

 <p>Gateway Journal for Modern Studies and Research (GJMSR) E-ISSN: 3083-8207 WWW.EVENTSGATE.ORG</p>	<p><b>Scientific Events Gate</b>                  مجلة البوابة للدراسات والأبحاث الحديثة  <b>GJMSR</b>  <b>Gateway Journal for Modern Studies                  and Research</b>  <a href="https://gjmsr.eventsgate.org/gjmsr/">https://gjmsr.eventsgate.org/gjmsr/</a></p>	 <p><b>GJMSR</b>                  Gateway Journal for Modern Studies and Research</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Analyzing the Road to Tyranny in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

Eman Anwar Kahil  
 Minia University-Egypt  
[e\\_m\\_anwar@yahoo.com](mailto:e_m_anwar@yahoo.com)

**Received: 18 Aug. 2024 – Accepted: 30 Oct. 2024 Available online: 27 Nov. 2024**

**Abstract:** This research is written on the light of a Marxist theoretical framework to discuss problems ingrained within society and politics. The research hypotheses suggests that power results in the corruption of leaders and therefore to the start of a Totalitarian regime. The research poses questions such as what is the impact of communism on societies and what are the dangers that totalitarianism brings upon them. To answer these questions, the research uses the tools of literary and thematic analysis as well as historical contextualization. The research is limited to the text of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. The main goal of the research is to tie together the terms: Communism and Totalitarianism, and describe the relationship between them. The second goal is to explore the transition from Communism to Totalitarianism in *Animal Farm*. These objectives were verified using the analytical approach by analyzing the allegorical elements of the novella and referencing previous scholarly works. The study concluded with the results that the hold of power is mainly the thing that transforms the political system from communism to totalitarianism. Furthermore, propaganda, language manipulation, and historical alteration, are the methods with which tyrants use to enforce their rule. The results emphasize the significance of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked power and the fragility of democratic ideals. The research concludes with the recommendations that encourage further studies on the subject in other different contexts.

**Keywords:** *Animal Farm*, George Orwell, Communism, Totalitarianism, Marxist Theory.

تحليل الطريق إلى الاستبداد في رواية جورج أورويل "مزرعة الحيوان"

إيمان أنور كحيل  
 جامعة المنيا-مصر

[e\\_m\\_anwar@yahoo.com](mailto:e_m_anwar@yahoo.com)

**المخلص:** تم كتابة هذا البحث في ضوء الإطار النظري الماركسي لمناقشة المشاكل المتأصلة في المجتمع والسياسة. تقترح فرضية البحث أن احتكار السلطة هو ما يؤدي إلى فساد القادة مما يؤدي بدوره إلى بدء الأنظمة الشمولية. يطرح البحث أسئلة عدة من أهمها: ما هي التأثيرات التي تخلفها الأنظمة الشيوعية على المجتمعات؟ وأيضا ما هي المخاطر التي قد تتسبب بها الأنظمة الشمولية لهذه المجتمعات؟ وتم استخدام كل من التحليل الأدبي والموضوعي بالإضافة إلى السياق التاريخي كأدوات للإجابة على أسئلة البحث. البحث محدود بسياق رواية "مزرعة الحيوان" للكاتب جورج أورويل. وتمثل الهدف الرئيسي للبحث في الربط بين الأنظمة الشيوعية والأنظمة الشمولية، و وصف العلاقة بينهما. بينما تمثل الهدف الثاني في استكشاف عملية التحول من الأنظمة الشيوعية إلى الأنظمة الشمولية في سياق رواية "مزرعة الحيوان". وقد تعمق البحث في إيضاح كيفية تسبب السلطة في فساد القادة ومن ثم تأديتها إلى بداية نظام شمولي، بالإضافة إلى إظهار تأثير الشيوعية على المجتمعات وأيضا إظهار المخاطر التي تجلبها الشمولية عليها. وتم تحقيق هذه الأهداف باستخدام

