accumulation can be burned off in any war.-3

The social and political questions of the 'crisis Situation' of the forties sharpened his socialist perceptions. The Soviet betrayal of Socialism as seen by the Left Wing sympathizers in the Stalinist purges and deportations of inconvenient accomplices, was a painful bunt of memory to the British Socialist, too. The Moscow Purge Trials of 1936 to 1938, which was a crisis of belief to sensitive commissars then, were to become nightmares to all comrades in the twenty party Congress of 1956. Zinoviev, Kamenev and Bukhanin were executed; seven million executions. As many as two and a half million prisoners died in the Camps. Night eight out of one hundred members of the Central Committee were purged. During 1937-38, a purge of the army eliminated nearly half of the officer corps and seventy-five out of eighty members of the supreme Military Command. Communist China could have taken a leaf from Russian history of the Stalin era in handling the dissenters in Tiananmen Square. The Moscow trials alone could make Stalin not only the blip and blimp of history along with Hitler, but also the 'scum of the earth'; as David Levin the cartoonist, portrayed him in the celebrated cartoon occasioned by the Stalin-Hitler Summit.

The political purpose was the demolition of the Soviet political myth. The Russian myth was the prevalent mistaken belief of Western intellectuals and workers that the Soviet Union was truly a socialist state and the Russian model socialism could be replicated everywhere. To quote Orwell again:

Orwell's declaration of purpose, prompting of Paradise Lost, as Vindication of God's ways to men, gives a consistent tenor to Animal Farm. The propagandistic purpose of the allegoric fable goes with stylistic nuances so intimately that Swiftian savage satire, Aesopean fable, Spenserian allegory, Herodotian history and

Wellsian romance mix, merge and mingle to make a unified literary form, unexplored so far. The outlines of the fable of *Animal Farm* got concretized in Orwell's mind small village driving a cart-horse along a narrow path, whipping it whenever it tried to turn.

4. Shakespeare immortalized the picture of love-sick Viola of *'Twelfth Night'* by describing her as setting like patience on a monument.' Orwell's portrait of Dickens is another permanent fixture:

It is the face of a man who is always
fighting against something, but who fights
In the open and is not frightened, the
Face of a man who is generously angry
In other words, of a nineteenth century
liberal, a free intelligence, a type
hated with equal hatred by all the
smelly little orthodoxies which are now
contending for our souls-4

5. Orwell and Alan Wingate edition of *British Pamphleteers* articulated the glimpses of the ideal society which had been tantalizing man since the dawn of history.

According to them:

The vision of a world of free and equal
Human beings, living together in a state
Of brotherhood- in one age it is called
The Kingdom of Heaven, in another, the
Classes society- never materializes,
But the belief in it never seems to die out. 5

Conclusion:

"In *Nineteen Eighty four*, the world is organized in to three great political entities. War is regarded as a sign of health of the state. The only alternative method is to distribute the goods among the populations. The values of the novel are thus political values, and Orwell's respect for them places him in a political tradition which is the liberal tradition of western culture. Orwell was a great believer in decency, liberty, and justice. The action of the novel, however, does nothing to confirm this faith; it simply exists as faith, as it did in Orwell's mind.

In the totalitarian state criticism of or opposition to the government is not tolerated in oceans ,the mind is controlled through 'newspeak 'double-think and think-crime. The object of newspeak is to make it impossible for men to say or think anything contrary to state-policy or action This objective is relished through restricting the range of through by violently re-modeling language and cutting down the vocabulary of the new language to its barest minimum so that only those ideas and thought are articulated which the state allows ocens his changed and reinterpreted history. Anyone who remembers real history or shows any sign of intelligence is inconvenience and need to be vaporized .Orwell warns that the modern political states are also subtly the same foot-steps. The novel, published in 1949, takes place in *1984* and presents an imaginary future where a totalitarian state controls every aspect of life, even people's thoughts. The state is called Oceania and is ruled by a group known as the Party; its leader and dictator is Big Brother. '*Nineteen Eighty-four*' is a warning for the future that of what society could become should totalitarianism be allowed to achieve dominance. Orwell's mind was troubled by three spirits-class, oppression, and poverty. Against these three evils he set the following following three values- decency, liberty and justice. *Nighteen Eightyfour* is a profound, terrifying, and wholly fascinating book. It is a fantasy of the political future and serves its author as a magnifying device for an examination of the present. "War is peace": this party slogan indicates that war is not itself necessary but the collective oligarchy can operate securely only on a war-footing. Perpetual war is the best means of maintaining perpetual absolute power. The life of pleasure is contrary to the health of the state. The time will come when the official slogan will not be required simply because, "there will be no thought as we understand now.

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