

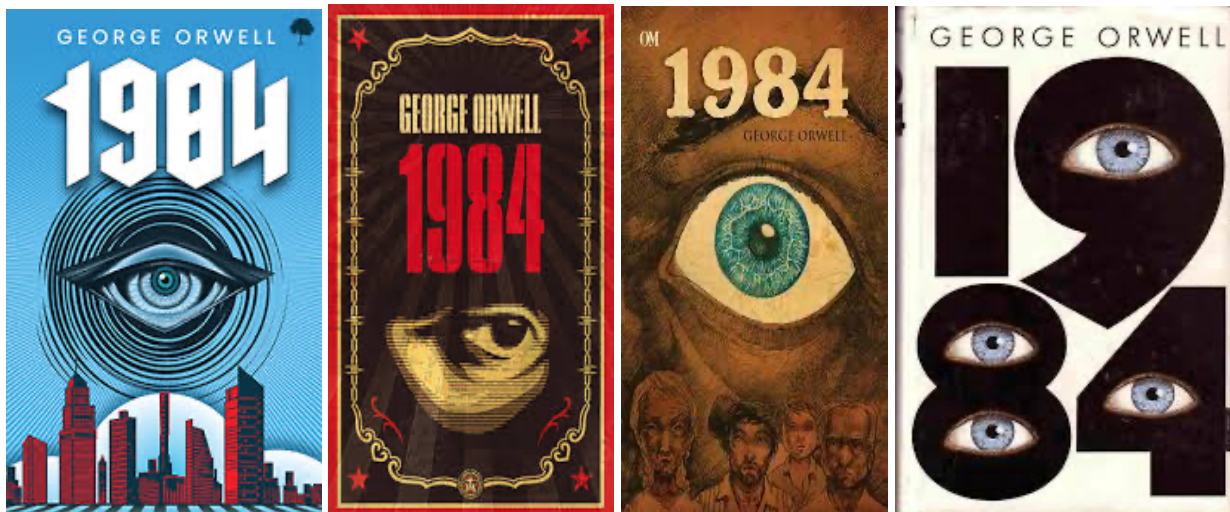
# 1984

*AUTHOR -*  
***GEORGE ORWELL***

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# INTRODUCTION

*1984* by George Orwell is a book we have all heard about; be it from a friend who is an avid reader, a recommendation from the English teacher or an old uncle/aunt who has a shelf full of a thousand books (we all know someone like that). To me it came as a suggestion when I was looking for a good fictional book to review for the ETC course assignment with a deep moral lesson and specially talking of relevant themes like politics and human behavior. My initial expectations looking at the title of the book was that it was set in a country in 1984 and talked about the politics of that era and taking tropes from the world around us at that time (during the Cold War) with both positives and negatives and how should the society progress to become an ideal one.



# SUMMARY

*1984* depicts a dystopian society governed by a totalitarian regime (The Party) that exerts absolute control over information, behavior and even thought. The narrative revolves around a man – Winston Smith who begins to question the oppressive system around him. As he seeks truth and freedom, he becomes increasingly aware of the psychological and societal mechanisms used to maintain power. The novel critically explores themes of manipulation, surveillance and control among others. It is truly a novel written way ahead of its time being cent percent relevant in today's world order as well.

The Central themes of the fiction are:

**Totalitarianism:** Orwell illustrates how a government can seek to dominate not only actions but thoughts, memory and identity because all they want is to remain in power and in control of you.

**Manipulation of Truth:** The Party constantly rewrites history; If they say they've always been at war with country X, it becomes fact - even if it was country Y yesterday. Truth becomes whatever the Party says it is.

**Surveillance and Control:** In this fictional world Privacy doesn't exist and the Party is constantly monitoring everyone through informants, telescreens and microphones. Even thinking of 'Anti-Party' thoughts is punishable by death and is called Thoughtcrime.

**Love and Loyalty:** Love and loyalty are depicted as dangerous threats to the Party's absolute control, genuine affection and personal allegiance are undermined and ultimately destroyed by the totalitarian regime.

The main characters of the fiction are as follows:

**Winston Smith:** The Protagonist, he dreams of truth and freedom

**Big Brother:** The face of the regime (he is everywhere) never appears in person- likely a symbol of the Party's absolute power

**Julia:** Winston's lover and ally

**O'Brien:** A high-ranking Inner Party member, believes in power for power's sake

**Emmanuel Goldstein:** The Party's designated traitor and scapegoat (may not even be real), blamed for everything bad

# ANALYSIS & OPINION

*1984* succeeds in presenting a chilling and thought-provoking vision of totalitarianism. Its greatest strength lies in its worldbuilding - Orwell constructs a regime so meticulously oppressive that it feels terrifying. The concept of Newspeak (the language spoken in AIRSTRIP-ONE) and the manipulation of truth are especially powerful in critiquing authoritarian control over language and memory. Additionally, the psychological depth of the protagonist enhances the reader feel.

How-ever some aspects could have been better: The pacing occasionally slows; Julia's character, though central to the plot, lacks development limiting her effectiveness as a counterpoint to Winston. Despite these minor flaws, *1984* remains a seminal work in political fiction, with enduring relevance in discussions of freedom, surveillance, and state power. Its success lies in its ability to provoke critical reflection long after reading.

An important message in the fiction is the critical danger of unchecked government power and the erosion of objective truth. The novel illustrates how authoritarian regimes can manipulate language, history, and thought to maintain absolute control over society. By constructing a world where facts are altered and individual thought is criminalized, Orwell warns against the

consequences of political apathy and blind acceptance of authority (Something we get to see a lot in countries around the world these days, even in India). The Party's control is not merely physical but psychological, demonstrating that totalitarianism succeeds when citizens no longer difference and reason between truth and propaganda. This message underscores the essential role of critical thinking, historical memory, and personal freedom in preserving democratic values.

### **DIRECT SPEECH EXAMPLE:**

“If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever,” said O’Brien.

### **INDIRECT SPEECH EXAMPLE:**

Winston had been told that the Party could make you say anything but it could not make you believe it.

# PERSONAL CONNECTION

*TO Me, 1984* remains deeply relevant today; particularly in an age dominated by surveillance technologies, misinformation, and growing concerns about freedom of expression. The novel's themes - such as the manipulation of truth, erosion of privacy, and control through language - mirror modern challenges like digital censorship, data collection, and political propaganda.

The book resonates with awareness of how information is curated (even on platforms like Twitter and Facebook even Whats-app) and consumed in academic and public spheres. Orwell's warning compels me to think critically, question authority, and value independent thought instead of believing the information and propaganda fed by the governments.

And for the question how it changes my perspective going into things; it shows how easily **truth can be twisted** and freedom be taken for granted. It makes me **second-guess** the information I ***take in*** daily especially from media and authorities (which we all know can't be relied on anymore). It also reinforces the idea that we must ***read between the lines*** to protect truth and thought.

# CONCLUSION

As far as recommending this book goes; I think this is a timeless fictional novel and was truly ahead of its time, it's almost like Orwell talks about future and its relevancy in the world today fascinates me of his progressive thought.

I would recommend *1984* to anyone interested in politics, history, media studies, or social justice; and any book reader looking for a timeless piece of fiction with a fitting moral lesson.

