

The Russian revolution and Orwell's animal farm: A parallel study

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Abstract

In *Animal Farm*, Orwell chooses the particular animals to center the curious characteristics of the pioneers of Russian Revolution and to uncover the injustices of Stalinism into a great degree basic, concrete, and intense path by diminishing the inconceivable and complex history of the Russian Revolution into animal tale. The significant social settings that made the novel world renowned are the Marxist philosophy and Stalinism. The primary aim of the paper is to present how the Marxist convention of raunchy society gets ruined by the misuse of force in the totalitarian condition of Stalin.

Keywords: Orwell, the Russian revolution, soviet Russia, animal farm, parallel study

Introduction

One of the chief characters in the novel is Boxer, a tough stallion, whose proverb is "I will work harder" while narrow-minded controlling class is introduced through scholarly pigs who force control for their own advantages. The minor animals, for example, goat, hens, cows, sheep, and others speak to the docile regular class who bolstered socialism in Russia and the canines speak to the military and police power with whose backing both Lenin and Stalin could administer Russia. Orwell utilizes every one of these animals to depict the genuine picture of comrade Russia. Truth be told, his motivation of reviling Stalinism is served by utilizing animal tale. In the start of the novel, he introduces Karl Marx's fantasy of uncouth society through the circumstances indistinguishable with the Marxist belief system. Old Major stirs every one of the animals ideologically with his discourse:

Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say you first . . . Our lives are miserable, laborious and short . . . No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth... all the evils of this life of ours springs from the tyranny of human being (AF 9).

He, then, advances the animals to defy man and finishes up his discourse with mottos: "All animals are comrades". "All animals are equal" (AF 11). This discourse by Major is the base of the resulting activity of the novel. Orwell has introduced the thoughts of Marx portrayed in the *Communist Manifesto* through the discourse of Major. His accentuation on upheaval against the defilement of force demonstrates the Marxist belief system against private enterprise.

The engaging discourse of Old Major makes animals on the Manor Farm aware of their flexibility simply like the Marx's philosophy made individuals mindful of their rights and the standards of communism. The old Major's discourse makes animals to oppose despot Jones in like manner Marxist belief system made the Russian individuals to defy Tsar under the initiative of Lenin, Stalin, and Trotsky. At the point when the insurgency occurred, Russia was being ruled by Nicolas Tsar II, the most indiscreet ruler of the day. The Russian individuals

were of the supposition that Tsar was in charge of war and along these lines their misery. Along these lines, they conflicted with him and the outcome was the uprising of the armed force in March 1917 which soon took after by the mass rebellion of the general population. The specialists likewise went on strike and the aggregate economy of Russia got broken down. Tsar, then, surrendered and Alexander Kerensky, the leader of the Russian Social-Democratic Party, turned into the new pioneer. Notwithstanding, the Soviet acknowledged the temporary government under the two boards, in particular the "Provisional Committee of the State Duma" and the "Executive Committee of Petrograd Soviet". Because of the pressure between these two boards, the administration got to be frail. Amid this time, Lenin, the pioneer of Bolshevik Party, with the backing of Trotsky, ousted the temporary government and turned into the undisputed pioneer of Russia. Trotsky was Lenin's correct hand. Lenin had more confidence in Trotsky than Stalin, however, sly Stalin expelled Trotsky from the political scene of Russia and manhandled the outright power for his advantage. He made the circumstance for Trotsky most exceedingly awful and ousted him from the gathering. Stalin, meanwhile, settled fascism based on fear. Orwell has exhibited the frosty war amongst Stalin and Trotsky for force through the cold war amongst Snowball and Napoleon. From the third part of the novel, the shrewdness of Napoleon is uncovered. To end up the main pioneer of the animals, he restricts each arrangement of Snowball and, at long last, with the assistance of dogs, ousts him from the farm. Indeed, even after the ejection of Snowball, he doesn't miss even a solitary opportunity to slander him. At last he turns into the effective tyrant of the animals, damages every one of the standards and permits having one and only rule in modified structure: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than other" (AF 114). Here Orwell utilizes the socio-political setting of the Russian Revolution, particularly the rule of Stalin, to caution the readers about the degenerate impacts of supreme force of totalitarianism and the significance of the majority rule communism.

The socio-political setting of the Russian Revolution is the deciding variable of *Animal Farm*. In any case, Orwell's utilization of comrade Russia as the base of the novel is obviously not an incident. He intentionally interfaces the

episodes that happened amid the Stalin administration. The real occasions and characters in this novel have a wide comparability with the occasions and personage in the historical backdrop of the Russian Revolution. For example, the episode of war, Stalin's Five-year Plan and New Economic Policy, Trotsky's arrangements of the execution of New Techniques, the contention amongst Stalin and Trotsky, Trotsky's degradation and the last election, Stalin's most extreme craving of seizing supreme force, the scene of cleanse trials, the Hitler–Stalin Pact, and a few different occurrences and circumstances are indistinguishable with the occurrences and circumstances in the novel. In this sense, the novel is viewed as a political moral story of the Russian Revolution.