النهج التحليلي من خلال تحليل العناصر المجازية للرواية و الرجوع الى الدراسات العلمية السابقة. و توصلت الدراسة الى نتائج مفادها ان الحصول على السلطة هو السبب الرئيس في تحول النظام السياسي من الشيوعية الى الشمولية. علاوة على ذلك، فان الدعاية و التلاعب باللغة و تغيير التاريخ هي الاساليب التي يستخدمها الطغاة لفرض حكمهم. تؤكد نتائج الدراسة على اهمية مزرعة الحيوان لجورج أورويل كقصة تحذيرية حول مخاطر السلطة المطلقة و هشاشة المثل الديمقراطية. اختتم البحث بالتوصيات التي تحت على القيام بالمزيد من الابحاث المتعلقة بالموضوع في سياقات اخرى مختلفة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** مزرعة الحيوان، جورج أورويل، الشيوعية، الشمولية، النظرية الماركسية

## 1. Introduction:

Literature is a written medium that uses stylized structures and expressions to deliver or criticize an idea. Throughout history, novelists, playwrights, and poets used literature to imitate the circumstances of their age and express their personal views on them. George Orwell is one of those great writers whose works have left a substantial mark on the literary field and continue to be influential to this day. Being an author who witnessed several political events, Orwell was famous for writing about and criticizing political ideas such as communism, imperialism, etc. One of his most stunning works that had placed him on a high pedestal on top of modern literature is *Animal Farm* (1945), an allegory that explores Orwell's political opinions on Russia's political affairs at the time. Orwell was known for his ability to predict the outcome of political events, and his works were loved because of their political and prophetic nature. When Totalitarianism was at its first stages, Orwell was able to catch a glimpse of it and predict the consequences it would entail. He uses *Animal Farm* as a means to explore the transition from communism to totalitarianism in the Soviet Union. Through the narrative, Orwell illustrates the inherent vulnerabilities of socialist ideologies when confronted with the corrupting influence of power.

## 2. The main research problem

The research aims to address how the corruption of ideals is the main method that leads to Totalitarianism. The research argues against Ideals such as equality for all and states that they are doomed from the start to be distorted and eventually corrupted which in turn leads to the main problem of this research and that is the inevitability of Totalitarianism. The research questions the possibility of achieving revolutionary goals without creating a power vacuum for a potential dictator in the process.

The study analyzes these problems drawing parallels between the events in *Animal Farm* and the historical context of the Bolshevik Revolution.

## 3. Objectives of the study

- To explore the relationship between Communism and Totalitarianism.
- To demonstrate the transition from Communism to Totalitarianism in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* by analyzing the narrative.
- To examine the corruption of power.
- To establish the Relevance of the Topic.

## The importance of the study

The importance of the study is to warn societies against practicing Communism and its possibilities.

## 4. Literature Review

This literature review will provide a theoretical framework for the analysis of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell that has been a case of study for many researchers who explore its theme of totalitarianism, power, and corruption. The study will highlight relevant historical events, and showcase other scholarly works that have explored similar themes.

### 4.1. Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework of this study is rooted in the Marxist literary criticism, which analyzes literature through the lens of class struggle. Communism is a political and economic doctrine that aims to replace private property and a profit-based economy with

public ownership and communal control of at least the major means of production (e.g., mines, mills, and factories) and the natural resources of a society (Dagger and Ball, n.d:para1). The idea of Communism is derived from the Marxist theory. The Marxist theory as established in the Communist Manifesto, published in 1848 by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, highlights the prevailing socioeconomic situation and encourages the formation of a society devoid of class (Inch, 2016:8). Marx believed that the proletariat, which are the lower class, are exploited and oppressed by the upper class and the bourgeoisie. He argued that this unequal conflict between the two classes could only be resolved by revolution. Marx's idea of a socialist society was criticized by Orwell in this novel. Shortly after the animal's revolution, the pigs took control and eventually, they rehashed the rejected system of hierarchy that discriminates between animals and sets the pigs on top. Thus, totalitarianism emerged.

