A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF GEORGE ORWELL'S ANIMAL FARM

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the political allegory presented in Animal Farm by George Orwell, focusing on its central themes, character development, authorial style, and socio-cultural implications. The study also explores psychological aspects of power and control, providing a comprehensive academic interpretation of the novel.*

Keywords: *Animal Farm, George Orwell, political allegory, totalitarianism, power, symbolism*

Published in 1945, Animal Farm is a satirical novella that reflects the socio-political conditions of the early 20th century, particularly the events surrounding the Russian Revolution and the rise of totalitarian regimes. Orwell uses anthropomorphic animals to critique political systems and human behavior, creating a timeless piece of literature that continues to resonate in modern contexts.The central idea of Animal Farm revolves around the corruption of ideals and the abuse of power. Initially, the animals strive for equality and freedom from human oppression, inspired by the vision of a

utopian society. However, as the pigs gradually assume leadership, the revolutionary principles are distorted. The famous statement "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" encapsulates the betrayal of the original ideology and highlights the inevitability of power leading to inequality when unchecked.

The characters in Animal Farm symbolize key figures and social groups from the Russian Revolution. Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin, embodying tyranny and manipulation. Snowball reflects Leon Trotsky, characterized by intelligence and progressive ideas but ultimately exiled. Boxer, the hardworking horse, symbolizes the proletariat, whose blind loyalty leads to exploitation and tragic downfall. Squealer acts as propaganda machinery, illustrating how language can distort truth and maintain control over the masses.Orwell's writing style is marked by clarity, simplicity, and irony. He employs satire and allegory to convey complex political ideas in an accessible manner. The use of animals as characters allows readers to detach from specific historical events while still understanding their broader implications. Orwell's precise language and symbolic narrative structure contribute to the effectiveness of his critique.Animal Farm addresses significant socio-cultural issues such as class division, propaganda, and authoritarian governance. It demonstrates how easily societies can be manipulated through misinformation and fear. Psychologically, the novel explores themes of obedience, cognitive dissonance, and the human tendency to accept authority without question. The transformation of the pigs reflects how power can corrupt individuals and reshape moral values.

From an analytical perspective, Animal Farm serves as a powerful warning against political complacency and the dangers of concentrated power. The novel illustrates that revolutions often fail not because of flawed ideals, but due to the human tendency toward greed and dominance. Scientifically, the text

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can be interpreted through the lens of political psychology, emphasizing how group dynamics and authority influence behavior.Orwell's Animal Farm remains a critical literary work that transcends its historical context. Its exploration of power, ideology, and human nature makes it relevant in analyzing contemporary political systems. The novella not only reflects past events but also provides insight into ongoing global issues.

The narrative structure of Animal Farm is built upon a progressive transformation of a revolutionary ideal into a totalitarian regime. At the beginning of the story, the animals are united by a shared vision of equality and justice, largely inspired by Old Major's philosophical speech. This moment can be interpreted as a symbolic representation of ideological awakening, where oppressed groups begin to recognize their collective power. However, Orwell demonstrates that the absence of critical thinking and institutional control mechanisms leads to the rapid degeneration of these ideals.One of the most significant aspects of the novel is the manipulation of language as a tool of power. Through the character of Squealer, George Orwell illustrates how propaganda can reshape reality and influence perception. The gradual modification of the Seven Commandments serves as a clear example of linguistic distortion. This reflects the broader concept that those who control discourse can ultimately control thought, a theme deeply connected to political communication theories and media influence in modern societies.

Furthermore, the economic dimension of the farm reveals an unequal distribution of labor and resources. While the working animals, particularly Boxer, contribute significantly to the farm's productivity, the ruling pigs appropriate the benefits. This imbalance mirrors class exploitation, where the labor force remains unaware of its own oppression due to ideological conditioning. Orwell subtly critiques not only totalitarian regimes but also any socio-economic system that allows power concentration without

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accountability.In addition, the role of fear and violence is crucial in maintaining authority within the farm. Napoleon's use of trained dogs to intimidate other animals highlights the reliance on coercion rather than consensus. This reflects political theories that emphasize the use of force as a stabilizing mechanism in authoritarian governments. The public executions depicted in the novel also contribute to a culture of fear, effectively suppressing dissent and reinforcing obedience.Psychologically, the behavior of the animals demonstrates the concept of learned helplessness and conformity. Despite witnessing clear injustices, most animals choose not to resist, partly due to their limited education and partly due to fear of consequences. This aspect of the novel aligns with social psychology experiments, such as those exploring obedience to authority, suggesting that individuals often comply with oppressive systems when they perceive resistance as futile.

Orwell integrates irony throughout the narrative to emphasize the contrast between appearance and reality. The pigs gradually adopt human behaviors, such as walking on two legs and engaging in trade, which directly contradicts the principles of Animalism. This transformation signifies the cyclical nature of power, where the oppressed may become indistinguishable from their former oppressors once they gain authority.Another important dimension is the failure of memory and historical awareness among the animals. As time passes, the original goals of the rebellion become increasingly distorted. This loss of collective memory allows the ruling class to reconstruct history in its favor. Orwell suggests that control over historical narrative is essential for maintaining long-term dominance, a concept that remains relevant in discussions about education, media, and national identity.Overall, the main body of Animal Farm presents a multifaceted critique of political systems, combining elements of economics, psychology, and sociology. Orwell's work serves not only as a reflection of a specific historical period but also as a

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universal analysis of how power operates and evolves within any structured society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Animal Farm by George Orwell presents a profound and enduring critique of political power and its inherent tendency toward corruption. Through the use of allegory and satire, the author effectively demonstrates how revolutionary ideals can be distorted when authority is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals without accountability or transparency.The analysis of the novel reveals that the failure of the animals' society is not merely a result of external oppression, but also of internal weaknesses such as ignorance, passivity, and lack of critical awareness. Orwell highlights that the manipulation of language, control of information, and use of fear are essential tools through which authoritarian systems sustain themselves. These elements remain highly relevant in contemporary political and social contexts, making the novella a timeless warning against blind trust in leadership.Furthermore, the psychological and socio-cultural dimensions explored in the narrative emphasize the importance of education, collective memory, and active participation in governance. Without these factors, societies are vulnerable to exploitation and ideological manipulation. The transformation of the pigs into figures indistinguishable from humans ultimately symbolizes the cyclical nature of power and the fragility of equality.From a scientific and analytical perspective, Animal Farm contributes to the understanding of political psychology and social behavior, illustrating how individuals and groups respond to authority, propaganda, and structural inequality. Therefore, the work remains not only a literary masterpiece but also a significant academic resource for examining the dynamics of power and human nature.

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