**Political story back after Trump win**

[BY PAUL BRENNAN](http://paper.i21st.cn/story/116843.html#searchaid)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Recently, George Orwell’s classic story 1984 (1950) made its way back onto Amazon’s bestseller list. The coming to power of new US President Donald Trump has undoubtedly triggered (激发) new interest in this old book. Many Americans fear that Trump wants to manipulate (操纵) opinion through so-called “alternative facts (另类事实)” like the Party in Orwell’s dark novel.  
  
One incident (事件) in particular stands out. Trump was angered when newspapers reported that the crowd of people that came to witness his inauguration (就职典礼) was smaller than the one at Former President Barack Obama’s in 2009. Trump’s team even sent out fake pictures of this year’s event to give a false impression of the crowd’s size.  
  
Other things that Trump has said that have been proven to be untrue have added to people’s worries. One of his political opponents, Bernie Sanders, calls him a “pathological liar (病态撒谎者)”. Trump has responded to newspapers that have contradicted (批驳) him by calling them “the enemy of the American people”.  
  
The reason some are comparing Trump’s presidency with Orwell’s novel is that in it, the government spies on the public and tries to control what they think.   
  
Anyone who’s suspected (怀疑) of thinking against the Party, or behaves in a way the Party says he or she shouldn’t, can get into terrible trouble.  
  
This is what happens to the hero of the book, Winston Smith. He runs into big problems when he starts a love affair. Winston and his lover try to make their relationship a private thing – but in this state there is no privacy. He suffers torture (折磨) to make him think and act like the Party wants. The horror of the state is summed up (总结) in words used by Smith’s inquisitor (审讯者), who tells him: “If you want a vision (愿景) of the future, imagine a boot stamping (踩) on a human face – forever.”  
  
Even though British author Orwell’s book is quite old now, it’s been part of popular culture since it was published. It’s never gone out of fashion. Whenever a government comes to power that seems authoritarian (专制的), there are comparisons with 1984. But although many Americans are frightened about what tomorrow might bring, the United States is still a long way off from being like the dark future Orwell shows in his famous book.