**George Orwell – Life, Works & Legacy**

**Early Life & Background**

* **Real name**: Eric Arthur Blair, born **25 June 1903** in Motihari, Bengal, India. He adopted the pen name “George Orwell” after his first book for both anonymity and literary identity [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Educated in England at **Eton College** on scholarship, though he never attended university due to financial constraints [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* From **1922–1927**, he served in the **Indian Imperial Police** in Burma. This experience deeply shaped his early anti-imperialist views and literary themes [The Times of India](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/web-stories/8-interesting-facts-about-george-orwell/photostory/101256118.cms?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Early Writing & Social Experiments**

* After resigning in 1927, Orwell lived among the poor in Paris and London, working various menial jobs — including as a dishwasher — to better understand their plight. This period inspired his debut work **Down and Out in Paris and London** (1933) [factsking.com](https://factsking.com/historical-people/george-orwell-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* He later became a teacher and continued writing essays and journalism, deepening his critique of British society [factsking.com](https://factsking.com/historical-people/george-orwell-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Political Experiences & Non-Fiction**

* Orwell fought in the **Spanish Civil War** (1936–1937) for the Republican side and was wounded — this became the basis for his memoir **Homage to Catalonia** (1938). The war reinforced his stance against totalitarianism in all forms [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homage_to_Catalonia?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Other notable non-fiction works include **The Road to Wigan Pier** (1937), documenting working-class struggles in northern England [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[India Today](https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/george-orwell-304816-2016-01-21?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Fictional Masterpieces**

* **Animal Farm** (1945): A sharp allegorical novella satirizing Stalinism and tyranny, using farm animals to portray power structures turning corrupt [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_Farm?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2003/01/27/honest-decent-wrong?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* **Nineteen Eighty-Four** (1949): A dystopian novel depicting a totalitarian regime under constant surveillance by “Big Brother.” Introduced terms like "doublethink," "Newspeak," and "thoughtcrime" into global discourse [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteen_Eighty-Four?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Le Monde.fr](https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2023/07/08/comment-le-xxi-siecle-est-devenu-orwellien_6181089_3246.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Essays & Language**

* Orwell was a compelling essayist; his well-known essays—such as **“Politics and the English Language”**—warn about how language can be manipulated for political ends [Ablison](https://www.luxwisp.com/facts-about-george-orwell/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Vanity Fair](https://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2012/08/christopher-hitchens-george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* His works continually blended personal narrative with broader social critique, offering a human voice amid political discourse [The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2003/01/27/honest-decent-wrong?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Vanity Fair](https://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2012/08/christopher-hitchens-george-orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Beliefs & Legacy**

* Orwell was a committed **democratic socialist**, staunchly opposed to totalitarianism—whether fascist or Communist. He emphasized defending objective truth against authoritarian propaganda [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Le Monde.fr+1](https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2023/07/14/pourquoi-orwell-est-un-penseur-pour-le-nouvel-age-des-totalitarismes_6181919_3246.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* His vivid portrayals of surveillance, propaganda, and social control lend his name to the adjective **“Orwellian”**—used to describe oppressive regimes and manipulative political tactics [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteen_Eighty-Four?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Le Monde.fr](https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2023/07/08/comment-le-xxi-siecle-est-devenu-orwellien_6181089_3246.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Later Years & Death**

* Orwell battled **tuberculosis**, a disease that ultimately caused his death on **21 January 1950** in London at age 46 [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[factsking.com](https://factsking.com/historical-people/george-orwell-facts/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).
* Despite his relatively short life, his body of work—novels, essays, journalism—leaves a lasting impact on literature and political thought.

**Recent Recognition**

* A new documentary, **Orwell: 2+2=5**, premiered recently at Cannes, highlighting Orwell’s prescience about manipulation and surveillance, and his enduring relevance in today's political climate [TIME](https://time.com/7285352/raoul-peck-orwell-documentary-review/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).

**Summary Table at a Glance**

| **Area** | **Highlights** |
| --- | --- |
| **Real Name** | Eric Arthur Blair (1903–1950) |
| **Worldview** | Democratic socialism; anti-totalitarian |
| **Professional Beginnings** | Imperial police in Burma; social immersion in slums |
| **Major Non-fiction** | *Down and Out in Paris and London*, *Homage to Catalonia*, *The Road to Wigan Pier* |
| **Seminal Fiction** | *Animal Farm*, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* |
| **Language & Essays** | Political essays; coined "Big Brother," and influenced concepts like " Orwellian" |
| **Legacy** | Icon of political and linguistic clarity; continued cultural reference point |