**English Grammar & Composition**

**Mid Term Assignment**

**Topic: Animal Farm by George Orwell**

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**ERP 2299**

**Q) 1. Based on what you know about George Orwell and what you have read in Animal Farm, what kind of a political system was Orwell in favor of? If Orwell were alive today, do you think he would still be in favor of that political system? Please support your answer with references from Animal Farm as well as other supporting evidence.**

**Ans**) Animal Farm, written by George Orwell, is a beautiful representation of an animal society standing up against despotism. Therefore, making one of their own based on equality. They also develop their own seven commandments under the name of ‘Animalism’, laying out the grounds to achieve utopia and inculcating a sense of righteousness amongst all. However, when the leader (Napoleon) is blinded by the privileges he enjoys of being in command he loses his sense of morality and values he had built this farm on. He falls to the corrupt grounds of power, adapting violent and treacherous ways to rule the farm. George Orwell, through his animal Farm puts across his notion of true socialism and leftism which he believes was wrongly represented by Stalin during the Spanish Civil War.

George Orwell’sstance against totalitarianism is quite evident in his writing of Animal Farm where one-man rule was shown to be abominated. It provides us with an insight to George Orwell’s personal views as well as depicting his political outlook. Furthermore, a proof to his ideologies is very explicitly stated by himself: “Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism and for democratic socialism, as I understand it” (Orwell 2014). This sentence clearly demonstrates him being an advocate of democratic socialism, a system which led to a more egalitarian state. According to the books he wrote, it would not be wrong to say that he believed in a system where power was rather used as a tool to provide for people and ensure equality amongst all than to abuse it. Orwell witnessing and fighting against fascism in the Spanish Civil War made him loathe any form of dictatorship which is then highlighted in Animal farm where Napoleon is despised when he rises to the position of absolute power and forgetting his initial policy on egalitarianism.

It is also argued that Orwell’s writing often seemed to criticize socialist views which is rather contradictory to the popular belief. This, however, can be explained through his statement “I became pro-Socialist more out of disgust with the way the poorer section of the industrial workers were oppressed and neglected than out of any theoretical admiration for a planned society." (“Animal Farm” n.d.). Having said that, Orwell realized after the success of Spanish workers in the revolution that real socialism could be achieved. In his book The Road to Wigan Pier, he says “Socialism means a classless society, or it means nothing at all. And it was here that those few months in the militia were valuable to me. For the Spanish militias, while they lasted, were a sort of microcosm of a classless society. In that community where no one was on the make, where there was a shortage of everything but no privilege and no bootlicking, one got, perhaps, a crude forecast of what the opening stages of socialism might be like. And, after all, instead of disillusioning me it deeply attracted me. The effect was to make my desire to see socialism established much more actual than it had been before.” (Orwell 2001).

However, when the workers were betrayed by their government as it saw the workers bedlam to be more threatening than fascism, the revolutionaries were put behind the bars. Orwell then describes his stance as “It is probable that the emotion that brought people into the streets was [that] the issue seemed clear enough: On one side the CNT, on the other, the police. I have no particular love for the idealized ‘worker,’ but when I see an actual flesh-and-blood worker in conflict with his natural enemy, the policeman, I do not have to ask which side I am on.”

The rise of Stalin and Hitler-Stalin pact signed in 1939 added to Orwell’s fury. He saw socialism as a system to be more citizen-centric and where people could enjoy their rights of freedom but with Stalin’s distorted rules of socialism compelled him to write his own piece of fiction to portray to the world of true socialist ideologies. Animal farm distinctly sheds light on how a man to achieve greater power can maneuver the ideals that they once strongly stood for, to their benefit.

Considering Orwell’s forthright nature and having seen his work being critical of different systems time and again makes it quite difficult to predict his views, had he been alive today. Most of his perspectives, highlighted through his books, were a reason of situations he experienced and witnessed in his life, example being his service in Burma as Colonial policeman. It was due to his time spent here that he became an anti-imperialist since he observed the oppression the working class faced. Hence, it would not be wrong to say that he was an individual who was independent of his opinions and raised his voice for any injustice that he noticed, be it in any type of policy. British socialist John Molyneux explains this very well when he says “Orwell did not become a militant in and of the working-class movement, nor did he adopt the world outlook of the workers’ movement, i.e., Marxism. Rather he adopted the role of the self-conscious outsider who, while investigating the conditions of the workers and the poor (and sympathizing with them), would retain his individual independence and detachment. In the process he never lost his skepticism about the political capacities of the working class.” (Wengraf n.d.).

Orwell can be described as an advocate of an equitable state where no one class is persecuted or deprived of any rights of freedom. However, unfortunately, in today’s world with most countries having most of right-wing policies adopted, Orwell’s ideal state is hard to find. In modern world, where hierarchy is most common with a man in the street having limited freedom surely do not go with Orwell’s vision. Orwell being a staunch supporter of equity and labor class rules, one can conclude that he would not have been that happy if he witnessed today’s situation.

**References**

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