1984 Essay, Research Paper

1984 as an Anti-Utopian Novel

A utopia is an ideal or perfect community. While some writers have created

fictional places that embody their ideals societies, other writers have written

satires that ridicule existing conditions of society, or anti-utopias, which show

possible future societies that are anything but ideal. In 1984 , George Orwell

presents a terrifying picture of future as life under the constant surveillance of

?Big Brother.? This book 1984 is an anti-utopian novel.

The main character Winston Smith lives in the large political country

Oceania, which is eternally at war with one of two huge countries, Eurasia and

Eastasia. At any moment all existing records show either that Oceania has always

been at war with Eurasia and allied with Eastasia, or that it has always been at

war with Eastasia and allied with Eurasia. Winston knows this, because his work

at the Ministry of Truth involves the constant correction of news. ?Who controls

the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past,? the party

slogan reads. Basically, Winston takes real news and twists it to what ?Big

Brother? wants the people to know.

In the grim city and terrifying country, where ?Big Brother? is always

watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind, Winston is a

man in great danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. He

knows the party controls people by feeding them lies and taking away their

imaginations. The Party forbids thought, love, and relationships. Drawn into a

secret love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary

organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party.

Together with his lover Julia, he puts his life on the line in a deadly match against

the powers of the Party.

George Orwell creates an anti-utopian society in the novel 1984 . The

society involves monitors called telescreens watching you every step you take, love

is forbidden, conformity, and your assigned to work at one of four ministries. In

this society you can?t enjoy life or have any fun. After reading the novel you hope

that the future wont be dreadful. ?When 1984 was new, and 1984 far in the future,

the novel struck its most responsive readers as an unprecedented torment, an

extreme and intolerable vision that stood out? (Miller 19).

The book makes the reader put their head up and question if this is how our

time will end. Orwell creates a book where being different is illegal. ?In 1984

Orwell is trying to present the kind of world in which individuality has become

obsolete and personality is a crime? (Howe 322). Imagine living in a society

where if you expressed your own opinions or ideas you would be sent to a Ministry

of Love where you would be tormented and corrupted. Living in Oceania doesn?t

seem like an ideal lifestyle.

In 1984 you see the Party kill Winston Smith?s individuality. ?Winston

Smith, the hero of the novel, is shown arming himself with ideas against the Party

and defying it by forming a sexual relationship with Julia: but from the first we

know that he will not escape the secret police, and after he is caught we see him

undergoing a dreadful metamorphosis which burns out his human essence, leaving

him a wreck who can go on living only by becoming on of them? (Rahv 313). It is

sad that Winston can?t overcome the power of the Party. It seems all faith in a

pleasant future will be stopped by the Party.

1984 ?s anti-utopian society is a horrible one. If the future is as dark as

George Orwell portray, lets hope we have individuals that will fight for a better

world. Anti-utopian novels open up peoples eyes about life and existence.

Works Cited

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