The concept of Totalitarianism can be described as the dominance of the leader who controls the elite, manipulates ideology, and aims to control the state, society, and individuals (Umam, 2016:3). To describe a system as being totalitarian it must have specific characteristics. First and foremost, Totalitarian regimes are distinguished by having a single leader who seizes power and takes control of the state, individuals, and their ideology with the help of a single party. In *Animal Farm*, Napoleon represents that dominating leader who controls the animals

in the farm and manipulates their ideologies in order to make them submissive. Totalitarian leaders also use fear to intimidate and keep their subjects at bay. That fear stems from the use of a secret police that practices strong repressive methods. Napoleon established himself as a dictator by surrounding himself with vicious dogs he raised in secrecy to be his force of suppression. But in order to subjugate their citizens, totalitarian governments indoctrinate people and especially the youth, feeding them lies about history to glorify their dictator and insure their loyalty to him.

While Napoleon indoctrinated the dogs when they were puppies to grow up and be his tool of spreading fear, the other pigs, especially Squealer, indoctrinated the other animals to believe in the greatness of Napoleon. Furthermore, propaganda plays a huge role in totalitarian societies. According to Inch (2016:10), the reasons which drive the working class into handing over their minds and free will to the authorities include: the cult of personality and various forms of propaganda. Jewett and O'Donnell break propaganda down as being a deliberate, systematic, attempt to shape perceptions and achieve a desired response (Inch, 2016:17). In the novel, Squealer plays the major role of being Napoleon's spokesman who manipulates the other animals into believing Napoleon's lies. In the novel, Squealer uses different strategies to fool the simple-minded farm animals. He employs his tail movements as a body language trick to add to his dazzling speeches in order to persuade the animals. He also makes sure to load his speeches with data and statistics about the increase in productivity rate to convince the animals that they live in better conditions than before. He represents misleading media in general, but in particular he represents the Pravda press division that Stalin used to brainwash people of Russia into adhering to his rule.

Another characteristic of totalitarian regimes is the employment of a cult of personality. The process of forming a cult personality that totalitarian governments use begins with overhyping the leader and creating a romanticized image of his greatness. Napoleon exploits this strategy by ordering for poems to be written about him, and ordering for pictures of him to be hung, as well as giving credit to himself for every good thing that happens in the farm. For instance, during the hens' conversation, one of them would say "under the guidance of our leader comrade Napoleon, I laid five eggs in six days"; or even

when the cows are drinking water they would also say "thanks to Comrade Napoleon's leadership, the water here tastes so sweet!" (Orwell, 1945:46).

To maintain their rule, totalitarian governments manipulate language through the process of simplification to mislead the public and obscure the truth, making it difficult for people to realize their oppression. One major example of the pigs' simplification of language in *Animal Farm* is the simplification of the whole seven Commandments into only one vague statement: "Four legs good, two legs bad". Due to the constant repetition of this simplified version, the animals progressively forgot the exact stating of the Commandments, which made it hard for them to spot their gradual change.

The gradual modification of laws is a common practice of the totalitarians, that allows them to justify their actions and maintain their control. Throughout the novel, the gradual modification of the Commandments marked the pigs' gradual ascend to power and foreshadowed the tragic future of the animals in *Animal Farm*. The first ever commandment to be changed was "No animal shall sleep in bed" where it was changed to "No animal shall sleep in bed with sheets". Another commandment that went under alteration was the sixth commandment "No animal shall kill any other animal" and it became "No animal shall kill any other animal without cause". The process of deleting, adding, and editing the Commandments continued until there was only one commandment at the end. "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" which served in the pig's favor.

Another effective strategy totalitarian governments use to keep their rule and to distract their people is the creation of conflict. Their desire to distract people stems from their want to cover things that if noticed would not be in their favor. So, they create a common enemy that keep eyes away. In *Animal Farm* chapter four, Mr. Jones and other armed farmers return to the

farm to try and take it back. However, Snowball's brilliant battle strategy drove the men away. Snowball then was declared the hero of the battle, and he was awarded the "Animal Hero-First Class" medal. Yet, after his exile, Squealer gaslighted the animals in believing that Snowball was in fact a conspirator working for Jones. From that point onward, Snowball was made to be the enemy of the farm and the revolution, and they blamed him for any bad thing that happens in the farm.

