



# MANIPULATION AND ABUSE OF POWER IN 'ANIMAL FARM'

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## ABSTRACT

Animal Farm by George Orwell is widely recognized as a powerful political allegory that exposes the dangers of power, propaganda, and the corruption of revolutionary ideals. The novel narrates the story of farm animals who revolt against their human master in the hope of establishing a society based on equality, justice, and collective welfare. Inspired by the revolutionary ideas of Old Major, the animals overthrow human rule and establish the principles of Animalism. Initially, the rebellion appears successful as the animals work together to build a fair and cooperative community. However, as the pigs gradually assume leadership, the ideals of the revolution begin to deteriorate. Leaders such as Napoleon consolidate power through propaganda, manipulation of laws, and the use of fear and violence. The character of Squealer plays a crucial role in shaping the animals' perception of reality through persuasive language and misinformation. Meanwhile, hardworking animals like Boxer symbolize the exploited working class whose loyalty is ultimately betrayed. The novel also reflects historical events such as the Russian Revolution and the rise of authoritarian rule under Joseph Stalin. Through satire and allegory, Orwell demonstrates how revolutions that promise equality can be corrupted by ambitious leaders. The novel ultimately serves as a timeless warning about political manipulation, abuse of power, and the vulnerability of societies to authoritarian control.

**KEYWORDS:** Animal Farm, George Orwell, Political Allegory, Propaganda, Abuse Of Power, Revolutionary Ideals, Totalitarianism, Corruption Of Leadership, Authoritarian Rule

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Animal Farm, written by George Orwell and first published in 1945, is one of the most influential political allegories in modern English literature. The novel is set on a farm where the animals revolt against their human owner in the hope of creating a society based on equality, freedom, and justice. Through a seemingly simple story involving animals, Orwell presents a powerful critique of political systems that begin with idealistic goals but gradually become corrupted by the misuse of power. Although the narrative appears to be a fable, it carries a deep political meaning and reflects the historical events and ideological conflicts of the twentieth century.

The story begins on Manor Farm, where the animals live under the harsh control of their human master, Mr. Jones. The animals suffer from neglect, overwork, and exploitation, which leads them to dream of a better life without human domination. Inspired by the speech of an old and respected pig named Old Major, the animals begin to imagine a future where they govern themselves and enjoy the fruits of their own labour. Old Major's vision becomes the foundation for a revolutionary ideology called Animalism, which promotes the idea that all animals are equal and should unite against

human oppression. This dream of equality and self-governance motivates the animals to rise in rebellion and take control of the farm.

Once the rebellion succeeds, the animals rename the property Animal Farm and attempt to organize their new society according to the principles of equality and cooperation. At the beginning, the revolution appears successful and hopeful. The animals work together enthusiastically, believing that their labour now benefits the entire community rather than a single human master. The pigs, considered the most intelligent animals on the farm, assume leadership roles and take responsibility for organizing and managing the farm's affairs. Among them, the pigs Napoleon and Snowball emerge as prominent leaders who help guide the early development of the new society.

However, as the story progresses, the initial ideals of the revolution begin to deteriorate. The pigs gradually consolidate power and begin to enjoy privileges that are denied to the other animals. Through manipulation, propaganda, and control of information, the pigs justify their actions while convincing the other animals that these decisions are necessary for the survival of the farm. Slowly, the values of equality and justice are replaced by

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inequality and authoritarian control. Orwell carefully portrays this transformation to show how revolutionary movements can be corrupted when leaders prioritize their own power over the welfare of the community.

The novel is widely recognized as a political allegory that reflects the events of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the rise of totalitarian rule in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. Orwell uses the characters and events on the farm to symbolize historical figures and political developments of that period. Through this allegorical narrative, Orwell criticizes the way revolutionary ideals such as equality, freedom, and collective welfare can be manipulated by those who gain power. By presenting complex political realities through the actions of farm animals, Orwell makes the story both accessible and deeply meaningful.

Despite its relatively short length and simple narrative style, *Animal Farm* delivers a powerful message about the nature of political authority, the dangers of propaganda, and the vulnerability of ordinary people to manipulation. Orwell's use of satire, symbolism, and allegory allows him to expose the mechanisms through which authoritarian leaders maintain control over society. The novel ultimately warns readers that power, when left unchecked, can easily lead to corruption and betrayal of the very principles that once inspired revolutionary change. Through this timeless narrative, Orwell encourages readers to remain aware of how language, ideology, and leadership can be used to influence and control society.

