

The Case of Corruption in *Animal Farm*

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Animal Farm is Orwell's famous anti-utopian fable novel. It tells the story of the brewing, rising, and final metamorphosis of the "animalism" revolution: A group of animals in the farm could not bear the oppression of human beings, rose up, and built their own homes. However, the revolution deteriorated due to the dictatorship of the leader pigs and the ignorance and blind obedience of the animals, and the farm upgraded into a more unequal and cruel autocratic society. This paper will interpret where corruption begins, how does it manifest, and what is in the face of corruption.

Keywords: corruption, dictatorship, oppression

Introduction

George Orwell (real name Eric Blair, 1903-1950) never joined any political party but regarded himself as a man of the left. He fought on the Republican side during the Spanish Civil War that began in 1936, during which he was nearly killed, but became disillusioned with the political infighting of the various factions that were arrayed against the Fascists. In particular, he noted how the Stalinists regarded everyone else as an enemy. This experience led to his writing of *Animal Farm* as a satirical portrayal of the corruption of Communist ideals by Stalin and his cronies in the Soviet Union. Since its publication *Animal Farm* has been immensely successful, and rightly regarded as a 20th century classic.

Literature Review

Shaikh (2021) analysed George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, from a political perspective, reading the current political scenarios in the country through the lens of the symbolic expressions presented in the book. George Orwell considered *Animal Farm* (1945) his breakthrough, the book which brought together his gifts as a novelist with his commitment as a political writer (Dickstein, 2007). Dwan (2012) showed how George Orwell's "fairy story" puts equality on trial and forces readers to reexamine some of their most fundamental moral and political commitments. To this end Methven, Padilla, Corne, and Chantler (2014) discussed a simple process involving two tools (both free for use by academics) which are designed to avoid, or at least alleviate, what Methven et al. (2014) term as Academic Animal Farm. The main subject of Abass (2021) is to determine the interconnection of the micro-universe (the narrative text), and the macro-universe (the reality) through finding a convergence between the topics and events of the narrative text and the real world. Most of the studies analyze the political symbols and the humanitarianism in the novel. The author's thesis will interpret the main theme that runs through the novel, which is the case of corruption.

Where Does Corruption Begin With

In revolting against Mr. Jones, animals gained authority and power to rule their own lives, creating a lifestyle vastly different from before; except it was not. Instead, the oppression evoked from Mr. Jones was seen from their beloved comrade, Napoleon. He no longer was an animal, but a replica of a walking, talking, and destructive human being, symbolizing the slyness and deceitful nature of those in power. The animals are not to blame for the corruption in *Animal Farm*. They fell victim to the cruelty of Napoleon, trapped and silenced within the grip of his trotter. Napoleon, though, might have also fallen prey to the psychology of power to some measure. As a result, the farm's failure or totalitarian nature was caused by a mix of educational abuse, the employment of scare tactics, and the core psychology of power dynamics.

The main reason Napoleon grew into dictatorship was because he found out that being the ruling class would be more "equal" than the other animals. The pigs did not have to work or suffer. They ate to their heart's content while the working class ate little as exploited. The pigs could sleep in comfortable beds and take the products to trade for their own interest. He changed the seven commandments to his liking and persecuted the animals until they could not rise in revolt. He does everything in his power to benefit himself and work the animals to the bone. Not only the system of labor is set, but he also controls the mind and thoughts of the animals, to make them afraid and silent, not daring to rebel. He does not think of them as comrades; he makes them into his slaves and see to it that he is in greatest power.

How Does Corruption Manifest

Social segregation between the animals and pigs is apparent in the aftermath of Snowball's disappearance, as Napoleon takes the lead and disregards the seven commandments that rule their society.