In the novel, the pigs assume the part of the intellectual elite, who composed and controlled the Russian Revolution. Squealer makes purposeful publicity like that of the Communist Party daily paper *Pravda*. Moses epitomizes the Russian Orthodox Church, debilitating the workers' feeling of progressive shock by promising an ideal world in existence in the wake of death. Boxer's saying, "I will work harder", is a precise reverberation of the ordinary's aphorism in light of monetary issues. The spread of Animalism to encompassing farmers brings out the works by Leon Trotsky to build up socialism as a universal development.

Napoleon works to seize power for himself by banishing Snowball with no avocation to fulfill his own finishes. Essentially, Stalin constrained Trotsky from Russia and seized control of the nation after Lenin's passing. Orwell's involvement in a mistreated Trotskyite political gathering amid the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930s may have added to his relatively positive depiction of Snowball. With a specific end goal to increase supreme force, Stalin kept on inspiring Trotsky as a ghost risk and started his cleanses. The cleanse scene of Napoleon in the novel seems indistinguishable to that of Stalin's.

The windmill venture in the novel is the impression of the charge ventures in the Soviet Union. The pioneers of the Revolution considered such tasks totally fundamental to update framework disregarded by Tsar and stay aware of the generally propelled West. In the novel, Napoleon makes the absurd claim that Snowball was in charge of the windmill's pulverization with a specific end goal to move the fault from his own particular shoulders. Stalin utilized the strategies as a part of Russia by summoning a belittled thought of Trotsky, however, the system has appreciated ubiquity among numerous different organizations. All through the novel, Napoleon looks like Stalin, who had the total force by undermining the standards of communism. Napoleon executes the animals who indicate even a slight dissatisfaction towards him. The hens who contradict the offering of their eggs, meet a quick demise. So also, in the wake of constraining Trotsky's outcast from Russia, Stalin slaughtered a few people through various cleanse trials. Much of the time, the cleanse casualties would admit to exercises in which they had never drawn in essentially to put a stop to their torment. Be that as it may, in the wake of admitting, the claimed plotters were executed as foes of the Soviet. The cleanse trial of animals in the novel is demonstrated on the trials utilized amid the guideline of Stalin.

In the eighth chapter of the novel, Orwell exhibits the itemized portrayal of Napoleon's dealings with his neighbours, Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick. This portrayal intricately farces Stalin's political contract with Germany and the Allies towards

the start of the Second World War, his disagreeable decision between the industrialist Allies and Hitler, and his last concurrence with Hitler is the base of Napoleon's agreement of offering the timber with Mr. Frederick. In his delineation of the decimation of the windmill from Mr. Frederick, Orwell appropriately passes on the infringement of Stalin–Hitler agreement from Hitler. Indeed, every one of the episodes in the novel depends on the circumstances of the unrest under the tenet of Stalin. The novel finishes with the complete change of the *Animal Farm*. Napoleon and other pigs have ended up indistinguishable to the human farmers. The name "Animal Farm" is additionally changed into "Manor Farm" and Napoleon seems like a ruler of the farm. Orwell utilizes earnest one-line sections to elevate the fear of the treachery of the insurgency of the animal: "It was a pig walking on his hind legs" and "He carried a whip in his trotter". Napoleon's aggregate approach to pick up force is indistinguishable to Stalin who inevitably turned into the ruler, an oppressor, and his devotees got to be blue-bloods whom they had censured.

The last scene of the novel is the most repulsive in which the pigs and agriculturists, vague from each other, play cards together. By encircling the scene along these lines, Orwell introduces another class of oppressors who have bended the first goals of the farm. Subsequently, Orwell needs to make individuals see the repulsiveness of the Stalin's belief system. In his "Introduction" to Ukrainian version of the novel, he makes it clear that the novel *Animal Farm: A Fairy Story* is a model of the Russian Revolution under the Stalin principle. On his arrival from Spain, he thoroughly considered to uncover the Soviet myth in a story that could be effectively comprehended by practically anybody and which could be effortlessly interpreted into different languages (CEJL III 458). His Spanish experience makes him mindful of the way that socialism in Russian is a hallucination. To make individuals mindful of the dangers of Stalin's socialism, he utilizes social referent of Stalinism and uncovered the genuine way of the totalitarian socialism in Russia under the Stalin administration.

The socio-political referent of the novel demonstrates Orwell's hostility to totalitarian world perspective. From the earliest starting point of his profession he was occupied with the social wrongs of the day, however, the totalitarian methodology of socialism that Orwell experienced in Spain made him to compose against socialism, and *Animal Farm* is the best case of it. After the publication of *Coming Up for Air*, Orwell devoted his written work to investigate the impacts of totalitarianism, autocracy, and socialism on the structure of the general public. Keeping in mind the end goal to spare the world from these social indecencies and to have equity and equity he felt the need of vote-based communism. His exceptionally world perspective got fortified after his Spanish experience. So he composes: "Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarian and for democratic Socialism, as I understood" (SEOE 07).