Explanation of the novel as a political allegory representing the corruption of revolutionary ideals.

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell is widely regarded as a powerful political allegory that illustrates how revolutionary ideals can gradually become corrupted when power falls into the hands of self-interested leaders. In literary terms, an allegory is a narrative in which characters, events, and settings symbolize broader political, historical, or social realities. Orwell uses the story of a group of farm animals who overthrow their human master to represent the historical events surrounding the Russian Revolution and the rise of a totalitarian regime in the Soviet Union. Through this symbolic framework, Orwell explores the dangers of political movements that begin with noble intentions but ultimately betray their founding principles.

At the beginning of the novel, the animals live under the oppressive rule of their human owner, Mr. Jones, who exploits their labour and neglects their well-being. Inspired by the revolutionary vision of Old Major, the animals come to believe that they can build a society based on equality, freedom, and collective ownership. This dream represents the original revolutionary ideals that often motivate oppressed groups to challenge existing systems of authority. The animals' rebellion against human control symbolizes the moment of political revolution when the oppressed masses attempt to establish a new and more just social order. In the early stages after the rebellion, there is genuine enthusiasm and optimism among the animals as they believe they are finally free and equal.

However, the promise of equality soon begins to fade as the pigs, who assume leadership due to their intelligence, start to consolidate power. Instead of maintaining the principles of collective governance, they gradually transform themselves into a ruling elite. Through manipulation, propaganda, and control of information, the pigs begin to justify privileges that contradict the original ideals of the revolution. The commandments of Animalism, which were initially designed to ensure equality among all animals, are slowly altered to legitimize the pigs' authority. This gradual distortion of principles reflects the process through which revolutionary ideals can be manipulated to serve the interests of those in power.

The allegorical structure of the novel reveals how political leaders may exploit the trust and loyalty of ordinary people. Characters such as Boxer, the hardworking horse, represent the loyal working class that continues to support the leadership despite clear signs of corruption and inequality. The animals' inability to question authority or critically examine the changes taking place on the farm allows the pigs to strengthen their control. Orwell uses this situation to demonstrate how propaganda, fear, and the rewriting of history can enable leaders to maintain dominance while the majority remain unaware of the betrayal of revolutionary goals.

As the narrative progresses, the pigs increasingly resemble the very humans they originally opposed. They begin to adopt human habits, such as living in the farmhouse, drinking alcohol, and engaging in trade with neighbouring farmers. By the end of the novel, the distinction between pigs and humans becomes almost impossible to recognize. This transformation symbolizes the complete corruption of the revolution and highlights Orwell's central argument: revolutions that promise equality and justice can easily degenerate into systems of oppression when power becomes concentrated in the hands of a few.

Through this political allegory, Orwell delivers a timeless warning about the vulnerability of revolutionary movements. He suggests that without accountability, transparency, and active participation from the masses, even the most idealistic revolutions can be manipulated by ambitious leaders who prioritize their own power. The novel therefore serves not only as a critique of a specific historical event but also as a broader reflection on the nature of political power and the recurring pattern of ideals being betrayed in the pursuit of authority.

## **2. BACKGROUND OF THE ANIMAL REBELLION**

The background of the rebellion in *Animal Farm* by George Orwell begins with the growing dissatisfaction of the animals living under the control of their human master, Mr. Jones. The animals on the farm experience continuous hardship, hunger, and exploitation while their labour primarily benefits the humans who own them. They are forced to work long hours, yet they receive little food or care in return. This harsh and unjust system creates a sense of frustration and resentment among the animals. Orwell uses this situation to represent the conditions of oppression that often lead to revolutionary movements in human societies. The animals gradually begin to question why

they must endure suffering while humans enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The turning point occurs when an elderly and respected pig named Old Major gathers the animals together and delivers an influential speech that inspires the idea of rebellion. Old Major shares his vision of a society in which animals would no longer be ruled by humans and would instead live in freedom, equality, and dignity. In his speech, he explains that the root cause of the animals' suffering is human exploitation. According to him, humans produce nothing themselves yet consume the labour of animals. Old Major therefore urges the animals to unite and overthrow their human masters. His message emphasizes the importance of solidarity among animals and promotes the belief that all animals should be equal and share the resources of the farm collectively. This vision becomes the ideological foundation for the revolution that will later take place.