It was said, he came creeping in under cover of darkness and performed all kinds of mischief. He stole the corn, he upset the milk-pails, he broke the eggs, he trampled the seedbeds, he gnawed the bark off the fruit trees. Whenever anything went wrong it became usual to attribute it to Snowball. If a window was broken or a drain was blocked up, someone was certain to say that Snowball had come in the night and done it, and when the key of the store-shed was lost, the whole farm was convinced that Snowball had thrown it down the well. (Orwell, 1945:39)

Similarly, after the exile of Trotsky in 1929, his historical image was misrepresented and facts about his role in the revolution were twisted. He was relieved of his position and was falsely accused of treason in 1940.

*Animal Farm* as a novel gains its importance from it being an allegory. An allegory is "A story or visual image with a second distinct meaning that is partially hidden behind its literal or visible meaning" (Umam, 2016:2). The events of *Animal Farm* parallels the events of The Bolshevik Revolution. Each character in the story represents a figure in the revolution. The ironic situation of the Bolshevik Revolution is elaborated on in the novel. By the end of the novel, the animals find themselves returned to the same living circumstances they used to live in before their revolution.

In the book, the animals in Manor Farm, which represents Russia, were under the rule of Mr. Jones, who represents the Czar. Mr. Jones is an oppressive figure who imposes his authority on the animals and makes them live in terrible conditions with little-to-no food, in addition to exploiting their products. He robs the chickens of their eggs, steals the cows' milk away, enslaves the horses, and abuses their strength to drag his cart. Animals in this case are depicted as the peasants and the proletariat while humans are the upper dominant class. As the poor living conditions of the animals worsened, the oldest wisest pig in the farm Old Major, who partially stands for Marx and partially for Lenin, provoked them to revolt. The ideas of the Communist Manifesto were depicted clearly in his speech.

Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings? Only get rid of Man, and the produce of our labour would be our own. Almost overnight we could become rich and free.

What then must we do? Why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race! That is my message to you, comrades:

Rebellion! (Orwell, 1945:4)

During that speech, Orwell foreshadowed the existence of a certain hierarchy among the animals through the order in which the animals are sitting. The pigs are sitting in the front row while the rest of the animals, like the horses and goats, are placed behind them.

After Old Major's demise, the flame that he lit in the hearts of the animals began to bear its fruits and the revolution broke out. The revolution was a success and Mr. Jones was driven away. The farm's name was changed from Manor Farm to Animal Farm. The animals set up their own system which they called Animalism, parallel to Communism, and they also made a flag of their own to represent them. A hoof and a horn were drawn on the flag to embody the hammer and sickle on the flag of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, they established the Seven Commandments which they wrote on the side of the barn. Shortly after the revolution, there was a genuine feeling of having succeeded in achieving a communist society in which the Marxist motto states "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" was fulfilled. The farm is now flourishing because of the work the animals do, not for anybody else but themselves, and the animals are not burdened beyond their capacity anymore. As time

went on, the pigs, feeling entitled because of their intelligence, assigned themselves the job of

coordinating the animals and they assumed leadership. By doing so, they have announced themselves the rulers which was the first sign of the betrayal of communism as it marked the emergence of class division.

From the very beginning and similar to Stalin, Napoleon was depicted as an opportunist and a greedy pig, as proven in chapter two when he stole the buckets of milk behind the backs of the other animals. On the other hand, Snowball mirrors Trotsky in the sense that they are both characterized by remarkable ambition. Snowball is presented in the story as a planner and a draftsman. A proof of his ingenuity is the blueprints he drew for the windmill. Being an adequate speaker, Snowball tried to sweet-talk the animals into adhering to his idea of building the windmill, however Napoleon was not content with it. This event mimics what happened between Stalin and Trotsky over the development of the Soviet Union. Agriculture was prioritized by Stalin while Trotsky turned his attention to industry. Another point of disagreement between the two pigs was whether they should spread the idea of Animalism to other farms or focus only on theirs. Snowball argued for the former. He suggested spreading the word of revolution by sending pigeons to next-door farms.



Comparably, Stalin and Trotsky quarreled over whether they should extend the idea of revolution to other neighboring countries, as the principle of Marxism states, or focus their energy on building a socialist state in Russia.