As Orwell's prior work did not have a political reason, he was thinking of a significant diverse structure to centre both his political and creative reason; lastly he chose the animal tale to reprimand and assault the totalitarian government in Russia under Stalin to remind the readers the political history of Russia from 1917 to 1943 and to make them mindful of the perils of Stalinism. Besides, he favoured animal tale since it is nearer to feedback than to fiction. Because of the extremely decision of the animal tale, he could pick up accomplishment at a vast scale

than his past work. Indeed, *Animal Farm* was the main book Orwell truly sweated over. Orwell himself admits in "Why I Write": that *Animal Farm* was the principal book in which he attempted, with full cognizance of what he was doing, to intertwine political reason and imaginative reason into one entire. Because of the combination of his belief system about the governmental issues of socialism in Russia and the imaginative quality of the animal tale, the novel made the generous progress everywhere throughout the world.

In his Prelude to Ukrainian translation of *Animal Farm*, Orwell clarifies that the novel is begun from his experience amid the Spanish Civil War. Orwell, then, expresses that he went to Spain in December 1936, five months after the flare-up of the Civil War, to compose daily paper articles. Be that as it may, he instantly joined POUM (Workers' Party of Marxists Unification) to battle against autocracy for just communism; however, when the Communists picked up control over the Spanish Government, they started to chase down the Trotskyites under the charge of conspiracy of the Fascists. Being a Trotskyist, he was the objective of these man-chases yet luckily figured out how to escape alive and came back to England. Amid his stay in Spain, Orwell found that, in Spain and additionally in Russia, the nature of the allegation was the same. Therefore, he felt anxious and chose to compose against one-party rule and socialism. On his arrival to England, he found various people trusting the most phenomenal records of intrigue, injustice, and harm, which the press reported from the Moscow trials. He additionally comprehended the negative impact of the Soviet myth upon the Western communist development. When he came to realize that the lies of totalitarian publicity about Russia that showed up in the daily paper was acknowledged by the general population aimlessly, he chose to give the reasonable picture of socialism to make individuals mindful of the degenerate force. He needed to tell the truth which could be comprehensible to the general population everywhere throughout the world and coincidentally his thoughts were lighted by an episode of a town kid whipping a truck horse and right then and there, he got the motivation he expected to figure his thoughts into *Animal Farm*. While portraying the starting point of the novel, Orwell composes:

On my return from Spain I thought of exposing the Soviet myth in a story that could be easily understood by almost anyone and which could be easily translated into other languages. However, the actual details of the story did not come to me for some time until one day (I was then living in a small village) I saw a little boy, perhaps ten years old, driving a huge cart-horse along a narrow path, whipping it whenever it tried to turn. It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the proletariat I proceeded to analyse Marx's theory from the animals' point of view. (CELJ III 405-6, Meyer 19)

Truth be told, Orwell never gone to Russia. His insight into the comrade government under Stalin comprises just of what can be realized by perusing books and daily papers. Up to 1939, and even later, the greater part of English individuals were unequipped for evaluating the genuine way of the Nazi administration in Germany and the Soviet administration in Russia. They were still, to a substantial degree, under the same kind of fantasy. With a specific end goal to dissect, the Russian Revolution he utilized the animal tale as a part of which he stresses two focuses:

First, that although the various episodes are taken from the actual history of the Russian Revolution, they are dealt with schematically and their chronological order is changed; this was necessary for the symmetry of the story. The second point has been missed by most critics, possibly because I did not emphasize it sufficiently. A number of readers may finish the book with the impression that it ends in the complete reconciliation of the pigs and the humans. That was not my intention; on the contrary I meant it to end on a loud note of discord, for I wrote it immediately after the Teheran Conference which everybody thought had established the best possible relations between the USSR and the West. I personally did not believe that such good relations would last long; and, as events have shown, I wasn't far wrong. (CELJ III 402)

Orwell swung to the convention of animal tales, for example, Aesop's *Fables* and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, to depict the disasters of society in more powerful ways. On account of their aberrant approach, the tales have a solid custom in social orders to draw in readers. In addition, by setting human issues in the set of all animals, an author can unmistakably decipher a story by decreasing the immeasurable and complex history of the Russian Revolution to a short work depicting talking animals on a solitary farm. So far the novel *Animal Farm* is concerned, it is found that Orwell can show his reality view into a great degree straightforward typical terms, displaying the ethical lessons of the story with most extreme clarity and objectivity.

As in his papers and letters Orwell has made it clear that the novel is based upon the Russian unrest under the principle of Stalin, his primary motivation behind composing it was completely proselytizer. In this setting, Alan Swingewood remarks that *Animal Farm* is not an assault on communism nor on unrest but rather on the particular totalitarian elements which Russian communism has created in its refusal of the honest to goodness communist thoughts of 1917 Revolution. The novel locations the defilement by its pioneers as well as how the lack of interest, obliviousness, eagerness, and nearsightedness obliterate any plausibility of a Utopia. The novel, in this manner, speaks to Orwell as a scholarly communist who scrutinize the oppressor for mishandling the force by demonstrating the bogus long for Utopia. His feedback is coordinated at numerous things like organization, reports, stiff-necked misuse of social riches so as to achieve subjection of lower class. Orwell here uncovered the concealed truth of the Soviet myth through the animal tale.

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