Old Major's speech plants the seeds of revolutionary thought among the animals and encourages them to imagine a new social order. He teaches them a song called "Beasts of England," which becomes a powerful symbol of hope and unity for the animals. The song represents their dreams of liberation and a future where animals live without oppression. Although Old Major dies shortly after presenting his ideas, his teachings continue to influence the animals and inspire them to pursue the dream of freedom. His vision is later developed by the pigs into a political philosophy known as Animalism, which outlines the principles of equality, cooperation, and collective ownership.

The actual rebellion occurs sooner than expected when Mr. Jones neglects the animals and forgets to feed them. Driven by hunger and frustration, the animals break into the storehouse to obtain food. When Mr. Jones and his men attempt to whip them and restore order, the animals react with unexpected unity and strength. Together they drive the humans off the farm, successfully overthrowing their oppressor. This moment marks the beginning of their self-governance and symbolizes the triumph of collective action against tyranny. After the rebellion, the animals rename the property Animal Farm to represent their independence and their commitment to building a new society based on equality.

Following the victory, the animals establish the principles of Animalism as the guiding ideology of the farm. The pigs, being the most intelligent animals, take the responsibility of organizing and teaching these principles to the others. They write a set of rules known as the Seven Commandments on the barn wall, which emphasize equality among animals and prohibit them from adopting the habits of humans. These commandments serve as the constitution of the new society and reflect the revolutionary ideals of justice, fairness, and unity. In the early days of Animal Farm, there is a strong sense of enthusiasm and cooperation. The animals work together with dedication because they believe that their labour now benefits the entire community rather than a single human owner.

During this early stage, the farm experiences a period of hope and optimism. Every animal participates in the work according

to their ability, and the harvests become more productive because the animals are motivated by the belief that they are working for their own collective welfare. Decisions about the farm are initially discussed in meetings where the animals have the opportunity to express their opinions. This atmosphere reflects the promise of collective governance and democratic participation. The animals truly believe that they have created a fair and equal society in which no animal will dominate another. This hopeful beginning, however, later contrasts sharply with the gradual corruption of power that emerges as the story progresses.

### 3. RISE OF POWER AMONG THE PIGS

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the rise of power among the pigs marks a crucial turning point in the narrative, illustrating how leadership within a revolutionary movement can gradually transform into domination and authoritarian control. After the successful rebellion against the humans, the animals initially attempt to build a society based on equality and cooperation. However, because the pigs are considered the most intelligent animals on the farm, they naturally assume the responsibility of organizing the farm's activities and interpreting the principles of Animalism. Although this leadership role appears practical and beneficial at first, it gradually becomes the foundation for a hierarchical system in which the pigs begin to exercise increasing control over the other animals.

Among the pigs, two leaders quickly emerge as the most influential figures: Napoleon and Snowball. Both pigs play significant roles in shaping the early development of Animal Farm, but they differ greatly in their personalities and leadership styles. Snowball is portrayed as an energetic, intelligent, and visionary leader who is deeply committed to improving the farm and educating the animals. He organizes committees, develops plans for increasing productivity, and encourages animals to participate actively in the governance of the farm. Napoleon, on the other hand, is more secretive, calculating, and power-driven. Rather than focusing on public debates and educational initiatives, he quietly builds his influence behind the scenes and concentrates on strengthening his personal authority.

The rivalry between Napoleon and Snowball gradually intensifies as both pigs attempt to gain support among the animals. Their disagreements become especially clear during the debates about the construction of a windmill, which Snowball believes will modernize the farm and reduce the animals' workload by generating electricity. Snowball passionately argues that the windmill will improve the animals' living conditions and symbolize the progress of Animal Farm. Napoleon, however, strongly opposes the idea and criticizes Snowball's proposal. These debates highlight the ideological and strategic differences between the two leaders and reveal the growing division within the leadership of the farm.

