

Political Agendas (now) and Government Structures (then)



(Jones)



(1984)

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(Hendriks)

Claim:

North Korea's political agenda (totalitarian regime) is a real life example of the government structures of 1984 (the 4 ministries: Plenty, Truth, Peace, Love).

Ministry of Truth



Ministry of Love



Ministry of Peace



Ministry of Plenty



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

(Conley)

Government Structures in 1984 vs. North Korea's Political Agendas



**BIG BROTHER IS
WATCHING YOU**

(Big)



(Popcorn)

In the book *1984*, the society is divided into the Inner Party, Outer Party, and the Proles. The government works through 4 ministries that are ironically named the Ministry of Love, the Ministry of Truth, the Ministry of Peace, and the Ministry of Plenty. The Ministry of Love is in charge of maintaining law and order and it is where the protagonist is brutally tortured. The Ministry of Peace is in charge of war affairs. The Ministry of Truth is in charge of censoring the media, and the Ministry of Plenty is in charge of economic affairs. Any opposition is demolished.

In the current situation of North Korea, all of the authority flows from the Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un. It has been ruled by one of the world's longest-running dynastic dictatorships. Three generations of the Kim family have ruled with absolute authority, using heavy repression and a system of patronage that ensures support from the military. The people from North Korea are completely excluded from the outside world and think they are living there best possible life. It is currently ruled with a communist philosophy called centralization that limits freedom of expression. The head of government is the premier, assisted by several vice-premiers and a cabinet, the members of which are appointed by the national legislature, the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA). The president of the SPA is North Korea's titular head of state. In practice, however, the government is under one-man leadership, Kim Jong-un. Any opposition is not tolerated (History).

Ministry of Truth

DORIAN LYSKEY



THE MINISTRY OF TRUTH

THE BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984

(Lynskey)

The Ministry of Truth is in charge of rewriting history to change the facts to fit Party doctrine for propaganda effect

The Ministry of Truth is where people censor and forge documents that go against the party. This is done in huge incinerators where every article anyone can get information from is destroyed after being put down memory holes. This is the ministry where Winston Smith works. In North Korea, there is a similar situation where, “Korean Central Television is the state-run TV channel seen by North Koreans. The network carries news programmes, documentaries and other programmes praising Kim Jong-I and his father Kim Il-sung. It also reports on authoritative statements from the North Korean government, party and military” (BBC). In North Korea, Kim Jong-un is like Big Brother and all the news also praise him. In 1984, Winston states that; “Day by day and almost minute by minute the past was brought up to date. In this way every prediction made by the Party could be shown by documentary evidence to have been correct, nor was any item of news, or any expression of opinion, which conflicted with the needs of the moment, ever allowed to remain on record. All history was a palimpsest, scraped clean and reinscribed exactly as often as was necessary” (Orwell, 40).

Ministry of Peace

WAR IS



FIGHTING FOR WORLDWIDE PEACE
SCSAXIS

(War)



The ministry of peace promotes war

The Ministry of Peace serves as the Ministry of War. It is in charge of armed forces, the navy, and the army. The Ministry of Peace is in charge of the perpetual war of Oceania against Eurasia and/or Eastasia (Shadow). The reason the Ministry of Peace is at constant war is to use up all the surplus resources to maintain citizens lives at a constant deprivation "The primary aim of modern warfare is to use up the products of the machine without raising the general standard of living" (Orwell, 235). Warfare is completely different than in the past. There is no need to win the war since it is in the best interest of the three super states to maintain the never ending war "in a physical sense war involves very small numbers of people, mostly highly-trained specialists, and causes comparatively few casualties" (235). On another hand, North Korea has a 1.2 million personnel army whose role is to defend their totalitarian regime from South Korea and the United States, which they are technically still at war with (Albert). The purpose of the North Korean army is to fight and protect.

Ministry of Love



(Bell)

In 1984, Winston is tortured horribly and his spirit is broken so utterly that he willingly gives up his lover Julia, which mirrors the case of North Korean man Shin Dong-hyuk, the only person to ever be born in a North Korean labor camp and escape. Shin turned in his mother and brother to the authorities to be executed after they made a bid for freedom. Shin claims that he betrayed his mother and brother purely because he was hoping the guards would let him eat a full meal for the first time in his life.

The Ministry of Love is in charge of maintaining law and order.

The Ministry of Love in the dystopian novel of 1984 enforces loyalty to Big Brother through fear, through a massive apparatus of security and repression, as well as systematic brainwashing, "The Ministry of Love was the really frightening one. There were no windows in it at all. (...) It was a place impossible to enter except on official business, and then only by penetrating through a maze of barbed-wire entanglements, steel doors, and hidden machine-guns nests. Even the streets leading up to its outer barriers were roamed by gorilla-faced guards in black uniforms, armed with jointed truncheons" (Winston, 283). In this society, punishment could be translated to destroying someone to make them accept the philosophies and lies of the party. This could be seen in the final chapters of the novel when the protagonist enters 'Room 101', "The thing that is in Room 101 is the worst thing in the world." (...) 'The worst thing in the world,' said O'Brien, 'varies from individual to individual. It may be burial alive, or death by fire, or by drowning, or by impalement, or fifty other deaths' (283). In North Korea, the regime's commands are enforced by brutal secret police force, who torture potential rebellious citizens in labor camps throughout the country. "The head of a United Nations panel on Monday said atrocities committed by North Korea against its own people were "strikingly similar" to those perpetrated by the Nazis during World War II" (Flanagan).

Ministry of Plenty

MINISTRY OF PLENTY



(Guanabbislord)

The Ministry of Plenty promotes starvation

The Ministry of Plenty is in charge of handling the economic affairs of Oceania. The Ministry of Plenty controls food rations, supplies, and goods. Along with the Ministry of Peace, it regulated rations to give the population short supplies and a hard life to prevent them from realizing the true intentions of the Party: A poor population is easier to control than a wealthy powerful one. The Ministry of Plenty gives out useless supplies for war since there is no purpose in fighting. Throughout the book, the telescreen often announces food shortages while convincing the population that there rations are constantly rising. "The Ministry of Plenty had issued a promise that there would be no reduction of the chocolate ration during 1984. Actually the chocolate ration was to be reduced from thirty grammes to twenty at the end of the present week" (Orwell, 50). North Korea as well has tried to stimulate growth in their economy (Albert). In North Korea, the economy works in a similar way as in 1984. The economy is a centralized economy meaning that a central authority makes economic decisions regarding the manufacturing and the distribution of goods (Britannica). Even though in North Korea there isn't an actual ministry of plenty, the government controls any economic movement done in the country like the Party does in the book. Both North Korea and 1984 have extreme food rations (300g per person per day in North Korea) being at the edge of famine (Drury).

Conclusion



(Keskeys)

North Korea and 1984 have a lot of similarities. They are both totalitarian regimes with the same principles. The dystopian world of 1984 is more rigorous with its philosophy. In fact, the use of doublethink and severe mind control are essential for the total control by the Party. Nevertheless, the totalitarian regime of North Korea has a higher impact on us as a society since it's a real life example of Orwell's prediction of the future. In addition, if North Korea continues to succeed in mind-controlling their citizens and evaporating the rebels like Winston, Orwell's prediction of the future would become a reality. This comparison should makes us wonder if citizens of North Korea could be inspired by this novel and successfully rebel against the government. Finally, this novel should be a warning of the risk of totalitarianism and of its negative consequences regarding human rights, democracy and freedom.

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