

## **A Critical Analysis of George Orwell's Animal Farm**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is going to present a critical analysis of political allegory depicted by George Orwell in Animal Farm and discuss the topicality of the satirical look at the totalitarian political regime. The given paper reviews with a detailed analysis the themes, symbolism, and character development introduced in the novel while assessing Orwell's critique of the political ideology and the corrupting influence of power. This analysis underlines the historical background of the novel, its thoughts about the betrayal of revolutionary ideals, and its importance to current political discourse. While evaluating both the literary and political dimensions of Animal Farm, this article evaluates its place as a foundational work of political literature.

### **Keywords**

- George Orwell
- Animal Farm
- Political Allegory
- Satire
- Totalitarianism
- Revolutionary Ideals

### **Introduction**

Published in 1945, George Orwell's Animal Farm is a defining work of political literature and allegory. Based on a farm upon which a group of animals revolt against their human owner to establish an egalitarian society, the novel represents a scathing critique of totalitarian regimes and the corruption of revolutionary ideals. Orwell's narrative both satirizes the Russian Revolution and generally comments on the dynamics of power and corruption.

The paper provides a critical examination of Animal Farm, deconstructing the allegorical structure, thematic content, and implications from Orwell's critique. Based on the analysis of the characters, symbolism, and narrating techniques used in the novel, this paper also further assesses the extent to

which Orwell employs satire to engage with the complexity of political power and its ramifications for ideals set by society.

### **Biography of George Orwell**

George Orwell, born Eric Arthur Blair in 1903, was one of the most accomplished English authors, journalists, and critics in particular, on political literature. Works by Orwell range from critical reviews of political regimes to social injustice and authoritarianism. His Spanish Civil War experience and the essence of totalitarian regimes made him develop his own views on political corruption and ideological betrayal.

The two major works of Orwell include *Animal Farm* (1945) and *1984* (1949); both are incisive critiques of totalitarianism and political manipulation. *Animal Farm* is a satirical allegory about the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalinism afterward, while *1984* conceives the potentially problematic development of surveillance and state control. His writings remain influential; in fact, there is a reflected commitment to social justice and political integrity in his writing.

### Critical Analysis of *Animal Farm*

#### Political Allegory and Satire

*Animal Farm* is generally understood to be a political allegory in the respect that this farm and its animal occupants serve to represent major figures and events of the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. The rebellion of the animals against Mr. Jones, with the rising to power of the pigs, seems to follow very closely the rise of the Bolshevik regime and the eventual establishment of a totalitarian state under Stalin.

**Allegorical Figures:** Major characters in the novel, such as Napoleon, Snowball, and Boxer, have representations of historical figures and classes. For example, Napoleon personifies Joseph Stalin; Snowball resembles Leon Trotsky. The tendencies of Napoleon's consolidation of power, and finally turning their backs on the ideals of the revolution, are pretty similar to the manipulations of Stalin and the cover-up of dissent.

**Satirical Techniques:** Orwell uses satire to comment on the disparities between what the revolution stood for and what the pigs had actually given the farm: the authoritarian leadership of the pigs. The fact that the original Seven Commandments are gradually eroded and the principles of the farm changed shows the corruption of the revolutionary ideals.

## **Themes and Symbolism**

The novel contains a number of important themes which are conveyed through the allegorical narration:

**Corruption of Power:** Orwell brings out how power corrupts and how very revolutionary ideals are hijacked to end up serving the interests of those at the helm. The transformation of the pigs from liberators to oppressors shows the corrupting influence of absolute power.

**Selling out the ideals:** The whole novel revolves around the theme of betrayal. The actions of the pigs have revealed a betrayal of their original ideals of the revolution, showing Orwell's critique of how political movements could deviate from the core ideals for which they originally came into being.

**Class Struggle and Exploitation:** The maltreatment of the working animals, above all Boxer, represents the maltreatment of the proletariat in the given totalitarian regime. Boxer's ultimate fate underlines the theme of betrayal and complete disregard for the working class by those in power.

**Manipulation and Propaganda:** It was into this that the use of propaganda by Napoleon and Squealer showed the role of manipulation in political control. Orwell depicts propaganda and false information as a critique of how leaders manipulate the truth to suppress dissent.

## **Narrative Techniques and Style**

This accessibility of the political critique further supports the fact that Orwell chose a simple, fable-like narrative structure for presenting the story. The presence of distinctively allegorical elements in a plot so plain allows readers easily not to feel overwhelmed by heavy symbolism. Furthermore, Orwell's concise prose and straightforward manner of storytelling contribute to delivering the message or critique of the novel easily.

Historical context is helpful in positioning *Animal Farm* as a critique. Written shortly after World War II, the novel expresses Orwell's disappointment in the Soviet Union and the wider repercussions of totalitarianism. The allegory allows understanding into the dynamics of political power coupled with the obstacles in sustaining revolutionary ideals.

## **Conclusion**

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* remains effective and current in its critique against political corruption and ideological betrayal. Through the fable-like narration, satire, and consideration of such essential

themes as the corruptive influence of power and the purpose of propaganda, the novel makes an engaging statement on how totalitarianism works. Orwell's critique is of great value because it shows what a political movement is experiencing and how civic virtues can be influenced by power. As a seminal work of political literature, *Animal Farm* can always strike the chord in readers and resonate with important lessons about the nature of power and ideology.

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