The struggle for power reaches a dramatic climax when Napoleon suddenly takes decisive action to eliminate his rival. During one of the farm meetings, when Snowball is passionately explaining his plans for the windmill, Napoleon gives a signal that summons a group of large, fierce dogs that

he had secretly raised and trained since they were puppies. These dogs chase Snowball across the farm and force him to flee permanently. Snowball's expulsion marks a critical turning point in the history of Animal Farm because it removes the primary opposition to Napoleon's authority. Through this act of intimidation and violence, Napoleon establishes himself as the uncontested leader of the farm.

Following Snowball's expulsion, the system of governance on the farm undergoes a significant transformation. Napoleon announces that the Sunday meetings, where animals previously discussed and voted on farm policies, will no longer take place. Instead, decisions will be made exclusively by a committee of pigs under Napoleon's leadership. This change effectively removes the animals' right to participate in decision-making and marks the end of collective governance on the farm. The animals gradually lose their ability to question authority, and the pigs begin to exercise absolute control over the farm's political and social life.

The concentration of power in Napoleon's hands represents the beginning of an authoritarian regime on Animal Farm. Napoleon uses the trained dogs as his personal security force to intimidate and silence any potential opposition. At the same time, propaganda is used to justify his leadership and convince the animals that his decisions are always made for their benefit. Through fear, manipulation, and control of information, Napoleon steadily strengthens his authority while the other animals become increasingly powerless. Orwell uses this development to demonstrate how revolutions that begin with the promise of equality can gradually evolve into systems of dictatorship when power becomes centralized and unchallenged.

#### **4. MANIPULATION THROUGH PROPAGANDA**

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, propaganda plays a crucial role in enabling the pigs to maintain their authority over the other animals. After the rebellion, the pigs gradually assume leadership positions, and in order to justify their growing privileges and power, they rely heavily on manipulation of language and information. Propaganda becomes one of the most effective tools through which the ruling pigs influence the thoughts and beliefs of the other animals. Orwell uses this aspect of the story to demonstrate how political leaders often control societies not only through force but also through the strategic use of persuasive communication.

The central figure responsible for spreading propaganda on the farm is Squealer, a clever and persuasive pig who acts as the official spokesperson for the leadership of Napoleon. Squealer possesses an exceptional ability to manipulate language and present information in a way that convinces the animals to accept decisions that clearly favor the pigs. Whenever the pigs take actions that appear to contradict the principles of Animalism, Squealer is sent to explain and justify these actions to the rest of the animals. Through his speeches, he creates the illusion that the pigs' decisions are necessary for the welfare and survival of the entire farm.

One of the most important methods used by Squealer is persuasive language. He often uses complex explanations, rhetorical questions, and emotional appeals to confuse the animals and discourage them from questioning authority. For example, when the pigs begin consuming milk and apples exclusively for themselves, Squealer argues that these foods are essential for maintaining the pigs' intellectual strength. He claims that the pigs are not taking these resources out of selfishness but rather out of responsibility, as their health is necessary for managing the farm effectively. By presenting the pigs' privileges as sacrifices made for the common good, Squealer successfully convinces the animals that such inequalities are justified.

Another significant strategy employed by Squealer is the use of fear. He frequently reminds the animals of the possibility that their former human master, Mr. Jones, might return if the pigs fail to lead properly. This constant reference to the threat of human domination creates anxiety among the animals and discourages them from opposing Napoleon's leadership. By associating dissent with danger and instability, Squealer ensures that the animals remain obedient and reluctant to question the decisions made by the ruling pigs.

Squealer also manipulates facts and historical events to reshape the animals' understanding of reality. Over time, the pigs begin altering the Seven Commandments that were originally established to guarantee equality among all animals. Whenever the animals notice these changes or feel uncertain about past events, Squealer quickly provides explanations that distort the truth. He often insists that the animals are simply remembering things incorrectly and presents fabricated statistics to prove that life on the farm has improved under Napoleon's leadership. Since most animals have limited memory and little ability to read or verify information, they gradually accept these misleading claims as truth.

Through the character of Squealer, Orwell illustrates the immense power of propaganda in controlling public opinion. The manipulation of language, distortion of facts, and strategic use of fear enable the pigs to maintain dominance without constant physical force. By shaping the animals' perception of reality, Squealer ensures that even obvious injustices are accepted as necessary or beneficial. In this way, the novel reveals how propaganda can transform oppression into something that appears legitimate, highlighting the dangers of misinformation and blind trust in authority.

