



## INTERSECTION OF LITERATURE AND POLITICS IN GEORGE ORWELL'S WORKS

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### Abstract

**Aim:** This essay's goal is to examine how politics and literary interact in George Orwell's writings, with particular emphasis on *Animal Farm* and *1984*. This research aims to examine the ways in which Orwell's depiction of political ideology affects individual freedom and how his own political convictions shaped his literary style and thematic substance.

**Area:** The study focuses on the literary and political aspects of *Animal Farm* and *1984*, two of Orwell's most famous books. It explores Orwell's criticism of totalitarian governments and his observations on political institutions, as well as how political ideologies and systems are portrayed and criticized in these books.

**Research Methodology:** A thorough literary study of Orwell's books is part of the research technique, with a focus on characters, locales, and plot structures to reveal the political criticisms woven throughout his stories. An analysis of Orwell's political views and how they shaped his literary devices and thematic concerns is also included into the research.

**Result:** The findings show that Orwell's writings provide a thorough criticism of totalitarian governments, highlighting the ways in which political power is used and revolutionary ideals are tainted. The examination demonstrates how Orwell's own political beliefs had a profound impact on his writing and helped shape his timeless cautions against the perils of governmental overreach and the diminution of human freedom.

**Keywords:** *Animal Farm*, George Orwell's, Political beliefs, *1984*, political ideology,

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

George Orwell's "1984" is a famous illustration of how political beliefs may affect one's sense of self. The book, which is set in the years after World War II, examines the dystopia of the 20th century and shows the terrible relationship between political and personal aspects [1]. Winston Smith, the main character of the book, ends up a prisoner of his ideas, which represents the difficulties with privacy, freedom, and resistance in everyday life [2]. Orwell criticizes the prospect of an authoritarian political government intruding on people's lives via the junction of politics and the personal. The essay makes the case that "1984" ought to be seen as a warning, enticing readers to consider the ways in which powerful political institutions impact freedom and the narratives that the ruling class attempts to force onto people. The story's enduring significance as a literary work that prompts readers to contemplate the delicate balance between personal liberty and political authority is further highlighted by its

mirroring of the ongoing struggle between individual versus collective, private versus public, and personal versus political aspects [3].



**Figure 1:** George Orwell

### 1.1.Objectives of the study

- To evaluate the political philosophies and topics that George Orwell explored in his main writings, such as "Animal Farm" and "1984".
- To investigate the ways in which Orwell's political convictions shaped both his literary style and the ideas he expressed in his writings.
- To investigate how Orwell's works have influenced political thinking and how they have been used to critique authoritarian governments.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Table 1:** Summary of Research Studies

| Author & Year of Publication            | Title                                                                                      | Research Study                                                                                                                         | Topic Covered                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Calás, M. B., & Smircich, L. (2006) [4] | Ten Years Later, From the "Woman's Point of View": Towards a Feminist Organization Studies | This chapter examines how feminist viewpoints in organizational studies have evolved over the last ten years, challenging conventional | The influence of feminist theory on knowledge, power, gender, intersectionality, and organizational studies. |

|                           |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|                           |                                   | organizational theories that have been controlled by males and supporting a feminist perspective that places an emphasis on social justice, diversity, and inclusion.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Blokker, P. A. (2015) [5] | Studies of the Social Imaginaries | Using the ideas of Castoriadis, Ricoeur, and Taylor as a guide, the research explores the idea of social imaginaries and considers how applicable they are to a variety of academic fields. It draws attention to the changing perception of societies as politically and collaboratively constructed structures. | Theoretical foundations for politico-economic and social imaginaries, as well as the consequences of social imaginaries for current political, cultural, and ecological challenges. |

|                            |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Axelsson, H. H. (2023) [6] | The Novel 1984 by George Orwell Applied to ESL Instruction                   | This research investigated how teaching George Orwell's 1984 to ESL students may foster political discourse and critical thinking. It examined the ways in which the novel's themes of tyranny, propaganda, and dictatorship might improve linguistic proficiency and cross-cultural competence. | 1984 is used in ESL classrooms to encourage political criticism, multicultural understanding, and media manipulation.                                         |
| Marks, P. (2015) [7]       | Essayist George Orwell: Literature, Politics, and the Culture of Periodicals | Marks examines Orwell's writings in light of political speech and literature, with a focus on periodical culture in the early 20th century. The research emphasizes Orwell's skill at fusing political satire with introspection.                                                                | writings by George Orwell, the culture of periodicals, political discourse, and Orwell's influence on public discussion of social and political concerns.     |
| Brannigan, J. (2002) [8]   | From Orwell to Now: English Literature, 1945–2000                            | George Orwell plays a key role in Brannigan's exploration of the development of English writing from the post-World War II period to the end of the 20th                                                                                                                                         | English literature's post-World War II development, Orwell's influence on political writing, themes of oppression, and changes in literary form and ideology. |

