

# CRITICAL INTERPRETATION OF POLITICAL DYSTOPIA IN *NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR*

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## ABSTRACT

*In this research paper it has been tried to evaluate the well known novel Nineteen Eighty Four as a dystopia with the political perspective. There are plenty of characteristics those prove Nineteen Eighty-Four a novel of dystopia but few characteristics firmly lead the novel towards political dystopian novel. Continue watch of government, everlasting interfering of government and many other.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Dystopia, Politics, Surveillance, Governmental Control*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The novel *Nineteen Eighty Four* by George Orwell was published in 1949; however his prophetic visualization of future may easily be found and experienced in the current epoch. *Nineteen Eighty Four* is one of the greatly celebrated work of dystopia in English literature. The novel portrays the world that has lost its marks of freedom, critical thinking, feelings and sentiments. Here Orwell portrays Dystopia which represents the despondency of the future of citizens. It also warns the new generation of totalitarianism. Some characteristics and occurrences are there those without doubt demonstrate *Nineteen Eighty Four* as a Political Dystopia. With the help of these matters I would exemplify and explicate the foremost features of Political Dystopia like the physical and mental and social exploitation of the people by completely repressing authoritarian regime.

## 2. GEORGE ORWELL

George Orwell, an English political writer, essayist, novelist, journalist and critic, wrote “*Nineteen Eighty Four*” which is not only well-known but also greatly acclaimed novel all around the world, Orwell has written fiction, literary criticism polemical journalism, poetry and many essays on politics. Mostly his essays, novels and memoirs had political contents and articulated by in opponent to capitalism, imperialism, narrow mindedness, euphemistic and inelegant English.

Orwell was critic of imperialism, capitalism, fascism, and Stalinism. His works are related to the sociopolitical conditions of his era, particularly to the problem of human liberty. His fictions are measured on astuteness and wittiness, social inequality, resistance to dictatorship, obsession for clearness in language and a faith in democratic socialism. Novels of Orwell represent an insightful, sensitively secluded person with harsh or fraudulent communal surroundings. The most famous novels of Orwell are *Animal Farm*” and for his explanation of political dystopia in “*Nineteen Eighty Four*”.

In 1949 Orwell published “Nineteen Eighty-Four” which is a political dystopian novel. The novel presents the tale of Winston Smith and his efforts to revolt against the authoritarian state which he lives in. “Nineteen Eighty-Four” is a novel relating dehumanization of humankind in a mechanistic, authoritarian world. “Nineteen Eighty-Four” is an instructive tale against dictatorship and in particular the rebellion to preserve or maintain it. He had his mistrust of dictatorship and the deceit of revolutions, at points, the freedom of citizen that is missing in Nineteen Eighty Four.

### 3. UTOPIA

The term ‘utopia’ is embedded in the name of the idyllic state portrayed by Thomas More in his literary work Utopia during the sixteenth century. Actually, the subject matter and the meaning of the term revert to the prior centuries. The word utopia was an idea civilization for More but later it turned into a broad sense word that portrays the imaginary idyllic civilization that exists in tranquility and coziness with no complexity or difficulty. So the 16<sup>th</sup> century might be acknowledged as a sort of turning point for the works of literature those utilize the idea of utopia. Though, it is sufficient to be acquainted with only utopias of the 16<sup>th</sup> century because utopia holds deeper ancestry in different types of literary works like Republic by Plato (380 BC) and *City of God* by Augustine. There have been both spiritual and secular utopias those were written all through olden times.

“Utopia is an unrealistic society which has a general anti-violence attitude. It is the society, where poverty and despair have been removed. Few rules and laws are necessary in utopia to control humankind. In utopian society the rulers are scholars, in utopian philosophy, Aristotle’s concepts of aesthetic, justice and coordination are vividly present.”

### 4. THE GENERAL CONCEPTION AND GENESES OF DYSTOPIA

J. S. Mills used the term ‘dystopia’ in 1868 in his political speech on the state of Ireland for the first time, he had utilized the term in contrast with the word ‘utopia’. In his speech, Mills harshly condemned the policies of government on Irish possessions saying that “What is commonly called Utopian is something too good to be practicable; but what they [the government] appear to favor is too bad to be practicable.”[1] By just inventing the term to distinguish what was thus far identified Utopia; Mills bordered its fundamental perception. The Oxford English Dictionary, On the basis of this speech, illustrates dystopia as “an imaginary place or condition in which everything is as bad as possible.”[2] It might be argued that in spite of the quite elongated improvement of dystopian literature, the description of the term does not essentially require to be more multifaceted than the one projected by this entry.