#### **5. ALTERATION OF LAWS AND IDEOLOGY**

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the gradual alteration of laws and ideology plays a central role in illustrating how those in power manipulate rules to serve their own interests. At the beginning of the revolution, the animals establish a set of guiding principles known as the Seven Commandments of Animalism. These commandments are written on the wall of the barn and are intended to serve as the constitution of the new society. They emphasize equality, unity, and the rejection of human habits. Initially, these rules represent the ideals upon which the rebellion is founded, ensuring that all animals are

treated fairly and that no one gains power over the others.

However, as the pigs consolidate their authority, these commandments begin to change gradually and subtly. The pigs, who control literacy and interpretation of the laws, take advantage of the other animals' limited ability to read and remember the original commandments. Whenever the pigs engage in behavior that contradicts the principles of Animalism, the commandments mysteriously appear slightly altered. These modifications are often small and difficult for the animals to notice, but they significantly change the meaning of the laws. Through this process, the pigs manipulate the rules so that their actions appear legitimate rather than hypocritical.

Language becomes a powerful tool in this transformation. By altering words and adding small phrases, the pigs justify privileges that were originally forbidden. For example, when the pigs begin sleeping in beds inside the farmhouse, the animals recall that one of the commandments prohibited such behavior. Later, the commandment is discovered to read that animals should not sleep in beds "with sheets," thereby allowing the pigs to claim they have not violated the law. Similarly, when the pigs start drinking alcohol, the rule that initially forbade it is later revised to state that animals should not drink alcohol "to excess." These subtle linguistic adjustments demonstrate how language can be manipulated to reshape ideology and legitimize inequality.

The pigs' control over language and written laws allows them to rewrite the ideological foundation of the farm. Because most of the animals have weak memories and cannot verify what was originally written, they become increasingly dependent on the explanations provided by the pigs. Over time, the animals begin to doubt their own recollections and accept the revised commandments as the original truth. This manipulation of collective memory illustrates how authoritarian leaders often rewrite history and laws to maintain their authority and suppress resistance.

The most striking example of this ideological transformation occurs at the end of the novel when all the Seven Commandments are replaced with a single statement: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." This paradoxical phrase represents the complete betrayal of the revolution's founding ideals. What once began as a movement for equality and justice is transformed into a system that openly acknowledges inequality while still claiming to uphold the principle of equality. The statement highlights the absurdity and hypocrisy of the pigs' rule, as it uses contradictory language to justify a clearly unequal society.

Through the gradual alteration of laws and ideology, Orwell demonstrates how political systems can manipulate language and legal frameworks to legitimize oppression. By controlling the rules and redefining their meanings, those in power are able to maintain authority while presenting their actions as lawful and necessary. This process reveals one of the central messages of the novel: when leaders gain the ability to control language, laws, and history, they can reshape reality itself in ways that

protect their dominance and silence opposition.

## 6. EXPLOITATION OF THE WORKING CLASS

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the exploitation of the working class is powerfully represented through the character of Boxer, the strong and hardworking cart-horse. Boxer symbolizes the loyal and dedicated labouring class who support the revolution with sincerity and commitment but ultimately become victims of the very system they helped create. Throughout the novel, Boxer stands out as one of the most admirable animals on the farm because of his physical strength, honesty, and unwavering devotion to the collective welfare of *Animal Farm*. Orwell uses Boxer's character to demonstrate how authoritarian leaders often rely on the hard work and loyalty of ordinary workers while exploiting their trust and dedication.

From the early days of the rebellion, Boxer proves himself to be the most diligent worker on the farm. His strength allows him to complete tasks that no other animal can accomplish, and he often takes on additional responsibilities to ensure that the farm prospers. Boxer genuinely believes in the ideals of the revolution and dedicates himself to making *Animal Farm* successful. Unlike the pigs, who gradually begin to enjoy privileges and comfort, Boxer continues to work tirelessly in the fields, carrying heavy loads and contributing to the construction of the windmill. His tireless efforts make him a symbol of the working class whose labour sustains the entire society.