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|  |  | century. The research looks at how political oppression is handled in Orwell's writings and how this influenced postwar literary movements. |  |
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## 2.1. Research Gap

There is still much to learn about the thorough interaction between George Orwell's political theories and literary devices, especially with regard to contemporary educational applications, despite the wealth of research on Orwell's works and their influence on politics and literature [9]. While Orwell's essays and novels, including 1984 and Animal Farm, have been studied in the past in relation to political themes and their influence on modern discourse and educational environments, little research has been done on how his particular literary devices, like allegory, symbolism, and narrative structure, improve students' and scholars' critical engagement with political issues. In addition, a more thorough analysis of the ways in which Orwell's writings connect to fields other than literary studies—such as political science, history, and philosophy—as well as the ways in which these connections can be used to address contemporary international issues and advance interdisciplinary education, are also necessary. This gap draws attention to the need for a more thorough examination of Orwell's strategies and how they may be used to promote conversation and critical thinking in a range of educational and cultural settings.

## 2.2. Theoretical Framework

### 1. Literary Criticism

**Political Allegory:** George Orwell's literary arsenal includes political allegory, which enables him to communicate difficult political concepts and criticisms via symbolic storytelling. Orwell uses allegory in books like Animal Farm to criticize the corruption and treachery that come with being a part of the political system [10]. Orwell's criticism is understandable and powerful since the farm and its animals serve as symbols for the Soviet Union and its authorities. Orwell's metaphor highlights the inherent weaknesses and perils of tyranny as well as the distortion of socialist ideals via characters and events that are reminiscent of real-life historical individuals and events. Orwell uses allegory as a way to get readers to interact with political concepts in a deeper, more thoughtful way than merely as a plot mechanism. Orwell encourages readers to make connections between the real and the imaginary by incorporating political criticisms into what seem to be straightforward tales. This promotes a better comprehension of political processes and their effects.

**Dystopian Literature:** Another important aspect of Orwell's literary analysis is his use of dystopian fiction as a prism through which to examine and criticize social and political institutions [11]. A

classic work of dystopian fiction, 1984 by George Orwell imagines a society in which authoritarian rule dominates every facet of existence. Orwell's worries about the loss of individual liberties and the perils of unbridled political power are reflected in the novel's portrayal of a society under continual surveillance, complete with an authoritarian government and truth-bending techniques. Orwell used the made-up nation of Oceania in this dystopian framework to examine the possible repercussions of political beliefs and actions. Orwell's dystopian vision's features—such as the rewriting of history, governmental control over speech and ideas, and widespread surveillance—highlight the possible extremes of political regimes when they become repressive. Orwell warns of the potential futures that might result from existing tendencies in addition to criticizing the political environments of the present by putting these possibilities out there.

## 2. Political Theory

**Totalitarianism:** *Animal Farm* and 1984 by George Orwell both criticize totalitarianism, emphasizing its effects on people and society as well as its methods of control. In Orwell's dystopian universe, censorship, psychological manipulation, and monitoring are used by the state—headed by Big Brother—to stifle dissent and preserve power [12]. He emphasizes the unrelenting control over history and truth while cautioning against the perils of concentrated authority and the loss of individual liberties. The invasion of personal and psychological domains by totalitarian governments is critically examined in Orwell's novels.

**Political Ideology and Propaganda:** *Animal Farm* and 1984, two of Orwell's books, examine how political ideals may be used to further one's own agenda. The pig Squealer in *Animal Farm* serves as a metaphor for the way propaganda skews the facts and defends the actions of the ruling class [13]. The idea of Newspeak and the Ministry of Truth from 1984 serve as examples of how ideology is imposed and changed to fit political objectives. Orwell's portrayal of a society in which language is designed to stifle thinking illustrates how propaganda can shape and impose restrictions on the public awareness, so strengthening the hold of totalitarian governments on power.

