

1984: The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism

Annotate these notes thoroughly. Connect to the themes of Alienation, Love, Individuality/ Freedom of Thought and Speech, Governmental Control, Appearance vs. Reality

Chapter 8:

I. O'Brien's Apartment

- a. real cigars, wine and food present in apartment
- b. O'Brien turned the telescreen off!
- c. O'Brien has a servant who appears to be Eurasian (unsure though)
 1. Winston begins to question whether to trust O'Brien
 2. How can he explain Julia's presence there too?
 3. O'Brien is calm and collected in all that he does

II. Incrimination

- a. "We want to put ourselves at your mercy"-Winston admits to O'Brien that he and Julia are adulterers. They hate B.B. and are ready to take him down.
- b. O'Brien entices them to proceed, offering them wine.
 1. Winston is surprised that wine is so bitter
- c. They discuss what they are prepared to do—the servant is part of this as well
 1. The servant plays a part—he seems one way, but is really another
- d. Page 172-Winston is prepared to do anything against BB-even throw acid on the face of babies. They are surrendering themselves to O'Brien
- e. O'Brien's last test is to ask if they would separate themselves from one another, never to see each other again.
 1. Julia can't take it! She says no!

Focus: Analyze the passage on page 173 beginning with "Do you understand that..."

III. Indoctrination

- a. O'Brien informs Winston about "the book"
 1. it is Emmanuel Goldstein's book on the Brotherhood
- b. There is no telling how many people are in the group and Winston will be limited to what he knows. He just has to trust that he will eventually get caught, but that is part of the process.

Focus: Analyze the passage on 175 beginning with "You will have..."

- c. O'Brien dismisses Julia and tells Winston how he will deliver the book to him.
 1. Winston reveals his room above the shop and divulges his hiding places.

Focus: Analyze the passage from 178-179

After discussion, we will read the first five pages of chapter 9. After, we will analyze Emmanuel Goldstein's novel.

Finally, Winston reaches the apartment, sits on the bed, and opens the book. He reads the title page: "The Theory and Practices of Oligarchical Collectivism by Emmanuel Goldstein." Winston begins to read. The book opens with a

discussion of **basic class levels**. Winston decides to jump ahead and begins reading the third chapter, which discusses how the world was split into three super powers. Russia absorbed Europe, and the United States absorbed Great Britain. A decade later, after a great deal of fighting, Eastasia finally solidified. Eurasia consists of the whole,

"northern part of the European and Asiatic land mass, from Portugal to the Bering Strait, Oceania comprises the Americas, the Atlantic islands including the British Isles, Australasia, and the southern portion of Africa. Eastasia, smaller than the other and with a less definite western frontier, comprises China and the countries to the south of it, the Japanese islands and a large but fluctuating portion of Manchuria, Mongolia, and Tibet."

Goldstein explains that for the past twenty-five years, these super states have been permanently at war, despite the impossibility of a decisive outcome. Goldstein claims that the goal of modern warfare is to use the products created by society without raising standards of living. When a war is on, massive production is needed, but economic growth is impossible. The super state populations are kept "bare, hungry, and dilapidated," compared to how they lived before the Revolution.

Goldstein notes the difficulty in maintaining a balance between wealth and power in healthy, growing societies. He explains that it was perceived that the only way to strike an effective balance and make all members of society equals **would be to quickly distribute goods to prevent consumer growth**: "The essential act of War is destruction." Scientists no longer pursue knowledge alone. Rather, they study facial expressions to determine ways to detect thoughtcrime, or chemistry to develop new weapons. Goldstein even notes that there has been very little development in weaponry. Each country still builds and hoards atomic bombs, which were developed long before the super states were established.