Boxer's character is also defined by his simple but powerful personal mottos, which guide his actions throughout the story. One of his most famous sayings is "I will work harder," which reflects his belief that increased effort and dedication can solve the farm's problems. Whenever difficulties arise, Boxer responds not by questioning the leadership or the system but by committing himself to even greater levels of work. This attitude illustrates the mindset of many workers who believe that perseverance and loyalty will eventually lead to a better future. His determination inspires the other animals and strengthens the productivity of the farm, yet it also prevents him from recognizing the growing injustice around him.

Another important motto that Boxer adopts later in the novel is "Napoleon is always right," referring to the leadership of Napoleon. This statement demonstrates Boxer's complete trust in authority and his inability to question the decisions made by the ruling pigs. Instead of analysing whether Napoleon's policies are fair or beneficial, Boxer assumes that the leader must always act in the best interests of the farm. Orwell uses this unquestioning loyalty to illustrate how authoritarian regimes often depend on the obedience of the working class. When people place blind faith in their leaders without critical thinking, they become vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation.

Despite Boxer's immense contribution to the farm's success, his loyalty is ultimately betrayed by the very leaders he supports. After years of exhausting labour, Boxer becomes injured and too weak to continue working. The other animals believe that he will be taken to a veterinary hospital where he will receive

proper care and rest. However, the pigs secretly sell him to a knacker, a person who slaughters old and injured horses for profit. This cruel act reveals the pigs' complete disregard for Boxer's loyalty and sacrifice. Even though he devoted his entire life to serving Animal Farm, he is discarded once he is no longer useful.

Boxer's tragic fate serves as one of the most powerful moments in the novel and highlights Orwell's criticism of authoritarian leadership. The betrayal demonstrates how regimes that claim to represent the interests of the working class often exploit workers for their labour while denying them dignity and security. Through Boxer's character, Orwell exposes the harsh reality that blind loyalty and unquestioning obedience can lead to exploitation. The story of Boxer ultimately emphasizes the importance of awareness, education, and critical thinking in preventing the abuse of power and protecting the rights of ordinary people.

## **7. USE OF FEAR AND VIOLENCE**

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the use of fear and violence becomes one of the most effective strategies through which the ruling leadership maintains control over the farm. As the story progresses, the ideals of equality and collective governance that inspired the original rebellion are gradually replaced by a system of intimidation and authoritarian rule. The leader of the pigs, Napoleon, realizes that controlling the animals requires not only propaganda but also the strategic use of fear. Through violence, threats, and harsh punishment, he establishes an atmosphere in which the animals become too frightened to question authority or resist the decisions of the leadership.

Napoleon first demonstrates his reliance on intimidation when he secretly trains a group of puppies and raises them to become fierce guard dogs. These dogs eventually grow into powerful and aggressive animals that serve as Napoleon's personal security force. Their presence alone is enough to intimidate the other animals and prevent them from expressing opposition. When Napoleon uses the dogs to chase Snowball off the farm, it becomes clear that power on Animal Farm is no longer based on democratic debate or collective decision-making. Instead, authority is enforced through physical strength and fear. From this moment onward, the dogs remain constantly near Napoleon, symbolizing the role of force in maintaining his leadership.

As Napoleon's power grows stronger, fear becomes deeply embedded in the daily life of the farm. One of the most disturbing examples of this occurs when several animals are accused of conspiring with Snowball and plotting against the leadership. Under intense pressure and fear, some animals confess to crimes they did not commit. These forced confessions are followed by brutal executions carried out by Napoleon's dogs in front of the other animals. The shocking violence of these events creates a climate of terror across the farm. The animals witness that any form of disagreement or suspicion can lead to severe punishment, which discourages them from questioning the authority of the pigs.

These public confessions and executions serve a strategic

purpose beyond punishing the accused animals. They function as a warning to the rest of the community about the consequences of disobedience. By making these acts of violence visible to everyone, Napoleon ensures that fear spreads throughout the farm. The animals begin to associate safety with obedience and silence, believing that survival depends on unquestioning loyalty to the leadership. As a result, even when they feel confused or uncomfortable about the pigs' actions, they rarely dare to speak out or challenge the existing power structure.