**Historical Materialism:** Marxist theory may be used to evaluate George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and 1984 because it highlights how class relations and economic structures shape society dynamics. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels created historical materialism, which holds that economic forces and material circumstances are what drive historical and social development[14]. Marxist viewpoints are supported by Orwell's analysis of political and socioeconomic structures, which sheds light on the relationships between ideology, economic power, and class conflict. We may see how material circumstances influence social and political reality by applying historical materialism to Orwell's criticism.

## 3. Critical Theory

George Orwell's criticism of socio-political systems is better understood by the Frankfurt School Critical Theory, which focuses on the ways in which ideologies maintain authority and control [15]. The Frankfurt School expressed worries about authoritarianism, intellectual manipulation, and the way mass culture reinforces existing power systems. These issues are shown in Orwell's 1984 and *Animal Farm*. 1984's portrayal of alienation demonstrates Orwell's in-depth investigation of power,

control, and resistance while also reflecting the Frankfurt School's emphasis on repressive institutions.



**Figure 2:** Critical Theory

#### **4. Representation of Political Ideologies**

The books 1984 and Animal Farm by George Orwell criticize political ideas and how they may enslave and ruin communities. Animal Farm exposes how equality may be used as a pretext for oppression and challenges the socialist principles of the Soviet Union. The dystopian world of 1984, where totalitarian ideology rules, serves as an example of how governments may stifle free thinking and bend the facts [16]. The way in which Orwell portrayed these ideologies draws attention to the inconsistencies and shortcomings of political structures that put authority above personal freedom. He issues a warning on the brittleness of democratic ideals and the ease with which authoritarian political regimes might emerge.

#### **5. Literary Techniques and Political Expression**

George Orwell makes his criticisms interesting and approachable by skillfully delivering political ideas in Animal Farm and 1984 using literary devices. In Animal Farm, important Russian Revolutionary leaders and ideas are represented via allegory, whereas in 1984, a totalitarian society is shown through dystopian aspects. An authoritarian regime's depressing and gloomy narrative style is reinforced by it [17]. Through the employment of symbols like Newspeak and Big Brother, Orwell gives abstract political ideas a tangible embodiment. These strategies show the ability of literature to influence and provoke discussion about political reality by criticizing particular political systems while also posing more general questions about power, ideology, and human rights.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In order to investigate the political themes and ideologies of George Orwell's key works, especially "1984" and "Animal Farm," a detailed examination of those works utilizing secondary data sources is part of the research technique for this study. We will use secondary data to learn more about Orwell's political views, literary style, and the influence of his works on political theory and educational environments. This secondary material will include academic books, essays, and

criticisms. This method makes it possible to thoroughly review the many readings and analyses of Orwell's writings, which lays the groundwork for comprehending how his political criticisms and personal convictions are represented in his writing. The research attempts to evaluate the applicability of Orwell's work in modern circumstances and to reveal deeper linkages between his political criticism and literary devices by combining data from a variety of secondary sources.