Never to have any dealings with human beings, never to engage in trade, never to make use of money—had not these been the among the earliest resolutions passed at the first triumphant meeting after Jones was expelled? All animals remembered passing such resolutions: or at least they thought they remembered it. (Orwell, 1945)

Napoleon achieves this dictatorship and creates his own rules without a democratic approach by manipulating the inability of the animals regarding their reading, writing, or memorizing skills. Meanwhile, he reaps the advantage of the intelligence within pigs to spread lies and propaganda, ensuring that the animals are in agreement with all his changes and proposals, "Squealer could turn black into white" (Orwell, 1945). The lack of education and the detriment of ignorance within the public are highlighted in the text due to the ease in which Napoleon manipulates his animals to conform to his rules due to these factors, aiding in the creation of a totalitarian society. His abuse of intelligence places the piglets in classrooms and the others out on the field to fund the pigs on their luxury "needs". This trend of segregation through governmental manipulation was seen in the USA until 1964. Generations were not taught the importance of freedom and understanding their rights as humans, unfortunately aiding in continued manipulation and an oppressed society.

From Stalin's purges, Hitler's Gestapo or Kim Jong II's concentration camps; they are prime examples of instilling fear within society to maintain a level of conformity to their rulings. Comparably, Napoleon raises his dogs to embed fear within *Animal Farm* that silences the voices that dare to speak out about the injustices. Squealer utilises fear by suggesting the return of Mr. Jones to manipulate the animals in accepting any changes to the decrees that are proposed despite initial speculations behind its validity. In muting the criticisms that come with governmental rule, Napoleon takes liberty in altering the seven commandments synonymous with the *Bible*.

In doing so, he acts as a God that unrighteously plays with the sacred roots of Animal Farm and no one to question him in fear of repercussions. This is similar to the influence that the Church of England had on society since its establishment in 1534, which at times disregarded the rights of humanity. Those that spoke up about injustices or acted against the Bible were charged for blasphemy, and sentenced to a hanging or stoning. Therefore, fear of punishment contributed to the community's compliance as it marched obediently along a path toward authoritarianism and oppression.

To further cement his position, Napoleon then reduces the possibility of any social mobilization, by making an example of the hens who first rebel, cutting their food rations, then using the threat of punishment by death to prevent any other animals from following their lead.

And last, but certainly not least, the limits to Napoleon's power are seemingly non-existent and ever-changing. He initially blends in with the other pigs, but as he distinguishes himself, his administrative authority keeps expanding. In the end, it escalates to the point of becoming the supreme leader of Animal Farm, starting with distributing the animals' food. His power is absolutely arbitrary and arbitrarily absolute. As Napoleon amassed more and more authority, it became increasingly more about what was best for himself and his fellow pigs which he made out more equal than other animals, rather than what was best for Animal Farm.

In the Face of Corruption

Zimbardo links the behavioural shift toward deindividuation, which is a state in which one becomes intensely immersed into the norms of the role, that a sense of identity and personal responsibility is lost. This along with helplessness applies to the submissive behaviour of the animals as they learned that any rebellious thought or suggestion would be disregarded and punished. This psychology may provide an explanation behind Napoleon's behaviour, but despite the role of situational factors, it was his power play that led to the creation of an oppressive dictatorship.

Also, animals wanted to believe their "comrades" the pigs, because they still think all animals are equal, animals would want the best for animals, as long as the one in charge is not humans. They believed it until the very end, even when the appearances of pigs and human became hard to differentiate. The long-term fear and servility of the animals make them unable to revolt and thus obey their leaders.

Nowadays, the working class lose the ability to think and create, fearful to step out of the comfort circle, and are afraid of the unknown. Also, the system shapes them into thinking they are unworthy of asking for compatible treatment. Only when they realize and unite can they start a revolution. However, unless a majority awakes and get together for rebellion, the power of a single individual or a minority is too weak. They will fail and the rest will be too stubborn and tactless to further any plan. As they are mild and lack of revolutionary spirit, the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Conclusion

To conclude, *Animal Farm* details the story of Napoleon and his selfish greed and controlling nature that led to the downfall of the society. He initiates strategic plans on limiting education to aid his manipulation, and utilising his fearsome dogs and Mr. Jones to incite fear amongst the animals to conform to his ideologies. The animals were victim to the actions of their leader and no platform or freedom was given to speak in opposition. However, given in the real world, the public should always supervise the rulers in case they abuse their powers. It takes unity of the mass and the mutual urge to fight for our own rights.

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