

personal english

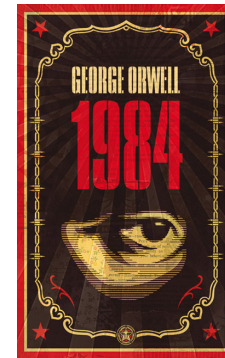


Book #26

1984

by George Orwell

Nineteen Eighty-Four was published in **1949** by English author **George Orwell**. The novel is set in **Airstrip One** (a futuristic version of Great Britain), a province of the superstate **Oceania** in a world of perpetual war, ubiquitous government surveillance, and public manipulation. For this reason, the book is often labelled as a **dystopian novel**, even though its author may have regarded it as realistic. The superstate and its residents are ruled by a political regime called **English Socialism**, shortened to 'Ingsoc' in **Newspeak**, the government's invented language meant to control people's minds through **manipulative communication strategies** dispossessing people of the ability to think. With respect to the media's power and their ability to control society, the novel presents a number of commonalities with the film **Citizen Kane**, released by **Orson Wells** in **1941**. This control is exerted in the novel by the privileged elite of the **Inner Party**, which persecutes individualism and independent thinking as **thoughtcrime**, enforced by the so-called 'Thought Police'. Law abidance is ensured by **Big Brother**, the Party leader who enjoys an intense cult of personality, but who may not even exist. In other words: a system that may ring a bell to any keen observer of **contemporary Western society**...



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