#### 4. POLITICAL THEMES AND IDEOLOGIES IN ORWELL'S MAJOR WORKS

##### 4.1. Analyzing Key Themes in "1984" and "Animal Farm"

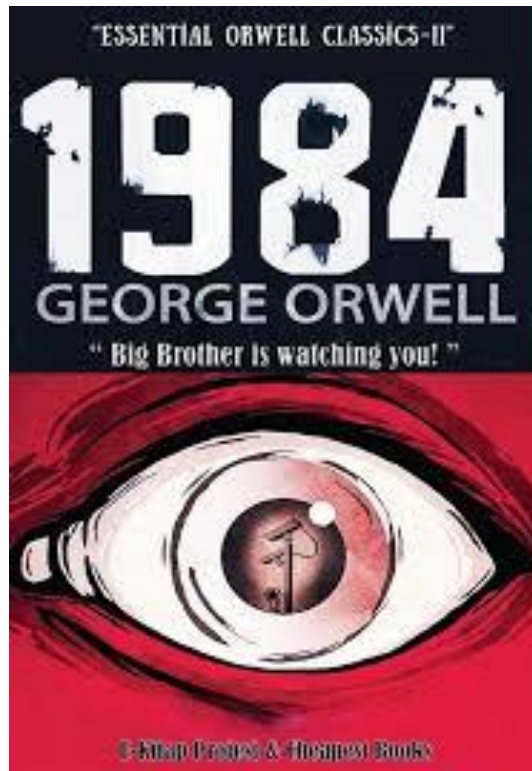


Figure 3: 1984

##### 1. Key themes in 1984

- **Totalitarianism:** "The dystopian book "1984" is set in a totalitarian society ruled by the Party and Big Brother. The work delves into the methods of totalitarian governance, including widespread monitoring, suppression, and misinformation. Orwell paints a terrifying picture of a society in which the state controls every aspect of life, including ideas and opinions, in order to preserve its hold on power [18].
- **Surveillance and Privacy:** "Big Brother" is a term that perfectly captures the intrusive monitoring state. Through telescreens and other tools, the Party continuously observes the public, undermining their right to privacy and independence. Orwell's worries about the erosion of privacy and the possibility of government overreach are highlighted by this topic.
- **Language and Thought Control:** Newspeak is a censored language used by the Party to suppress dissenting views and restrict freedom of speech [19]. Orwell's conviction in the

powerful influence of language on ideology and consciousness is shown by the Party's attempt to control people's thoughts and communication via language manipulation.

2. **Propaganda and Historical Revisionism:** In order to maintain its narrative, the Party continuously alters history, illustrating how individuals in positions of authority may control the past in order to influence the present. This subject is a reflection of Orwell's critique of political organizations that falsify historical accounts and facts in order to benefit themselves.

## 2. Key Themes in Animal Farm

- **Corruption of Ideals:** "Animal Farm" serves as a parable on the emergence of Stalinism and the Russian Revolution. Ideals of fairness and equality drive the farm's first revolution, but as the pigs seize control, they grow more repressive and corrupt [20]. Orwell shows how individuals in positions of authority may undermine revolutionary principles, resulting in a system that is as bit as despotic as the one it overthrew.

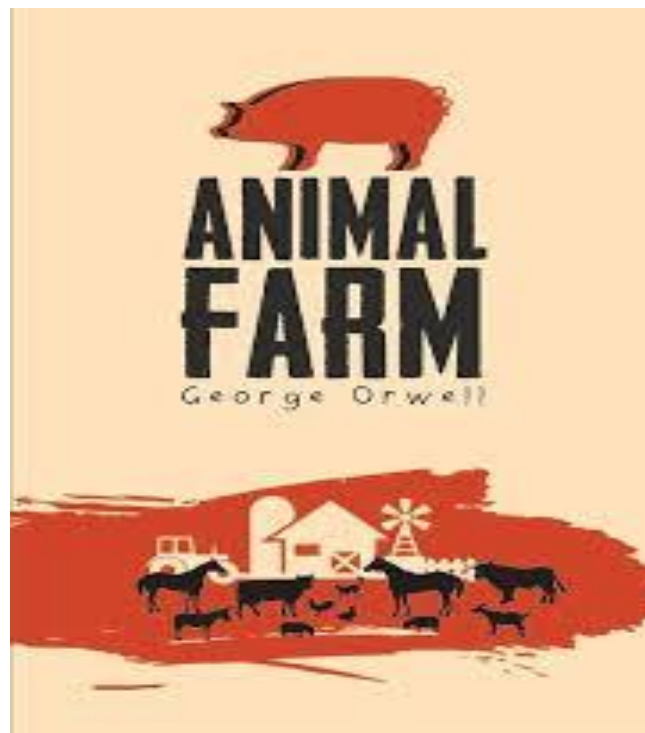


**Figure 4:** Animal Farm

- **Class Struggle and Inequality:** The story explores the mechanics of class conflict by showing how the pigs, who at first support equality, ultimately establish a new class system. The well-known adage "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" perfectly captures the idea of rising inequality and the broken promises of revolution.
- **Power and Betrayal:** The ascent to dominance of the pigs is a reflection of the corrupting power. Orwell illustrates how politicians, motivated by self-interest and the need to consolidate power, may betray not just their supporters but even their own convictions.

#### **4.2.Exploring Orwell's Depiction of Political Structures and Power Dynamics**

The books "1984" and "Animal Farm" by George Orwell examine political systems, with particular attention on authoritarianism and totalitarianism. Using psychological deception to show severe governmental control, "1984" exposes the perils of totalitarian governments. In "Animal Farm," Orwell criticizes the distorting effect of power in revolutionary movements via allegory [21]. The story begins with the pigs rising up against a human farmer who is harsh, but as they go higher up, they become more self-serving and repressive, much like the dictatorship they were trying to overturn. The timeless warnings in Orwell's criticisms about the perils of unbridled authority and the need of being vigilant in defending individual liberties are poignant.