Since dystopia is described as being the reverse to utopia, the concluding term must be expanded on prior to attempting to define the former. Thomas More created fictional village named Utopia in his book with the same title. It portrays concept of Thomas More of a perfect civilization. Thus the framework for future utopian fiction was created by Thomas More.

A variety of explanations of dystopia, concerning the literary works of fiction, have been presented. According to Sargent, in literature dystopia is “a non-existent society described in considerable detail and normally located in time and space that the author intended a contemporaneous reader to view as considerably worse than the society in which the reader lived.”[3]

### 5. POLITICAL DYSTOPIA

Through the above given explanations the meaning of dystopia must have been clear. When we talk about any utopia, with reference to the government and its dealing with the state, positively or negatively, that dealings decide the way of life of the people. For example, in Nineteen Eighty Four the state deals with the people according to its positive point of view but in reality it is negative point of view in perspective of the people who have been living there. In fact government doesn’t think about human life or situation. So such rule proves to be dystopia for the citizens, because they have been forced by the government to follow the rules and regulation. When the government

forces the populace to sustain its own existence it becomes unbearable for the people. Such kind of rules and regulation turns the regime politically corrupt and thus political dystopia comes into existence.

When the political parties force the population to live, to behave, to do, or to work in some special ways, the citizen cannot escape from the reality and any how they live under such rule. The citizens have to follow unwanted customs, they may know about the truth and reality, though they cannot revolt because of the fright of the harsh punishment sometimes death. In *Nineteen Eighty Four* the protagonist and other characters are forced to live according to the policies of government for the sake of politics only. There are certain characteristics of the dystopia that have been discussed in the research paper, which prove *Nineteen Eighty Four* as a political dystopia.

## **6. CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL DYSTOPIA IN *NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR***

### **6.1 TOTALITARIANISM**

A political novel *Nineteen Eighty Four* is written to warn the readers of the western world of the hazards of the totalitarian regime. Orwell wrote the novel to sound alarm in western countries after witnessing personal and dreadful time span to which totalitarian regimes in Russia and Spain would go in order to preserve and expand their control, still he was uncertain regarding how to handle the emergence of communism. During 1940s when the cold war did not rise, Plenty of American thinkers supported communism and the state of negotiation among democratic and communist countries were extremely ambitious. Among American media the Soviet Union had often been represented as a huge ethical experiment. However Orwell was extremely disturbed with the widespread brutality and tyranny that he witnessed in the communist nations. He seems to have been majorly concerned with the part of the technology to enable unfair regime to scrutinize and restrain its populace.

Orwell depicts the ideal totalitarian civilization in *1984*. The title of the fiction is meant to show its readers in 1948 that the narrative portrayed a factual possibility of the near future. George Orwell represents the region where the regime observes and restrains every facet of the life of people to the extent that even getting unfaithful thought is against the government. With the progress of the novel, the protagonist, Winston smith, who is rebellious by nature, starts to challenge the limits of the power of the government, just to find out that the ability of it for controlling and enslaving the people dwarfs even his most fearful beginning of its reach. The government utilizes many techniques to restrain the population, which can be witnessed through the protagonist's perceptions.

### **6.2 CONFRONTATION AND REVOLT**

In 1984 the central character, Winston smith gets into highly increasingly perilous and noteworthy actions of conflict in opposition to the Party. In the chapter 7, book one, the protagonist notices that "rebellion meant a look in the eyes, an inflection of the voice; at the most, an occasional whispered word." He also increases such minor revolts against government by executing personal acts of defiance like keeping and writing diary, and having decorative paperweight. Ultimately he heightens his revolt having sexual relations with Julia. This love relationship is a twice revolution, since it comprises the thoughtcrime of craving.

Winston doesn't consider his dealings or the acts of other people would direct to the obliteration of the Party during his life span, but sooner than he is trapped by the Thought Police he propose expectation that in the future someone may be able to look back at his time from a world which is liberated. The central character, Winston's most tangible expectation for real rebellion alongside the Party is placed with the communal underclass of the state, known as the Proles. He also examines that the Proles by now have got far larger in numbers than the Party and that they have the power to perform a rebellion if they can ever systematize themselves.