Oceania is ruled under the ideology of **Ingsoc**, Eurasia under **Neo-Bolshevism**, and Eastasia under what can be translated as either "**Death-worship**" or "Obliteration of the Self." All countries have an Inner Party, a Party, a prole structure, and worship absolute, semi-divine leaders. Goldstein states, "when war becomes literally continuous, it also ceases to be dangerous...technical progress can cease and the most palpable facts can be denied or disregarded." The people have no way of knowing the true state of the world, and must rely entirely upon the Party. Rather than being a war between nations, the war is waged upon the people to maintain loyalty, unity against a common enemy, and Party domination. Thus, as war maintains order in each individual nation, the meaning of the Party slogan "War is Peace" becomes clear.

Julia arrives, briefly acknowledges the book, and busies herself making coffee. Half an hour later, while lying in bed, Winston tells Julia she must also read the book, and she asks him to read it aloud so that they can both take it in at the same time. He begins again at the first chapter.

Goldstein discusses **the pyramidal shape of society, which consists of the High, who wish to remain high, Middle, who wish to change places with the high, and Low, who wish to develop a society based on equality among all men**. When the Middle works to overthrow the High, it enlists the Low to achieve its goals, and then pushes the Low back to their place. Thus, the Low are always trod upon, with no hope of true change or progress. This pattern became clear in the nineteenth century, when **Socialism began to gain popularity. The socialist movements among the superstates turned into totalitarian rule, which eventually evolved into Ingsoc, Neo-Bolshevism, and Death-worship, and worked directly towards developing "unfreedom and inequality."** The purpose of these systems was to stop progress and "freeze history at a chosen moment." Rather than moving forward, society moved backward, embracing concepts such as "imprisonment without trial, the use of

war prisoners as slaves, public executions [and] torture." Goldstein blames the invention of the television for the complete loss of privacy and the drastic increase in domestic spying. The television and propagation of print media allows superstates to develop and maintain complete uniformity in opinion.

Goldstein defines the four dangers to a ruling regime as being conquered from within, suffering from inefficient government leading to revolt, permitting a strong and independent Middle Group to develop, or losing self-confidence and willingness to govern. The main danger lies in the growth of liberalism. To address this, the government works efficiently to mold consciousness. As such, the infallible, all-powerful Big Brother sits at the apex of Oceanian society, as a representation of the Party to its country and the world, and "a focus point for love, fear, and reverence, emotions which are more easily felt toward an individual than toward an organization." Next lays the Inner Party, numbering approximately six million, less than two percent of the population. The Outer Party follows, filled with workers who allow the Party to maintain society, and finally come the proles, the "dumb masses" and non-Party members consisting of eighty-five percent of the population. Membership in these groups is defined by heredity, and each is monitored closely by the Thought Police to weed out any independent thinkers.

Goldstein goes on to discuss the advent of Newspeak, the total lack of privacy demanded by the Party, and the central notion of the mutability of the past. Goldstein focuses specifically on the Newspeak word "doublethink," which means "the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them." Goldstein notes that the Party tends to embrace contradiction, "constantly linking opposites - knowledge with ignorance, cynicism with fanaticism," peace with war, truth with lies, plenty with starvation, love with torture. In this way, the Party has abandoned every basic principle of Socialism and turned its back on the original goals of the Revolution.

Winston stops reading and realizes that Julia has fallen asleep. He lies down next to her, noting that he still has not learned the "ultimate secret." He knows *how*, but not *why*. He knew all of these things before, but reading Goldstein's words showed him that he was sane. He falls asleep murmuring, "Sanity is not statistical."

Neo-Bolshevism: The Bolsheviks, founded by Vladimir Lenin, were an organization of professional revolutionaries under a democratic internal hierarchy governed by the principle of democratic centralism, who considered themselves as the vanguard of the revolutionary working class of Russia. Their beliefs and practices were often referred to as **Bolshevism**. Bolshevik revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky frequently used the terms "Bolshevism" and "Bolshevist" after his exile from the Soviet Union to differentiate between what he saw as true Leninism and the regime within the state and the party which arose under Stalin.

All goes back to Marxist theories: struggle of classes, critique of capitalism, revolt of the proletariat.

Begin reading again at page 217