### **5. INFLUENCE OF ORWELL'S PERSONAL BELIEFS ON LITERARY STYLE**

The way that George Orwell communicated his thoughts and the themes he addressed in his writing were greatly influenced by his own convictions. His work is intricately entwined with his experiences, ideals, and political beliefs, which shaped his approach to character development, storytelling, and narrative strategies [22].

#### **1. Commitment to Political and Social Critique**

Orwell's writing style clearly reflects his great dedication to political and social analysis. His strong hostility to authoritarianism, totalitarianism, and political corruption is often evident in his writings. In books like "1984" and "Animal Farm," Orwell exposes the perils of repressive governments and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals via a straightforward and uncompromising storytelling approach [23]. His writing is unambiguous and uncomplicated, allowing a broad readership to easily understand and be moved by his critical points of view.

#### **2. Use of Allegory and Satire**

Orwell's use of allegory and satire reflects his own convictions about the value of honest and transparent communication as well as his mistrust of political ideology. A literary allegory of the Russian Revolution and the emergence of Stalinism is found in "Animal Farm," for example. Orwell offers a satirical analysis of how revolutionary aspirations may be tainted by using the farm animals to symbolize different political people and ideas. Through this approach, Orwell is able to expose the fundamental inconsistencies and weaknesses of political systems while delving into intricate political subjects in a way that is both thought-provoking and captivating [24].

#### **3. Advocacy for Social Justice and Equality**

Orwell's books include themes and characters that are influenced by his own dedication to social justice and equality. His picture of societal hierarchies and injustices is shaped by his experiences with poverty, colonialism, and political action. Orwell depicts social injustices in "Down and Out in Paris and London" and "The Road to Wigan Pier," drawing on his own experiences as a working-class and impoverished person. His emphasis on social concerns and use of vivid, realistic

descriptions define his literary style in these works, which reflects his conviction that societal inequalities must be addressed and corrected [25].

#### **4. Influence of Personal Experience**

Orwell's writing style is greatly influenced by his personal experiences, which include his involvement in the Spanish Civil War and his resistance to authoritarian ideologies. His experiences with totalitarian governments and his opposition to both fascism and communism are evident in the harsh, sometimes depressing depictions of authoritarian cultures in "1984" and "Animal Farm." His work is sarcastic and critical, expressing his own disenchantment with political beliefs and giving readers a sharp insight into how political power affects people's lives.

#### **5. Emphasis on Clarity and Honesty**

Orwell's writing style reflects his conviction in the value of honesty and clarity in writing. He opposed literary obscurity and supported simple, uncomplicated writing. His use of clear, precise language to communicate his ideas without needless complication is a reflection of this. In addition to being a stylistic decision, Orwell's dedication to straightforward writing reflects his conviction that honesty and openness are essential components of both political discourse and literature [26].

### **6. ORWELL'S CRITIQUE OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMES AND ITS IMPACT**

#### **6.1. The Role of Orwell's Works in Challenging Authoritarianism**

George Orwell's writings, especially "1984" and "Animal Farm," are important in the fight against authoritarianism because they provide insightful analyses of repressive governments and the distorting effects of absolute authority. Orwell's novels provide as effective instruments for challenging and opposing authoritarianism because of their realistic depictions of totalitarian society and metaphorical criticisms.

##### **1. Exposing Mechanisms of Totalitarian Control**

One of the key works that helped to define the workings of totalitarian control is George Orwell's "1984". The story depicts a dystopian world ruled by the Party, which uses censorship, psychological manipulation, and constant monitoring to hold onto power. Orwell offers a sobering warning about the perils of unbridled political power by illustrating the extreme measures an authoritarian ruler would take to subjugate and control its people [27]. The book illustrates how authoritarian governments may suppress dissent and distort reality in order to maintain power via its depictions of the Thought Police, the Ministry of Truth, and the idea of Newspeak. Readers are prompted by this picture to consider and critically analyze the possibility of such power abuses in their own cultures.

