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“People Should Beware of Politicians as Well as Media”: An Analysis through George Orwell’s 1984

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Abstract:

This article emphasizes the influence of media and politics over the lives of people as well as society. Here, I would like to portray the hazardous deeds or double faces of media and politics. Media and politicians or politics became an unavoidable thing nowadays. George Orwell’s novel 1984 shows the story of the rebellion of the individual, Winston Smith, against the authority of Oceania. It actually discusses the progress of our nation has didn’t change for the better, but it has changed for much worse in a quiet, unknown, unfeeling, unobservable way and the influences of media and politicians. It engraves the sense of Orwell’s mind about what’s wrong with the modern world. Main purpose of this mesmerizing work is to warn the readers about the hazardous face of the Media and the poisonous deeds in politics and Orwell also warns the west about the dangers of Totalitarian government. Through 1984 Orwell incontrovertibly portrays the perfect totalitarian society, the most extreme realization imaginable of a modern day government with absolute power. If the leaders or the people are not willing to moderate their religious ethnic warmth for the well being of the others and the peaceful co-existence of all the people in the world.

Keywords: Rebel, Winston Smith, Totalitarian, Power, Politics, Media.

Have you ever think about a life being followed by Media and a suppressed life by the government or the politicians? Don’t think too much. Because that life is not so far, it is very much close to us. Now we all are like puppets. Yes we have lost our thinking ability and Media and the politicians, government shapes our thoughts today. We can’t completely blame these things and authorities. They have their own merits. But more than the merits we have to fear the demerits. Because it has the power to destroy us. The same situation is portrayed here by George Orwell in his novel 1984. “The world with unlimited authorities and without any

freedom”. We are living under the control of authority under their feet without any individuality and identity as our own. In short we are living like puppets. It’s not fictitious but fact behind our government. In clearly we can say we are living in a totalitarian world dominated by politicians and media.

In *1984* George Orwell portrays an edge to the suppressed people that means the extreme of power. Orwell manifests the clear portrait of the government. It’s not only an issue included in this novel, but it is the current stage of our government. This novel shows the future of a totalitarian government where our thoughts and actions are controlled or chained at every time.

“War Is Peace

Freedom Is Slavery

Ignorance Is Strength” (2)

This is the official slogan of the party which is described in Orwell’s novel. War is a terrified fact to each and every individual. Slavery is the extreme of death. But according to officials in government it is like merriment. There is no limit for the corruption that is done by our authorities. Our government has underrated and they are in the extreme of low level. They use their own power into the corruption. If anyone have voice against them they will become culprits and their life will alter in to a torment.

1984 manifests a real government or current state of the government. It is a novel of a dystopian society. The emperor of this society is named as Big brother. Orwell talks about the government of Oceania in his novel. Here the authorities are unlimited and the freedom is limited. The government ministries is too powerful who decides the entire life of the people and decides to rule the society. Ministry of truth is responsible for education, entertainment, fine arts and the news. It is also a political novel which is written with the purpose of the perfect totalitarian society or government through his dystopian novel *1984* in a satiric way. Title of this novel means a represented a real possibility for the near future. Orwell shows a state in which government controls every aspect of human life to the extent that even having a disloyal thought is against the law.

Winston Smith, the protagonist of the novel, who works in the department of ministry of truth for rewrite the history of the part according to their wishes and who fights with the authorities to achieve their freedom, individuality.. He is intellectual. He is rebellious, which is his most prominent character trait. He challenges the party as well as challenging its authorities. He keeps an eye on the party and hardly tries to aware the people about the party's traits. In order to find and destroy the party's misdeeds smith always followed the acts of the party.

Nowadays Media is an inevitable thing in our society as well as our life. Media has the power to manipulate the truth. They can easily trespass in to our lives. Media is a powerful thing used by Orwell in this novel, because it has an incredibly influence others and shape their thoughts as they like. Even though the fact is clear media catches the news of political issues and manipulates it in to their own opinions. But the issue is that at times they believe whatever the media conveys them. Nowadays people are completely influenced by modern media because of that people will not think independently. So media can change even their thoughts like Winston's thought changed by the party. Because everyone is under the surveillance of the so called Big brother who is the authority of the party. People have to believe the part or the government blindly and they made themselves fools and helps for the growth of government.

"The purpose of Newspeak was not only to provide a medium of expression for the world-view and mental habits proper to the devotees of Ingsoc, but to make all other modes of thought impossible" (303).

Dominative power of government will eventually turns in to corruption. They can easily make people fools. *1984*, an American classic explores the human mind when it comes to power, corruption, control and the ultimate utopian society. This novel is very relevant today, because it shows how the government tries to control the minds and bodies of citizens, as it says, "Thought crime doesn't entail death; Thought crime is death" (10). People are not aware about the politicians, parties and government. Every year they casts their votes, apart from that they are innocence who doesn't know the facts and they are always ready to obey the rules of government or politicians.