The constant presence of fear also allows Napoleon to reshape the history of the farm and manipulate the animals' understanding of events. Whenever problems arise, Snowball is blamed as a traitor and enemy of Animal Farm, even though he had once been a respected leader of the revolution. Because the animals are frightened of being accused of disloyalty, they accept these accusations without protest. The fear of punishment effectively suppresses critical thinking and collective resistance, enabling the leadership to strengthen its absolute authority.

Through the depiction of violence and intimidation, Orwell demonstrates how authoritarian regimes often rely on fear to maintain power. Physical force and public punishment create an environment in which individuals feel powerless and isolated, making organized resistance almost impossible. In the context of the novel, the animals' inability to challenge Napoleon's authority reveals how fear can destroy the spirit of unity and freedom that originally motivated the rebellion. Ultimately, the use of fear and violence transforms Animal Farm from a hopeful experiment in equality into a dictatorship where obedience is enforced through terror rather than mutual trust or cooperation.

## **8. CORRUPTION OF REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS**

In *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the corruption of revolutionary ideals represents the ultimate outcome of the pigs' gradual consolidation of power. At the beginning of the rebellion, the animals are united by the hope of creating a society built on equality, justice, and collective welfare. The revolution is motivated by the belief that animals should no longer be exploited by humans and that every animal should benefit equally from the farm's resources. However, as time passes, these ideals begin to weaken as the pigs, who initially assume leadership roles for organizational purposes, gradually transform into an elite ruling class that prioritizes its own comfort and authority.

One of the most striking aspects of this transformation is the gradual resemblance between the pigs and the humans they once opposed. At the beginning of the revolution, the animals establish strict rules to ensure that they never adopt human habits or behaviors. These rules are meant to preserve the moral purity of the new society and prevent the reemergence of oppression. However, as the pigs gain more control over the farm, they begin to violate these principles. They move into the farmhouse, start sleeping in beds, begin trading with neighboring human farmers, and eventually start consuming alcohol. Each of these actions represents a clear departure from the ideals that originally inspired the rebellion.

The pigs' increasing similarity to humans reflects the complete erosion of the revolutionary vision. The leader of the pigs, Napoleon, becomes increasingly authoritarian, surrounding himself with privileges and authority that separate him from the rest of the animals. Instead of promoting equality, the pigs begin to enjoy special food, comfortable living conditions, and greater freedom, while the other animals continue to work harder with fewer rewards. This growing inequality demonstrates that the system established after the rebellion has become just as exploitative as the one it replaced.

As the pigs adopt more human behaviors, the ideological foundation of Animal Farm is slowly dismantled. The Seven Commandments of Animalism, which once symbolized equality among animals, are gradually altered to justify the pigs' actions. These changes demonstrate how language and ideology can be manipulated to legitimize injustice. Eventually, the commandments are replaced by a single rule that openly accepts inequality among the animals. This transformation signifies the final collapse of the revolutionary principles that once guided the farm.

The most powerful symbol of this ideological betrayal appears in the final scenes of the novel, when the pigs begin walking on two legs and interacting with human farmers as equals. The animals who observe this moment realize that the pigs have completely adopted the characteristics of humans. In a famous and symbolic image, the animals look through the farmhouse window and find it impossible to distinguish between pigs and humans. This moment illustrates that the leaders who once promised liberation have ultimately become indistinguishable from the oppressors they replaced.

Through this gradual corruption of revolutionary ideals, Orwell delivers a strong criticism of political systems in which leaders abandon their original principles after gaining power. The transformation of the pigs from revolutionary leaders into authoritarian rulers demonstrates how easily ideals such as equality and justice can be betrayed when power becomes concentrated in the hands of a few. The novel ultimately shows that revolutions can fail when those in leadership positions prioritize personal gain and authority over the collective welfare of the society they claim to represent.

## 9. POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The political and historical significance of Animal Farm by George Orwell lies in its powerful allegorical representation of major political events of the twentieth century, particularly the Russian Revolution and the rise of authoritarian rule under Joseph Stalin. Orwell uses the events on the farm and the actions of the animal characters to symbolize the historical transformation of the Soviet Union from a revolutionary movement promising equality into a totalitarian state dominated by a powerful ruling elite. By presenting these historical developments through a simple narrative involving animals, Orwell makes complex political realities easier to understand while exposing the dangers of political manipulation and unchecked authority.

