# 1984 by George Orwell

* Practices which had been long abandoned, in some cases for hundreds of years – imprisonment without trials, the use of war prisoners as slaves, public execution, torture to extract confessions, the use of hostages and the deportation of the whole population, not only became common again but were tolerated and defended by people who considered themselves enlightened and progressive.
* There are only four ways in which a ruling group can fall from power – Either it is conquered from without, or it governs so inefficiently that the masses are stirred to revolt, or it allows a strong and discontented middle group to come into being, or It loses its own self-confidence and willingness to govern.
* The masses never revolt of their own accord, and they never revolt merely because they are opposed. Indeed, so long as they are not permitted to have standards of comparison, they never become aware that they are oppressed.
* The proletarian tolerates present-day conditions partly because he has no standards of comparison. He must be cut off from foreign countries, because it is necessary for him to believe that he is better off than his ancestors and that the average level of material comfort is constantly rising.
* The most important reason for the readjustment of the past is the need to safeguard the infallibility of the party.