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Orwell's “1984”: SDG - 9

Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

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ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN OPPRESSION

M VIGNESH

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In 1984, Orwell illustrates how infrastructure serves as a tool of oppression, reinforcing the Party's totalitarian rule rather than improving society. The Ministry of Truth manipulates information through newspapers, books, and broadcasts, controlling reality itself. Restricted mobility, enforced by checkpoints and poor urban planning, keeps citizens confined and dependent. The Party sustains oppression by keeping the population in a constant state of war, directing industrial output toward military production rather than improving living standards. This ensures that citizens remain impoverished and too preoccupied with survival to rebel. The Party also monopolizes production, distributing resources based on loyalty rather than need, ensuring dependency and subservience. Through these mechanisms, Orwell warns of the dangers of infrastructure being weaponized for control over people rather than societal progress.

TECHNOLOGICAL CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE

P VIGNESH

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In 1984 by George Orwell, technological control and surveillance are pivotal to the totalitarian regime of Oceania. The most noticeable tool is the telescreen, which allows the Party to constantly monitor residents, invade their privacy, and influence their ideas.

In stark contrast to the principles of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, which promotes ethical infrastructure and innovation, this constant surveillance stifles creativity and innovation. In Orwell's dystopian society, technology is used as a weapon to uphold authority and quell dissent rather than promoting social advancement. The book offers a warning on the possible abuse of technology, emphasising how crucial it is to make sure that progress advances mankind rather than subjugates it. In today's conversations about surveillance and privacy, this issue strikes a deep chord.

INDUSTRIAL STAGNATION AND WARFARE ECONOMY

ROHITH P

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The constant state of war that characterises Oceania in George Orwell's 1984 serves as a striking example of the idea of industrial stagnation and a wartime economy. The government keeps up a show of output and development, but the economy remains stagnant and resources are mostly used to support the war effort rather than to enhance the quality of life for the populace. To ensure that any possibility for innovation is suppressed, the Inner Party purposefully keeps the Outer Party on the verge of adversity and the proles in poverty. This supports sustainable industrialisation and innovation, which is in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9. Orwell's portrayal serves as a cautionary tale about how a state can control economic systems in order to keep power, which eventually impedes the progress and well-being of society.

STATE CONTROLLED INNOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

JANAKIRAMAN A

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In George Orwell's 1984, state-sponsored scientific research and invention enhance the goals of the totalitarian government rather than the advancement of society. Knowledge is monopolised by the Party, which uses all scientific research to strengthen its hold on power. Any chance for true innovation is suppressed as research is twisted to promote propaganda. This control is best illustrated by the idea of Newspeak, in which language is deliberately simplified to suppress dissent and critical thought. Technology that supports repression and monitoring is given precedence by the state over developments that could enhance the quality of life for its population. This setting serves as an example of the perils of unbridled power, where invention is turned into a weapon, underscoring the urgent necessity for ethical concerns in scientific pursuits to guarantee that they benefit humanity rather than oppress it.

PERPETUAL WAR AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

MONISH D

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In 1984, George Orwell shows how endless war keeps the Party in power by controlling society and resources. Oceania is always at war with either Eurasia or Eastasia, but the real goal isn't to win—it's to maintain control. The war keeps factories focused on weapons instead of improving people's lives. Resources that could build homes, schools, or hospitals are wasted on destruction, leaving people in poverty and struggling to survive. The constant shortages create fear and frustration, making it easier for the Party to manipulate the population. At the same time, the war becomes an excuse for harsh laws, surveillance, and censorship, all in the name of security. Orwell's warning is clear: when innovation and industry are used for power and destruction instead of progress, society loses the chance for growth, opportunity, and a better future.

IDEOLOGY AS AN INFRASTRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK

JOHN MEDWIN G

RA2411030010270

In 1984, ideology is not just a belief system—it's the foundation of the Party's control, shaping society like physical infrastructure. Through Ingsoc , Newspeak, and doublethink, the Party builds a mental framework that limits independent thought and innovation, aligning with SDG 9's concerns about sustainable and ethical systems. Language is engineered to restrict expression, and history is rewritten to erase progress. Just as roads and buildings shape cities, ideology shapes minds, ensuring stability through control rather than advancement. Without intellectual freedom, industry and innovation cannot thrive. Orwell warns that when ideology becomes rigid infrastructure, it traps society in a cycle of stagnation, where creativity, critical thinking, and genuine progress are sacrificed for the illusion of order and power.

THE DECAY OF SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

VIJAY ANAND D S

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In 1984, science is no longer a tool for discovery but a weapon for control, reflecting SDG 9's concerns about ethical innovation. The Party distorts scientific integrity, using technology for surveillance, psychological manipulation, and warfare rather than progress. Truth is not based on evidence but dictated by authority. Research serves propaganda, not human advancement, ensuring that knowledge remains stagnant and people remain powerless. Without scientific freedom, there is no real innovation, only control. Orwell warns that when science is stripped of integrity and used to serve oppression, society loses its ability to grow, adapt, and improve. True progress depends on honest inquiry, ethical research, and the pursuit of truth.

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

ANIISH R

RA2411030010270

In 1984, Orwell portrays extreme economic inequality through a rigid class system, where the Inner Party enjoys privilege while the Outer Party faces constant shortages and the Proles live in neglect. The Party controls industry and technology, using innovation for surveillance rather than progress. Perpetual war sustains artificial scarcity, and manipulated economic data reinforces the illusion of prosperity. By restricting resources and suppressing intellectual growth, the Party ensures economic stagnation, maintaining its dominance and preventing any meaningful societal advancement.