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## ANIMAL FARM: A POLITICAL LITERATURE

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### **Abstract**

*The present paper shows the universal appeal of politics which goes on all over the world. The maxim is true that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The present paper reveals that everything is going on to achieve power. Illegal tools are used to get power. Some ethics and rules are changed and twisted as per our needs and benefits.*

**Keywords:** *Allegory, anarchy, communism, socialism, revolution, sacrifice, etc.*

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Animal Farm is a political allegory on Russian Revolution, but it can be applied on even any revolution in the world. This work of art attacks generally the quest for power. It observes the psychological foundation of revolution, its processes and the irony of displacement of an oppressive regime by the new revolutionary order. If we observe the farm as Russia, then Mr. Jones represents Tzar Nicholas II, the last Russian ruler. Old Major (Marx/ Lenin) gave his noble idea of equality of all animals and actuated the animals to unite and rebel against common enemy, and so they did. His philosophy is called Animalism, it represents the ideas of socialism/communism, but this ideology got perverted and misused by Napoleon (Stalin) an individual greedy for power, without regard for fellow animals. He exiled his fellow Snowball (Leon Trotsky) who had a good way of realizing socialism. Napoleon gained the absolute power step by step. He got control over food and suffocated every idea or debate.

The working class animals got gradually brainwashed with Squealer's propaganda, which could turn black into white. The history is being rewritten so the next generations would believe a lie, due to Squealer's persuasion, the animals' memories become less and less reliable. Napoleon also uses sheep, who are there to outvote every different opinion, Moses and Minimus (the official poets) to additionally brainwash the animals. Finally, tyranny becomes extreme when Napoleon states to evoke fear with the dogs, killing everybody who try to disagree.

Language is a powerful tool which can be used to manipulate and control people in order to bring about change. Napoleon and Squealer abuse the power of language to manipulate the animals. The noble ideology of Old Major is being twisted and



distorted. The "equal" is abused the most because the pigs preach equality all the time, and do the opposite, and finally, there is the paradox.

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others", which emphasizes the corruption of the authority. Songs, poems and slogans serve as propaganda and idealize the leader and dictator. There are another form of social control and enforce the loyalty. Accusing Snowball for everything bad that happens on the farm, pigs focus the animals on a supposed common enemy and away from their manipulation. There are also the yes-men, the sheep whose role is to outvote everybody with different opinion. Memories of animals are also being influenced, e.g. pigs gradually change the Seven Commandments and through persuasion, Squealer makes it hard for animals to rely on their own memory, and the next generation will believe the lie completely. Totalitarianism is achieved by telling people exactly what to think.

Animal Farm is George Orwell's satire on equality, where all barnyard animals live free from their human master's tyranny. Inspired to rebel by Major, an old boar, animals on Mr. Jones' Manor Farm embrace Animalism and stage a revolution to achieve an idealistic state of justice and progress. A power-hungry pig, Napoleon, becomes a totalitarian dictator who leads the Animal Farm into "All Animals Are Equal / But Some Are More Equal Than Others" oppression.

Animal Farm is an allegory, which is a story in which concrete and specific characters and situations stand for other characters and situations so as to make a point about them. The main action of Animal Farm stands for the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the early years of the Soviet Union. Animalism is really communism. Manor Farm is allegorical of Russia and the farmer Mr. Jones, is the Russian Tzar. Old Major stands for either Karl Marx or Vladimir Lenin, and the pig named Snowball represents the intellectual revolutionary Leon Trotsky. Napoleon stands for Stalin, while the dogs are his secret police. The horse Boxer stands in for the proletariat or working class.

In a letter to Dwight Macdonald dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1946, Orwell writes, "Of course I intended it [Animal Farm] primarily as a satire on the Russian Revolution. Orwell deeply sympathizes with the poor working class people, especially those of Russia, who in this novel are symbolized by Boxer and Clover. Orwell shows that it is the poor, unintelligent working people who serve for the evolution most dedicatedly and



it is they whose interests are finally deceived and thwarted by the leaders they worked for. Even after his relentless labour for the Animal Farm, when Boxer becomes useless, he is sold to the butcher by Napoleon. This parallels the condition of the working class in the USSR during the regime of Stalin.

Orwell's point of satire is this very discrepancy in between the ideology of revolution and its real corrupt form, as exemplified in Russia. In Orwell's beast allegory human beings in general are representative of capitalists. Mr. Jones represents Tzar Nicholas II who thrown out of power during the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. The driving away of Jones corresponds to the execution of Nicholas II and his family in 1918. The name 'Manor Farm' indicates the pre-revolution Russia and 'Animal Farm' stands for its post revolution status. The hoof and horn flag is clear allusion to the hammer and sickle flag of the Communist Party and the colour green ironically suggests its opposite colour. The figure of Old Major represents none but Karl Marx who propounded an honest but somewhat impractical ideology of revolution that, if successfully accomplished, would emancipate the poor from the tyranny and exploitation of capitalist system. The dream of Old Major corresponds to the Marxist ideology. This dream is never translated into reality, but is subtly perverted by Napoleon to retain the dictatorial power which he came to through the revolution.

This allegorizes what was done in the post revolution Russia in the name of communism by some leaders, especially Joseph Stalin who has been represented as Napoleon in Orwell's fable. The figure of Snowball corresponds to Trotsky, and as Trotsky was in dispute with most of the issues of the state in Animal Farm too Napoleon and Snowball "Disagreed at every point where disagreement was possible". Like Trotsky, Snowball is honest in comparison to utter hypocrisy of Napoleon. The ousting, scandalization and disappearance of Snowball remind of Trotsky's assassination.

Squealer, "The brilliant talker" who "could turn black into white", represents the Russian newspaper Pravda which propagated in favour of the Communist Party. It is Squealer who effectively convinces the animals whenever there is slightest dispute. Mollie represents the privileged elite class whose chief concern is self-embellishment. The cat stands for an opportunist section of the middle class, who like the elite, shirks



all responsibility, and tries to ensure their well-being by currying favour with ruling class.

Thus, "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others" becomes true day by day. Having engaged themselves in a capitalist system, the pigs now oppress the animals for more work and more production. Those who refuse, like the hens, are declared enemies of the state, and are executed brutally.

As time goes on, pigs, the holders of power, and particularly Napoleon, feel the need of manifesting their power by making alliance with men, their once-proclaimed enemies. So they initiate trade with the neighbouring farmers Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick, who in Orwell's allegory stand for the ruling power of England and Germany respectively. The sheep, symbolically representing the blind and stupid party workers, in this later phase are trained to bleat the new maxim: "Four legs good, two legs better"-which signifies the radical inversion of the values implied in the earlier maxim. The fable ends inconclusively on a cynical note with the scene in which the pigs and men are playing cards in the farm house of Mr. Jones and the other animals are peeping through the window "from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again."

To sum up, it is evident that Orwell has a negative attitude towards Soviet Russia's political system. Orwell believes that communism is dangerous to the public and is a form of enslaving the population of a free nation in order to express his attitude towards Russia's political system. The idea of greed in political leader is also reinforced. The greed of the pigs makes them to enslave their fellow beings.

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