

The Handmaid's Tale



Thesis

In Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, state indoctrination and a sequestering of women's rights has caused Gilead's female population to lose the meaningful agency they once had in their lives. This loss of agency results in the forgoing of one's personal identity and individualism.

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“The sitting room is supposed to be Serena Joy’s territory, he’s supposed to ask permission to enter it... before Serena Joy can speak he steps forward into the room anyway” (98).

“

“And after she’s gone: Little whores, all of them, but still, you can’t be choosy. You take what they hand out, right, girls? That from the Commander’s Wife” (132).



*“‘Don’t look at me,’
she says, ‘They’re
watching’” (323).*

“

“‘Rest break once an hour’, says the Aunt, ‘You know the rules.’ The woman begins to protest, in a whiny desperate voice” (279).

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*“She is frightening me now, because
what I hear in her voice is
indifference, a lack of volition” (288)*

The background of the slide features a circular emblem with a sword passing through its center. The emblem contains the Chinese characters '三' (Three) on the left and '國' (Kingdoms) on the right, with the English text 'Three Kingdoms' at the bottom. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background.

Connection

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as that would imply abetting a renegade,
and bringing trouble onto themselves.

Conclusion