People's mind and thoughts are beyond their control. The government or the politicians instructs them how to think or what to do. Without their permission people cant do anything and

cant go anywhere. Their entire life is being watched by the political party through the tele-screens fixed in their surroundings. Independence and identity are the major theme of this novel. Politicians tries to control their minds capacity for independent thought through the effective psychological manipulation tactics and party destroys all sense of Independence and individuality. People are only permitted to think what the party orders to them. According to the party independent thought can be dangerous, it might lead to rebellion.

"With its grace and carelessness it seemed to annihilate a whole culture, a whole system of thought, as though Big Brother and the Party and the Thought Police could all be swept into nothingness by a single splendid movement of the arm"(33).

Politics and media, both are the two sides of a coin and both are too dangerous and sharpen like the edge of a sword. If media can affect the thoughts of people politics can affect their life. When we looks around our society we can know there will be so many problems and majority of them are because of these politics or politicians. Not every part or politicians are bad. There will be evil and good. In onese side we can saw many of the promises which are not completed by them, Because after the election they all are just a fake words. In another side we can see so many brutal killings for achieving high positions, money, publicity etc... Then what about the media, nowadays its all became a competitions. Media should be a service to the people. Through that people should aware about the world and their surroundings. It shouldn't be a way to separate people or shouldn't be a way to attack. But the fact is that media has a main role in the separation or misdeeds between people. Both the media and politics can harm people hazardously.

In Orwell’s *1984* we can see the influence of media and politics which dominates the people. Both can easily shape the thoughts of the people. Winston is the suitable example for that. Winston was an intelligent boy who fought against the party to achieve freedom of the people and he wants to keep their individuality. But when he caught by the party his character was totally changed and he was ready to trait his lover and he began to love the so called Big brother who is the authority of the party. That much he influenced by the party or the media that led him to trait his conscience. It proves that media and party can easily spread poison to the minds of the people. We can also see the independence and individuality when Winston argues to O’Brien that he is a man, O’Brien counters that, if Winston is a man he is the last man on earth. According to him independence is evidence of insanity. Leader of this party is named as

Big brother who is the ubiquitous presence who dominates the society with ruthless efficiency. Big brother is a power or domination of the complete control. By keeping or using the image of Big brother the government of Oceania can keep the citizens on a tight leash. All are totally corrupted by the power. “But if thought corrupts language, Language can also corrupt thought”.

Orwell thinks the problem of domination is because of class or cast or race or for political gains and it is more atrocious than ever. It demands solution. Orwell is also from an upper middle class family. The feeling of superiority will provoke and leads to the corruption of power like absolute power corrupt absolutely. Orwell had strong anti totalitarianism points of view and he satires socialism. There is no fault in questioning the government for their corruptions. It is our right. But before that we have to think independently and have to make an identity.

What would be the condition of our world without freedom? What will us do if the media and politicians take the complete hold of our life?, that’s the tragic illustration by Orwell through his 1984. When a government or people come to power they proffer collection of offers to the people. But eventually they will forget that and begin to use their power in inappropriate way. When we began to question it they will try to muzzle us. Later they will immure freedom to think as well as incarcerate us in jail. It is a hard fact that if anybody tries to correct them, government or the authority will try to confine them by using their power.

This was the situation which Orwell tried to utter through his dystopian novel. There is no dissimilitude in Orwell’s government and our current government. We can see the accretion level of corruptions. If we keep on counting the list of corruption has no end.

- Government promise 2 crore jobs in each year but after certain government comes into power lakhs of people become unemployed.
- Promises of zero balance account, it ends up in with the minimal amount of Rs 3000
- They forgot about the shelters, millions of Indians still starving and according to the government they made India “digital”.
- India is getting ruined entirely due to the GST

This is only a pinch of the lion’s share.

There are so many political parties in our society. Organization is the primary advantage of the political parties. Political parties can be abusive in some times. Not every government is a representative form. Compromise is the primary disadvantage of politics or political parties, Nowadays we can see so many martyrs who lost their life for this dirty parties.

In *1984* Winston is a member of the party and also frustrated by the omnipresent eyes of the party, not only the party also by the ruler “Big Brother”. He is the controller of everyone. People have to obey the party who controls their day to day life. According to party people are machines who obey their instructions without any prevention. We can see the political statements in *1984*. It doesn’t contain any prophetic declaration. It is only a simple warning to mankind and also warning for the whole human race.