Napoleon's and Snowball's back-and-forth arguments created a kind of rivalry between them that eventually led to the brutal banishment of Snowball who barely escaped the clutches of Napoleon's vicious dogs in Chapter five. The exile of Snowball marked the end of the revolution and the start of a tyrannical reign. Napoleon established himself as a dictator by setting up a wheedling crowd to hail and salute his name, in addition to surrounding himself with the now grown-up puppies that he snatched in Chapter three, to be his force of suppression. At this point, Napoleon has already painted himself as an almighty figure and a force to be reckoned with. After Snowball's banishment, the animals were surprised by Napoleon's actions and they were puzzled as to why he would do such a thing. Napoleon however was prepared to meet their shock with an arsenal of intellectual weapons of propaganda, indoctrination and language manipulation.

Stratification in *Animal Farm* is apparent between the pigs and characters like Boxer, where the former personifies the upper class while the latter embodies the lower class. Boxer the court horse is a well-meaning hard worker who's filled with devotion towards the interests of the farm. An example of his undying dedication throughout the story is the repeated scenes of him telling the rooster to wake him up before everyone else to go to work, in addition to his catchphrase, "I will work harder". Eventually, due to Boxer blindly believing in the pigs' propaganda, he changed his motto to "Napoleon is always right, and I will work harder". Despite his loyalty and sincerity, his dimwittedness led to him being exploited. In the end, he was led to his death and sold out to a glue-boiler.

#### 4.2. Historical Context

Orwell was opposed to communism and wanted to warn against it because it plants the seeds for totalitarian regimes. Orwell came to this conclusion after witnessing several historical events that ended with catastrophes. One of these events was The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). From this event, Orwell borrowed the theme of internal strife and integrated it within the narrative of *Animal Farm* as the animals' unity is undermined by the pigs' lust for power. Furthermore, the actions of Napoleon in *Animal Farm* as he monopolizes control were driven from The Great Purge was the in 1936-1938 when political repression took the form of wide-ranging purges of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

The Bolshevik Revolution, which Orwell parodied in the novel, happened in October 1917 when Vladimir Lenin led a rebellion against Czar Nicholas the Second in Russia. Lenin's rebellion called for equality and with the help of his comrades Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky,

they took down the kingdom of Czar Nicholas the Second. The oppressive regime was abolished by the laborers' Communist Party, and Lenin transformed the political system of Russia into a communist one. The Bolsheviks were able to fulfill Marx's Dream by overthrowing the monarch capitalistic system and bringing about equality among all. However, the life of comfort didn't last long. Following the death of Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky

took on the mental. Not shortly after that, Trotsky was exiled by Stalin who sought power, and once again, Russia became a capitalist country after disposing of Communism when the Soviet Union was dismantled. The Revolution that the oppressed proletarians have made to have equal rights has backfired and brought a worse dictatorial system. This sudden change of events was a sign of the beginning of a totalitarian regime.

## 5. Previous studies

Several scholarly works have been dedicated to exploring the theme of Totalitarianism in *Animal Farm* and other literary works. Among these studies are:

- Awan and Raza (2016) presented an analysis of Totalitarianism and its terrible impacts on society. They dove deep into Marxism exploring its history, principles, and ideologies. They then discussed the impacts of both totalitarianism and Marxism on the creation of dystopia in George Orwell's selected works *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.
- Eke and Ikechukwu (2017) explained how different rulers around the world have used several ways to carry out their politics, and how society sees its leaders as peace enforcers while those same leaders are ruling corruptly.
- Klicperova-Baker and Košťál (2017) delved into the state of frustration under the pre-1989 Communist authoritarianism. They discovered different opposite patterns of frustration. The results of their research help explain the psychology of Communism, post Communism, transition, and democratic consolidation.
- Hasan and Bahasin (2020) used a historical approach for the analysis of *Animal Farm*. They observed the leader's abuse of power and their exploitation of the people. They discovered how possession of knowledge and education will lead to absolute power which culminates in the oppression of simple and naïve people in the Soviet Union.
- Nur and Arafah (2020) analyzed the classless society in *Animal Farm*. They used a sociological analytical approach to describe class division within the novel. They also used a qualitative method and a descriptive analysis method in analyzing the data.
- Turkey and Al-Hilu (2020) aimed to analyze the language in *Animal Farm* and how it can be used as an oppressive tool that can be manipulated to lead to a totalitarian state. Furthermore, to analyze the data of the study, they used Grice's theory of implicature and the cooperative principles as models of analysis as well as the qualitative method. The results of their study established that language can be used for the propagation of power and authority.
- YAN and LIU (2021) analyzed Orwell's use of *Animal Farm* as a fable story and how it describes a destruction of a society.