The difficulty is that the Proles are subject to such somber scarcity and poverty for so long that they are not capable to observe history the objective of continued existence. The very concept of trying to construct an improved world is

too much for them to mull over. All of these explanations are push away the environment of the government's personal distinctiveness as the creation of rebellion. From the Winston's point of view, the regime was shaped through the 1960s during a revolt that defeat the present British societal order. The Party declares that the revolt has not up till now ended and that it would be satisfied once they posses absolute control.

### 6.3 FREEDOM AND INDIVIDUALITY

Although the Party's most important instrument to control the population is the control of the past, and also liberty and identity. If instance is given the pioneer qualities to set up citizen's individuality are not found with Winston and the other people of Oceania. Winston is unaware of his age too, including whether he is married or not. He has no idea whether his mother is living or dead. The memory of his childhood is blurred since he does not have pictures or documents helping him arrange true memories from predictable ones. Rather than being exceptional citizens having explicated, recognizing particulars, every member of the Outer Party is indistinguishable. Every member of the party put on the same clothes, smoke same kind of cigarettes, has the same brand of wine and so on. Per say, shaping a logic of personal individuality is not only psychologically challenging, but logistically complicated. The majority of important resolutions of Winston can be understood as efforts to construct a sense of individuality. His choice buying a diary and initiating writing his opinion and thoughts is an effort to make reminiscence and history. His decision buying the paperweight is determined by a yearning to get something of his own that denotes a time before the Party. His sexual relationship with Julia and their decision to hire an apartment in which they can have good time mutually stands for hazardous offenses in the world of 1984. In making decision pursuing relations with Julia, Winston declares his freedom and additionally conform his individuality as an individual who refuses to accept the control of the party. Eventually, although, his efforts to maintain his freedom and choice construct an exceptional individuality is no match for the Party. His experiences in the ministry of love signify disassembly and devastation of all the facets of individualism. When he gets back to the civilization from Room no. 101, he has lost all freedom and individuality and ultimately becomes the part of the faceless group of the Party.

“Never again will you be capable of ordinary human feeling. Everything will be dead inside you. Never again will you be capable of love, or friendship, or joy of living, or laughter, or curiosity, or courage, or integrity. You will be hollow. We shall squeeze you empty and then we shall fill you with ourselves.” (Orwell, 148)

### 6.4 CONTROL OF INFORMATION AND HISTORY

The government controls all the sources of information, organizing and rewriting the subject matter of every news paper and history for its own ends. The regime does not allow citizens to get and keep records of their history like documents and pictures. Consequently memories turn unclear and untrustworthy moreover people become entirely eager to consider whatever the government orders them. While controlling the current situation the party can manipulate the history. Moreover in controlling the history, the government can rationalize every actions of it in the present time.

Rewriting of the history is implemented frequently for the political propaganda. The Government claims that earlier than the Revolution the citizens troubled and worried under the regulation of capitalists and that they were ruler.

“The party said that Oceania had never been in alliance with Eurasia. He, Winston Smith, knew that Oceania had been in alliance with Eurasia as short time as four years ago. But where did that knowledge exist? Only in his own consciousness... if all records told the same tale-then the lie passed into history and became truth. ‘Who controls the past,’ ran the Party slogan, ‘controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.’”

(Orwell, 44)

## 7. CONCLUSION:

Looking and understanding above discussed characteristics it can be easily said that Nineteen Eighty Four is a Political Dystopia. Due to the constant interference of the political parties and leaders, the life of common people has become worst and not worth living. Moreover, the people have been living a mechanical and stereotype life where they cannot act according to their own wish. In this paper it has been tried to prove that the society in Nineteen Eighty Four abide with the government and whatever is done or performed it is only for government and its leaders. Even in the present days certain governments do not let their citizens to live their life their own way. In North Korea, for example, autocracy has been adopted for governing the nation. Here, the president is Kim Jong-Un, who does not allow the people to have haircut of their own choice. The people cannot wear jeans, even Face-book, Twitter or any other social sites are totally banned. Moreover, the citizens cannot rebel against the government. It is the live example of Political Dystopia in real world.

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