The rebellion of the animals against their human master

represents the revolutionary uprising of the oppressed masses who sought freedom from exploitation and inequality. The early stages of the revolution on the farm mirror the initial optimism and idealism that followed the Russian Revolution. The animals believe they are building a new society based on fairness, cooperation, and collective ownership. However, as the pigs gradually seize control of leadership, the farm begins to reflect the political transformation that occurred in the Soviet Union when revolutionary ideals were overshadowed by the ambitions of those in power. The rivalry between the pigs and the consolidation of authority under a single leader closely resemble the internal power struggles that shaped the early Soviet government.

Through this allegory, Orwell presents a strong criticism of totalitarian regimes and the political systems that enable leaders to dominate society. Totalitarian governments often rely on propaganda, censorship, intimidation, and the manipulation of historical truth to maintain control over the population. In the novel, these strategies are clearly demonstrated through the actions of the ruling pigs, who distort information, rewrite the commandments, and suppress opposition in order to secure their authority. By portraying these mechanisms of control, Orwell highlights how political leaders can reshape reality and influence public perception to maintain power.

Orwell's critique is not limited to a specific historical regime but extends to a broader warning about the nature of political authority. The novel suggests that revolutions which begin with noble ideals may ultimately fail when leaders place personal ambition above the principles of justice and equality. When power becomes concentrated in the hands of a small group, there is a strong possibility that those leaders will prioritize their own interests rather than the welfare of the community. This process often leads to the gradual erosion of democratic values and the emergence of authoritarian rule.

The broader message of the novel is therefore a universal reflection on how power can corrupt individuals and institutions. Orwell demonstrates that the abuse of authority does not occur suddenly but develops gradually through manipulation, control of information, and the suppression of dissent. The animals initially believe that their new leaders are working for the benefit of the entire farm, but over time they realize that the system has become just as oppressive as the one they overthrew. This transformation illustrates Orwell's belief that societies must remain vigilant and critical of those in power in order to prevent the corruption of political ideals.

Through its allegorical narrative, Animal Farm continues to remain politically relevant even decades after its publication. The novel serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of dictatorship, the misuse of ideology, and the vulnerability of societies to manipulation by powerful leaders. Orwell's work ultimately encourages readers to question authority, value transparency, and recognize the importance of protecting democratic principles in order to prevent the repetition of historical patterns of oppression and corruption.

## 10. CONCLUSION

Animal Farm by George Orwell presents a powerful and enduring critique of how revolutionary ideals can be gradually corrupted when power becomes concentrated in the hands of a few individuals. What begins as a hopeful movement for equality and justice among the animals ultimately turns into a system of oppression that closely resembles the tyranny they originally fought against. Through the rise of the pigs as dominant leaders, the manipulation of laws and language, the use of propaganda and fear, and the exploitation of loyal workers, Orwell reveals the many ways in which authority can be abused to maintain control over a society.

The novel illustrates that revolutions inspired by noble ideals are not guaranteed to produce fair and democratic systems. Instead, they may lead to new forms of inequality if leaders prioritize personal power over collective welfare. Characters such as Napoleon and Squealer demonstrate how propaganda, misinformation, and intimidation can reshape public perception and silence opposition. At the same time, the tragic fate of Boxer symbolizes the vulnerability of hardworking and loyal individuals who trust their leaders without questioning authority.

By the end of the novel, the pigs become almost indistinguishable from the humans they once opposed, clearly showing that the original goal of equality has been completely destroyed. This final transformation highlights Orwell's central message that power, when left unchecked, has the potential to corrupt even those who once claimed to fight for justice and freedom. The famous realization that it is impossible to distinguish between pigs and humans symbolizes the ultimate betrayal of the revolution and the complete collapse of its founding principles.

Ultimately, Animal Farm serves as a timeless warning about the dangers of authoritarian leadership and political manipulation. Orwell reminds readers that societies must remain vigilant in protecting democratic values and questioning those who hold power. The novel continues to resonate with readers across generations because it exposes universal patterns of political behaviour and demonstrates how easily ideals can be distorted when leaders gain the ability to control information, laws, and the collective memory of the people. Through its simple yet profound allegory, the novel encourages critical awareness of political authority and emphasizes the importance of safeguarding equality, justice, and freedom in any society.

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