This study distinguishes itself from others in four major ways. First, it contains a detailed examination of the change in communism to totalitarianism as told in George Orwell's novella. Unlike earlier studies that have tackled issues related to this subject, this research combines Marxist Theory and historical analysis in an effort to tackle the corruption of the ideals of the revolution, the contemporariness of it all, thorough coverage of themes, and critical engagement with the predictions professed by Orwell.

## 6. Research Methodology

### Research Design

This study was based on a qualitative design. It uses literary analytical approach to the study of themes of communism and totalitarianism in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. In this way, the qualitative nature of the research gives the opportunity for an in-depth exploration of the

text in efforts to decipher its allegorical representations of historical events and socio-political commentary within in its narrative.

### Analytical Framework

The study uses the Marxist literary criticism which is a literary analysis and criticism method keen to observe how the classes are represented in literature and what is more, how the class distinctions are reinforced. The bases of its inquiry are class struggle, power dynamic

representation, and ideological manipulation. This will allow readers to understand exactly how the events depicted in Orwell's novel correspond with real historical events—the Bolshevik Revolution and the gradual rise of Totalitarianism.

### **Data Collection**

The study used two types of data sources to discuss the problem presented in it and explore solutions to them. The first and primary data source is the subject of the study itself, the novel *Animal Farm* written by George Orwell. The second data source is a collection of scholarly articles and books regarding the issues and ideas of communism and totalitarianism.

### **Data Analysis**

The study analyses data using three methods of analyzation. The first is textual analysis. The study offers a close reading for the novel to explore major themes, symbols, and character representations in addition to the dynamics of power and oppression. Certain chapters and events have been selected to demonstrate how Orwell lays out and criticizes totalitarianism and the betrayal of revolutionary ideals. The study also uses contextual analysis by looking closer at some real-world historical events relevant to the subject, such as the Russian Revolution, the Great Purge, and the Spanish Civil War and then compare them to Orwell's narrative to figure out the connection. Finally, the study employs comparative analysis. After the results of the textual and contextual analyses were compared to the general literature on *Animal Farm* and totalitarianism, an analysis of previous research was conducted to summarize ideas and identify gaps in the existing research papers.

## **7. Results and discussion**

Marx's idea of a socialist society was criticized by Orwell in this novel. According to Marx, since man is the seed of creating governments, only man can bring them down and substitute them with better and more just systems. To Orwell however, men are vulnerable to the corruption brought by power. In *Animal Farm*, Orwell makes it clear that a socialist society is impossible to have due to the instinct of men to seek power. In the story, the revolution that's based on Marxism failed because a particular group took hold of power. In the book, Orwell debated two problems. The inevitability of lower-class enslavement, and the vainness of rebellion. The following quote summarizes Orwell's thoughts of the possibility of the working classes changing their lot in life and paints a bleak picture as to his belief in their chances:

What you get over and over again is a movement of the proletariat which is promptly canalized and betrayed by astute people at the top, and then the growth of a new governing class. The one thing that never arrives is equality. The mass of the people never get the chance to bring their innate decency into the control of affairs, so that one is almost driven to the cynical thought that men are only decent when they are powerless. (Inch, 2016)

Despite *Animal Farm* being considered as one of the excellent examples of literary criticism of totalitarianism and a warning about the influence of corruption and power on communist regimes, there are some scholars who oppose this notion, and pose counterarguments to Orwell's as well as raise alternative interpretations to the matter.

