

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the conflicts in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in the previous chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions. In my opinion, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a book that is worth analyzing. The conflicts in the book give me knowledge and deeper understanding about the characteristics of a totalitarian government and how the citizens suffer under the regime. Each conflict provides me with different findings about the terrifying traits of totalitarianism.

In *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, I find some social conflicts between Winston and O'Brien about whether the citizens' thoughts and opinions may differ from the state's or not, and between Winston and his ex-wife, Katharine, about whether sex is for pleasure or merely a tool to produce more children for the country. From the conflicts, it can be seen that totalitarianism forbids individual opinions and social relationships, such as friendship and love, so that the people will not trust each other. This finding is not surprising as totalitarian governments are characterized by the use of many spies in their societies as a way to prevent possible rebellions.

The second inner conflict happens when Winston should decide whether to continue loving Julia or not as he faces dreadful tortures from the Party. Tortures, both physical and psychological, are also common in totalitarianism. From the social and inner conflicts in the novel, we can see that the conflicts are all caused by the totalitarian government system.

People who live in a totalitarian society have absolutely no freedom, whether it is to speak, to act, to desire, to aspire or to love. The government has an absolute control over its people. The citizens have to do what the government tells them to do, just like Winston has to believe that two plus two equals five and that Oceania has always been at war with Eastasia. They are not allowed to want anything, to wish for anything, and even to love anybody. It is forbidden for Winston to fall in love with Julia. Sexual acts are not performed out of love, but simply as a duty to produce children for the country. Katharine, Winston's ex-wife, is indoctrinated that sex is neither for pleasure nor love, but to produce the new generation of the country. Spies are everywhere, ready to catch those who are suspected of rebelling against the country. Punishments, usually harsh ones, await those who rebel.

I also notice that the citizens in the novel are not happy at all. Though they act as if they live happy lives, deep down they actually suffer because the government determines all their actions and they have absolutely no freedom. They also have a constant fear that they might do things that are deemed wrong by the country.

The society has also indoctrinated their citizens since they are little. In *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, children are encouraged to be little spies.

In the end, after experiencing such social and inner conflicts, Winston in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is forced to give up all his rights and freedom. He then becomes what the government calls “a good citizen,” which is actually a slave to Oceania’s totalitarian ruler, Big Brother.

I think Orwell’s motive to write *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is caused by his past experiences. He experienced living under a totalitarian government and he despised it. Orwell hated totalitarianism because of his horrible experiences while volunteering as a soldier in the Spanish Civil War (in this war, the opposing side adopted Fascism, a part of totalitarianism). **He had a near-death experience when he was shot through the throat by a sniper in 1937.** Orwell wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four* at the end of his life to warn people about the danger of totalitarianism and I think he has succeeded in doing it.

After analyzing the social and inner conflicts in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, I sympathize with the protagonists and generally all the citizens of those totalitarian societies. It must be awful to have no freedom and to have your life controlled so extremely by the government. I cannot help but agree with Orwell that totalitarianism is really horrible and frightening. Totalitarianism only cares about the well-being of its rulers. Totalitarianism kills freedom, individuality and creativity. Citizens are all forced to become slaves for their rulers without them even knowing it. It is an awfully selfish form of government and will bring no good for its citizens.