##### **2. Critiquing the Corruption of Ideals**

In "Animal Farm," Orwell used allegory to attack the corrosion of revolutionary ideas and the ease with which individuals attempting to effect change may be corrupted by power. Inspired by principles

of fairness and equality, the animals rebel against a cruel human farmer at the start of the book. But as the pigs become bigger, they start acting more and more like despots, abandoning the same values they claimed to support. By using this metaphor, Orwell highlights the inherent dangers and possibilities for corruption in political institutions and illustrates how revolutionary movements may turn into authoritarian governments [28]. Readers are prompted by this criticism to consider the nature of political power and how corrupt and betrayed even the noblest goals may be.

### **3. Promoting Awareness and Vigilance**

Orwell's writings highlight the negative effects of complacency and the deterioration of democratic norms, which serves to raise awareness of and vigilance against tyranny. In "1984," opposition is almost impossible and individual liberties are gradually taken away due to widespread monitoring and truth manipulation. This picture emphasizes how crucial it is to defend democratic institutions and continue to keep an eye on individuals in positions of authority. Readers are encouraged to stay involved and take the initiative in protecting democratic ideals and human rights by Orwell's emphasis on the need of being vigilant against authoritarian tendencies.

### **4. Highlighting the Impact of Propaganda**

The films "Animal Farm" and "1984" both highlight how misinformation helps to sustain and maintain totalitarian governments. In "1984," the Party's use of the Ministry of Truth to control history and knowledge serves as an example of how propaganda can stifle opposition and shape public opinion. Comparably, in "Animal Farm," the pigs deceive the other animals by using propaganda to maintain their dominance and defend their behavior. Orwell's examination of propaganda's ability to skew perceptions and alter reality serves as a criticism of the ways in which authoritarian governments mislead and control their populace [29].

### **5. Encouraging Critical Thinking and Resistance**

Through his work, Orwell challenges readers to examine and evaluate political systems and ideologies, fostering critical thinking and opposition to totalitarianism. Readers are prompted to examine their own political contexts and contemplate the consequences of unbridled authority by his lucid, plain style and frank indictment of political corruption and power abuse. The writings of George Orwell serve as a call to action, imploring readers to maintain their vigilance and oppose the spread of authoritarianism in all of its manifestations.

### **7. MANAGERIAL IMPLICATION**

Understanding how politics and literature intersect in George Orwell's works—especially when examining the political themes in 1984 and Animal Farm—has important managerial ramifications for comprehending how ideological narratives affect organizational culture and leadership [30]. Managers may learn more about how story and symbolism build corporate values and ethical frameworks by examining how Orwell's personal political convictions influenced his literary style and messaging. Examining Orwell's criticism of totalitarian governments also emphasizes how

crucial ethical governance, accountability, and openness are in organizational contexts. This may help managers create an atmosphere that values free speech and critical thought, reducing the dangers of authoritarian behavior and advancing a positive, democratic workplace culture.

## 8. SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Additional investigation of the relationship between politics and literature in George Orwell's writings might focus on a number of important issues. Comparing Orwell's portrayals of totalitarianism in "1984" and "Animal Farm" with other dystopian and allegorical literature, as well as looking at how historical and political settings shaped these themes, are some methods for delving deeply into political topics and ideologies. An analysis of Orwell's life story to see how his experiences and opinions influenced his writing, as well as a look at how his style changed over time, might be used to investigate the impact of his personal convictions on his literary style. Furthermore, examining Orwell's effect on current political theory may provide light on how his criticisms of totalitarian governments have shaped political action and conversation today.

## 9. CONCLUSION

"1984" and "Animal Farm," two of George Orwell's classic novels, provide a comprehensive criticism of political structures by highlighting the corrupting influence of revolutionary ideals and the ubiquitous effects of tyranny. Together with the symbolic portrayal of class conflict and power dynamics in "Animal Farm," Orwell's examination of themes like propaganda, surveillance, and the manipulation of truth in "1984" highlights the perils of unbridled political authority and the ease with which ideals can be compromised. His writing style's lucidity and his personal dedication to social justice only serve to highlight the work's crucial quality. In addition to provoking readers to consider the precarious nature of democratic ideals and individual liberties, Orwell's writings also act as an enduring cautionary tale about the rise of totalitarianism. Because of this, they continue to be very pertinent in conversations about political ethics and the defense of individual liberty today, emphasizing the need of being watchful and critically engaging with the power structures in our own society.

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