One of the major counterarguments here is that Orwell's critique is generalized beyond communism to include all forms of power and authority. As critics like Rodden (1999) have discussed, *Animal Farm* works more as a kind of universal fable about the dangers of power;

he remarks that Orwell's work criticizes not just Communism but the potential tyranny at the



heart of any political system. According to Rodden (1999), the experiences of Orwell with

several political regimes—fascist, communist, and nationalist—made him convinced that "the lust for power is a universal human trait." Moreover, some scholars feel that Orwell oversimplifies the complexity of revolutions. Historian Jonathan (2014) says "Revolutions are necessarily messy and have necessarily involved a multiplicity of factors: socio-economic conditions and the diverse motivations of the individuals involved". Therefore, it is important to examine the historical context in which Orwell wrote *Animal Farm*. Indeed, as commented by critics such as Callinicos (1983), Orwell's experience with historical events such as The Spanish Civil War caused him to be disillusioned with the Soviet Union which meant that he reflected his experiences through the communists in the story. Such a situation leads to questions of whether Orwell's criticism is a fair to apply on all communist movements before him. Another counterargument covers the point of how human nature is presented through the narrative of *Animal Farm*. Critics commented on Orwell's portrayal of the animals as tyrants and how that reflects his own negative view of human nature as opposed to communism. In fact, through such a critique, it appears that Orwell is of the opinion that flaws inherent within human behaviors such as greed, and ambitiousness are the very root of tyranny and not necessarily the ideology.

However, This study is in line with George Orwell's point of view and his critique of the transition from communism to totalitarianism. In the novel, Orwell truly demonstrates and explores how the doctrines of Animalism, parallel to communism, become corrupted gradually and progressively through showing the lust of the pigs for power. This power lust is a betrayal of the original commandments that mirrors what actually occurred in the Bolshevik Revolution; the first aspirations to equality and justice were overthrown by Stalin. Furthermore, propaganda in *Animal Farm*, embodied by the character of Squealer, shows how manipulation of language works in favor of controlling and misleading people. Orwell's showcase of how fear acts as a means of control is evident in many historical instances of totalitarianism. The character of Napoleon is the embodiment of applying such methods, wherein he uses the dogs against anyone who rebels against his rule. The evidence supporting these claims are many. Orwell uses historical parallels, the characterization of the pigs and the role of Squealer to solidify his argument. Orwell's retelling of real-life events, mainly the Bolshevik Revolution, demonstrates how tyrants can gradually reach the position of ultimate power and control. Basically, Orwell shows how revolutionary movements can end up being means of oppression. As for the pigs in the novel, they represent the upper class that exploits the proletariat. The final commandment that they tampered with speaks volumes of that as it states "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others". This summarizes their betrayal of equality which formed the bases for the animals' revolution. Furthermore, the role of Squealer as the regime's icon of lies is an overt example of how totalitarian regimes impose reality onto the public and which has only one overarching aim: to promote oppression. Therefore, the research results indicate that the hold of power is primarily what transforms a political system from communism to totalitarianism.

## 8. Conclusion

The research findings provide a thorough examination of power dynamics, and political ideologies. An analysis of George Orwell's novella is made on the light of the Marxist theory which shoveled through the historical context of the Bolshevik Revolution and posed

questions on very important issues, regarding the nature of authority and whether it is always prone to corruption within any political regime.

The research aims to give the message that revolutionary ideals, like Marxism, are doomed to corruption in the end when the power is possessed by a few. In the novel, this is pointed out by the transition from the equality of all animals in the farm at the beginning to totalitarianism. This establishes a warning that noble ideals eventually result in oppressive ends. The analysis marks propaganda's role in controlling the opinions of the masses. The events of the novel serve as a reminder and as an important lesson for the current day nations of how regimes can mold and manipulate public opinion, especially in a world with social

media and wide exposure to misinformation.

The research highlights that the cult personality —an overall aspect of totalitarianism which is still being applied by rulers around the globe, is one of the important factors behind the rise of a dictator. Its importance stems from its utilization of techniques toward self-preservation and at the cost of democracy. As a final point, the research invites critical consideration to a leadership that might hold dangers of authoritarianism.