Orwell portrayed the dangers of totalitarianism as a powerful theme of his novel. Totalitarianism is a political concept that elucidates a mode of government, which interdicts opposition parties...etc. It was first developed by Weimar jurist and later Nazi academic Carl Schmitt and Italian Fascists in the 1920s. According to the Italian Fascist Benito Mussolini;

“Everything within the state,

nothing outside the state

Nothing against the state”

Orwell illustrates the perfect totalitarian society in his novel, the extreme knowledge of a modern government with power. The world of this novel *1984* is led by the so called Big brother who is depicted as the authority whose posters are pasted on the walls with a caption “Big brother is watching you”. Through this poster he presents a giant attack against people privacy. In every home they established tele-screens with a strict gazing. If anybody is suspected they will be taken in to custody by Thought police. As the novel continues the protagonist Winston decides to challenge the party or the limits of the power of the party. Through Winston’s eyes readers get to know about the number of techniques of the party which is used to control its citizens. Even when he is sure that he is being monitored he struggled against the party. He begins to act against party by keeping a diary of his secret thoughts which is a fatal thought crime. Along with his lover Julia, he begins a predetermined fight for their freedom and justice. He has also interiorized

the fears about party and desires. The party also ensures control over people by disarraying personal fidelities to anything other than itself. Family unity is disrupted as children are appointed to spy on their parents and report bad behaviors or attitudes against party and suppression of sex outside of marriage prevented people from creating bonds beyond party allowed relationships.

"It's the one thing they can't do. They can make you say anything - *anything* - but they can't make you believe it. They can't get inside you"(167)

Justice holds an important part in Orwell's novel. It is an important fact in *1984*. According to Plato "Justice is the interest of the stronger". In 1984 an controlling government or totalitarian government which is called the party, rules the society. They established telescreens which monitor every action. People of Oceania had to believe in the three slogans which is contributed by the party "War is peace, Freedom is slavery, Ignorance is strength". They introduced Newspeak, a language which is a tool to control free thought of the people. Party is always aware about the thoughts and actions of people. The language has also invented as an attempt to complete elimination of political rebellion. It creates crime thoughts to stop people even thinking of things considered rebellious. They control the people from what they read, speak, say and do. Winston hardly believes that the organization of the proles or the ordinary people is the only way to the emancipation of the society from the Party.

Justice is the legal or philosophical theory by which fairness is administered. But the meaning of justice is different in this novel. Justice is when the people obey the law which is what the people of Oceania are doing. In this novel they defines novel as what they are doing by telling the people is only for their good and they are compulsively suppressing the three slogans in to people brains. The law had to force the citizens to care just about the party. May be *1984* is the most famous novel for its search of the relationship between language and thoughts.

It is not only just a historic novel. It is a relevant one. It is a novel which warns about the Future.. It also says about the atrocities faced by the people who live in Oceania and gives a strong message to us. It says that 'No Heroes In The Face Of Pain'. Pain is equal for every human being. There are no winners or losers in it. There should be a day for the people who suffer the atrocities by the authorities as well as party. There should be a bang for the authorities. Because

Pains doesn’t consider person, whether it is hero or rival. May be today’s winners will be tomorrows losers. *1984* does have a bit of a reputation for being a bit pedantic, and that’s not inaccurate—there are entire chapters in the book which are chapters from a political book within the book explaining the basis of the society. The political aura of the novel is discomfotingly prescient of something disastrous to come.

In *1984* party has double intention. This double intention is an ability to hold two completely contradictory beliefs at the same time as well as to believe that they are both true. Because of the party influence people ultimately lose the ability to form independent thoughts. Party uses this double intention as a part of its large scale campaign of propaganda and psychological manipulation of its leadership and the public.

According to Orwell double think is; “To know and to not know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while telling carefully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them, to use logic against logic, to repudiate morality while laying claim to it, to believe that democracy is impossible and that the party was the guardian of democracy. To forget, whatever it was necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it was needed, and then promptly to forget it again, and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself.”

May be the most powerful and effective and a fearful thought of the *1984* is that the complete control over the nation under the authority or their surveillance under the party.. If our world fell under the power or an authority or the control of one our future could easily become a twisted one. Orwell’s novella is a warning for the whole people or the human race. It highlights the importance of resisting mass control and oppression and how dangerous is the power. May be one day people will realize that the time has come to corroborate a new world. Only then they can continue their thinking and get to their freedom.

Even though media has its own advantages it’s too dangerous sometimes. It has an incredible role in society as well as our lives. It gives people license to hurt anyone. It diminishes understandings and thoughtfulness. The most important thing in communication or media is hearing what is not said. It creates a skewed self image. Sometimes it also causes to the deaths of

so many people because of their manipulations of the news's. They can simply change a truth in to fake and fake in to truth. In Orwell's novel at last the party succeeded in separating the lovable couple Winston and Julia and it proves that politics or the media can easily betray people and shape their thoughts.

In Orwell's novel we can see the hard life of people because of the media. They are surrounded by the tele-screens or the media. They can't speak to anyone and can't travel to anywhere and they can't even think. Because of the trespassing of media, politicians Winston write his diary secretly in a hidden place where the tele-screen can't see.

The situation Orwell talks in his novel 1984 is not that much distant from us. It is the same situation in our country too. People are running behind money, power, position, its called Politics. Then media No need of explanation. Nowadays it becomes a invaluable thing and at the same time an unavoidable thing. It is very much inevitable in our current life. So people should be aware of Politicians and media. It makes a distinction between truth and fact and Orwell explores the political, social, ethical, moral nuances of manipulations which is evil in order to control society as well as individuals for their political gain. Orwell's main goal was to aware people about the totalitarianism which is influenced by politicians and media.

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