

## THE SOCIAL ASPECTS IN G. ORWELL'S "1984"

*Abdaliyev Sanjarbek Jumaqul o'g'li**CHIRCHIK STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF  
TOURISM*

**Annotatsiya:** George Orwell's "1984" stands as one of the most influential and widely read novels of the 20th century, captivating readers with its chilling portrayal of a dystopian society dominated by totalitarian rule, surveillance, and the manipulation of truth. Written in 1948, the novel continues to resonate with contemporary audiences, offering a timeless critique of power, authority, and the human condition. Its themes of political oppression, privacy concerns, and the erosion of individual freedoms remain strikingly relevant in today's complex and interconnected world.

**Key words:** *Totalitarianism, Surveillance, Censorship, Propaganda, Loss of Individuality, Class Stratification, Psychological Manipulation, Isolation, Dehumanization.*

**INTRODUCTION**

This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of "1984," exploring its enduring relevance and significance in understanding modern challenges such as government surveillance, the impact of technology on society, and the manipulation of information. By examining the novel within the context of contemporary societal, political, and technological developments, this study seeks to uncover new insights and perspectives that enrich our understanding of Orwell's seminal work. Through an interdisciplinary approach, combining insights from literary criticism, political theory, cultural studies, and technology studies, this study will delve into the novel's major themes, characters, and narrative techniques. It will explore the novel's implications for understanding the complexities of modern society, reflecting on its warnings against the dangers of unchecked power, erosion of individual freedoms, and manipulation of truth.

Some of Orwell's most notable philosophical contributions include his discussions of nationalism, totalitarianism, socialism, propaganda, language, class status, work, poverty, imperialism, truth, history, and literature. Themes and Symbols in "1984" Central to the narrative of "1984" are its recurring themes and symbols, which serve as conduits for Orwell's critique of totalitarianism and his exploration of the human condition. One of the most pervasive themes is that of surveillance, symbolized by the omnipresent telescreens, microphones, and informants that monitor every aspect of life in Oceania. This pervasive surveillance reflects the Party's insatiable thirst for control and its relentless pursuit of power. Another key theme is the manipulation of truth and language. In Oceania, the Party exerts its control over reality through the implementation of Newspeak, a language designed to eliminate dissent and restrict independent thought. By constraining the linguistic landscape, the Party seeks to erase the possibility of rebellion and reshape the contours of reality itself. The book was written as a warning of what could happen if people allowed their governments to obtain too much power after Orwell saw what happened to the people in Nazi Germany. The book also demonstrates the ability of governments to alter reality and manipulate facts to suit their narrative. Additionally "1984" explores themes of memory, identity, and resistance. Characters like Winston Smith and Julia rebel against the Party's suffocating grip, clinging to fragments of truth and moments of intimacy in a world defined by deception and betrayal. Through acts of defiance and rebellion, they assert their humanity and challenge the hegemony of the Party. Orwell's Prophecy: Surveillance, Propaganda, and Totalitarianism Despite being published over seven decades ago, "1984" remains eerily prescient in its portrayal of surveillance, propaganda, and totalitarianism.

Orwell's vision of a society where privacy is nonexistent, truth is malleable, and dissent is swiftly crushed resonates with contemporary anxieties about the erosion of civil liberties and the rise of authoritarianism. In today's digital age, surveillance technologies have become increasingly sophisticated, with governments and corporations harnessing the power of big data, artificial

intelligence, and facial recognition to monitor and control populations. The revelations of mass surveillance programs, such as PRISM<sup>1</sup> and Tempora, underscore the extent to which surveillance has become normalized and pervasive in modern society. Moreover, Orwell's depiction of propaganda and the manipulation of truth find striking parallels in contemporary media and political discourse. In an era of "fake news," echo chambers, and algorithmic bias, the novel's warning about the dangers of propaganda and misinformation rings truer than ever. Orwell reminds us that without a commitment to truth and transparency, society risks descending into a dystopian nightmare where reality is subverted and dissent is silenced. Furthermore, The English language is 'in a bad way', Orwell argues in this famous essay from 1946. As its title suggests, Orwell identifies a link between the (degraded) English language of his time and the degraded political situation: Orwell sees modern political discourse as being less a matter of words chosen for their clear meanings than a series of stock phrases slung together. Orwell concludes with six rules or guidelines for political writers and essayists, which include: never use a long word when a short one will do, or a specialist or foreign term when a simpler English one should suffice. Orwell's critique of totalitarianism offers valuable insights into the dynamics of power and resistance in the modern world.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, George Orwell's "1984" remains a seminal work that continues to captivate and provoke readers with its stark portrayal of a dystopian society dominated by totalitarian rule, surveillance, and the manipulation of truth. Written over seven decades ago, the novel's themes of political oppression, privacy concerns, and the erosion of individual freedoms resonate with contemporary audiences, offering a timeless critique of power, authority, and the human condition. The novel's enduring relevance can be attributed to its profound insights into the complexities of modern society, including the ethical implications

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<sup>1</sup> PRISM shares similarities with the ubiquitous surveillance and monitoring system depicted in the novel, reflecting the pervasive surveillance and control by the government.

of technological advancements, the challenges of regulating information in the digital age, and the role of government and corporations in shaping our lives.

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