The research discusses the problem of inequality among social classes where some classes hold the power over others, this huge gap is between social groups is making the story about class struggle. In *Animal Farm*, the lower class is shown to be exploited by the upper class in the form of the pigs and the rest of the animals. This is a reminder to be cautious from the emergence of such a system.

The historical events which *Animal Farm* is based on are real events in the real world. This fact presents some very worthwhile lessons in the present world. Orwell's story invites the reader to deep thinking on the history; how many times had revolutions repeated themselves, and led humanity into new tyrannical systems instead of liberating them.

These findings hit very close to home in an age of political polarization, resurgence of authoritarianism, and misinformation. As societies move through multiple power dynamics and governments, lessons learned through *Animal Farm* remain as a clear warning of how easy it is for authority to grow out of control when people are kept away from participating in the political process. Not only does this research increase the understanding of Orwell's critique of the political systems, but it also gives a framework to better comprehend problems of the current age that are related to power and social justice. The research encourages and invites people to look at the implications of the novel and provides clarifications and explanations for them to take Orwell's warnings into account in our present times and beware of the consequences of ignoring them as well as to seek to bring a political regime where a equality and justice for all people are its core principles.

## 9. Recommendations

- Further studies should go into the historical parallels of *Animal Farm* with other such revolutions in different cultures and varied time periods.
- Deeper understanding of the mechanism of power and propaganda in the novel could be done by approaches interlinking literary analysis with political science, sociology, and psychology.
- Future research may be done in comparative studies of other literary works over the same thematic strand of power, corruption, and totalitarianism.

## 10. References

Awan, A. G., and Raza, S. A. (2016). The Effects of Totalitarianism and Marxism towards

- Dystopian society in George Orwell's selected fictions. *Global Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 2(4), 21-37
- Callinicos, A. (1983). *The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx*. Bookmarks.
- Conquest, R. (1990). "The Great Terror: A Reassessment". New York: Penguin Books.
- Dagger, R., & Ball, T. (n.d.). Communism ideology. In *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved March 9, 2024 from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/communism>.
- Eke, O., and Ikechukwu, G. I. (2017). Usage and Influence of Leadership, Power and Authority in Our Society Using Orwell's *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty Four*.
- Hobsbawm, E. J. (1994). "Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914- 1991". London: Michael Joseph.
- Hasan, M., Muhammad, L., & Bahasin, G. (2020). Abuse practice of power in Orwell's *Animal Farm*: A historical approach. *Journal of Culture, Arts, Literature, and Linguistics*, 6(1), 383-399.
- Inch, J. (2016). Communism and the betrayal of the revolution: A Marxist critique of the post-revolutionary manipulation of the proletariat in *Animal Farm*. Faculty of Education and Business Studies, University of Gavle.
- Jonathan, I. (2014). "Revolutionary ideas: An intellectual history of the French Revolution from The Rights of Man to Robespierre". Little, Brown and Company.
- Klicperova-Baker, M., and Košťál, J. (2017). Post-communist democracy vs. totalitarianism: Contrasting patterns of need satisfaction and societal frustration. *Communist and Post Communist Studies*, 50(2), 99-111.
- Nur, N. A., and Arafah, B. (2020). THE REFLECTION OF CLASSLESS SOCIETY IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *ANIMAL FARM*. *JURNAL ILMU BUDAYA*, 8(1), 91-96.
- Orwell, G. (1945). *Animal farm*. Secker & Warburg.
- Rodden, J. (1999). "The politics of literary reputation: The making and claiming of 'St. George' Orwell".
- Karl Marx: The Manifesto of the Communist Party. (n.d.). Sparknotes. Retrieved February 24, 2024, from <https://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/marx/section2/>
- Turkey, T. A., and Al-Hilu, M. J. (2020). The power of language in Orwell's novel: *Animal Farm* a pragmatic study. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities*, 10(02), 225-233.
- Umam, F. (2016). The Portrayal of Totalitarianism in *Animal Farm*. Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta.
- YAN, J., and LIU, X. R. (2021). An Analysis of Totalitarianism in *Animal Farm* from an Allegorical Perspective. *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*, 11(2), 79-83