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## Insights on Global Politics through Literary Lens

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**Abstract** Political science benefits greatly from the use of literature as a tool for investigating and evaluating political concepts, topics, and problems. Literature can offer viewpoints and insights on political institutions, ideologies, and events through the use of fictional or non-fictional narratives that may not be immediately obvious through more conventional means of political analysis. For instance, fictitious characters and situations may be used in political literature to highlight how political actions or policies affect specific people or society as a whole. In order to better comprehend the rationale behind political players' actions and decisions, it can also offer a way to examine their motivations and mental processes.

The use of literature to examine and evaluate political ideas is one instance of how political science uses literature. For example, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is a political parable that explores the strength of revolt and the perils of totalitarianism through the eyes of a group of farm animals. Another illustration is George Orwell's novel *1984*, which examines the perils of a surveillance society and the fallout from giving a government total authority over its people. The work serves as a cautionary tale on the perils of giving a government excessive authority by using the figure of Winston Smith to highlight the effects of living in a society that erases privacy and individuality. The present paper focuses on how literature can offer viewpoints and insights on political topics that may not be immediately evident through more conventional means of analysis. It can also be a source of inspiration and direction.

**Keywords:** Literary Lens

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Contemporary politics and political agendas influencing the age, place, public of the respective times. Literature itself portrays better or harsh realities of the politics to the society. The Communities having their own ideologies, commenting, supporting, voting, outcasting according to their interests and benefits. There are many literary works which have clearly depicted the situations, agitations, wars, revolutions, and many more. Writers like George Orwell whom has well known place among writers who have done political representation in commendable way, as he himself was part of it. George Orwell was fighting fascist during Spanish civil war with Worker's party of Marxist Unification and P.O.U.M. He was shot in throat by sniper and during his recovery pro soviet communist turned into indifferent communist and anarchists forcing Orwell to flee Spain. He witnessed and jotted down Power, Anarchy, Emergence of Authoritarianism, Slow Consolidation of power, Anarchist Leaders, Complex Global Issues, Corruption, Criticism of fascism and totalitarianism (form of government which prohibits opposition political parties /political system ), Class struggle and stratification and many more through various works. He had a class conscious mother who forbids him from playing with their more working class neighbours. Orwell in his work "The Road to Wigan Pier" (1936) he described his upbringing as "what you might describe as the lower – upper- middle class" and in this book showcase bleak living conditions of working / labour Class in Lancashire and Yorkshire in North England Industrial Region before World War II. After getting Scholarship from Eton College their he was accompanied by Upper classes which can be seen in his writing. Orwell in Burma appointed as Imperial Police Officer, witnessed Imperialistic



Exploitation of British Empire there. He wrote *Burmese Days* (1934) which portrayed critique of British Colonialism, Imperialism and commentary on the hypocrisy and racism of colonial societies. His *Clergyman's Daughter* (1934) is about woman's brief period of freedom among tramps and hop hickers. In his essay "Why I Write" he speculates that –

"In a peaceful age I might have written ornate or merely descriptive books, and might have remained almost unaware of my political loyalties."

Orwell had sympathy towards Working Class and distrust towards authority. His "Down and Out in Paris and London" (1933) exposes poverty and homelessness in two major cities, criticizes social and economic inequality and explores the effects of poverty on individuals and society. In "Homage to Catalonia" (1938), Orwell shares his personal experiences in the Spanish Civil War.

He published *Animal Farm* (1945) which was thinly disguised critique of the Soviet Union, effectively saying it wasn't the happy free and equal place that it claimed to be. In reality it was a highly unequal place where dictatorial minority used propaganda and political terror to manipulate the masses against their own interests. He completed writing *Animal Farm* on Feb. 1944 during World War II. Nicholson and Watson refused to publish it. *Animal Farm* represents Soviet Union Condition, Russian Revolution, praise of Socialism. Mr. Jones (a capitalist, exploitative), who is an owner of the Manor Farm which comprises of many Animals. There are horses, dogs, pigs, hens, cats etc. Some of the Characters represent Eminent Political Leaders. As, Napoleon (pig) represents Joseph Stalin (former premier of the Soviet Union), Snowball (pig) represents Leonid Brezhnev (former people's commissar for Military Affairs of the Russian SFSR), Boxer represents Working Class / Labour, and Old Pig represents Vladimir Lenin (former Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union) who created awareness among all animals through his speech for raising voices for their rights and against exploitation of farm owner Mr. Jones and later in the novella Old Pig's ideology was termed as "ANIMALISM". Authority was handed over by the Pigs – Napoleon and Snowball. Management of the farm and all was done by them to run their lives on their own accordingly. Manor farm was converted into "Animal Farm". Their State Rules / Rituals and Policies shift gear from early revolutionary fervor to phase of consolidation of power in hands. Military Awards, Large Parades and songs like "Beast of England" mentioned / sung numerous times as an anthem. All Animals decide on forms The Seven Commandments of Animalism, which pigs violate and hamper according to their ease. There was one commandment that all animals are equal but as story intensifies Pigs started considering themselves superior (Brainworkers). The Anarchy, Inequality and Chaos emerges as result of Extreme Power and Authoritarianism. He wrote in his words for the Ruling Pigs – "ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS".

And he described the strength of the working class – "Nothing could have been achieved without Boxer, whose strength seemed equal to that of all the rest of the animals put together".

According to him, Totalitarianism was the suppression of individuality for the sake of political orthodoxy. In his work "Literature and Totalitarianism" he says – It not only forbids you to express – even to think – certain thoughts but it dictates what you shall think, it creates an ideology for you, it tries to govern your emotional life as well as setting up a code of conduct.

Orwell's *1984*, written in 1949 gives warning about totalitarianism and erosion of individual freedom. In this work he describes a society where freedom of speech is barred, hate speech, censorship also evolves. This novel highlights propaganda power and disinformation in shaping opinions of public and manipulating truth. Truth, Loyalty, Manipulation, Language: doublethink / Rethink and Newspeak are its main themes. It was a Soeulative and dystopian fiction.

There are some other Writers who showcased Global Politics in their literary works like Aldous Huxley in his *Brave New World* (1932) preaches consequences of totalitarianism and Consumerism.

The Novel *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, (Canadian Novelist and Poet) depicted Patriarchal totalitarian society and explores themes of oppression, resistance and survival. She wrote this work while living in Germany and in her work, she quoted about Berlin Wall and shared that The Soviet Union Empire was emerging strong in place, and was not to crumble for another half a decade. This work was spread drastically and caught eye on global level. It has been translated into 40 or more languages. It has been also turned into Film, Opera and a ballet. So it is being turned into a graphic novel.



Haruki Murakami in “The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle (1994) explores themes of political identity and history in post war Japan and also the social background of the nation.

Chinua Achebe shows the impact of colonialism on African society, justice and freedom to the black community, and struggles to resist and preserve the Culture through his works and mainly – “Things Fall Apart “(1958).

Junot Diaz (He is a Dominican American Writer) explored political and social history and backdrop of the Dominican Republic in his work – “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao” (2007).

So the rivalry between European Powers, Emergence of Soviet Union, Russian Revolution, Fall of Berlin War, World Wars, Cold War, Freedom Struggles, Communism and Consumerism, Various Nation’s War and Post War historical, social, political, economic background and many global issues were the Writer’s theme and Motif and these literary works surpassed all crossovers into reaching with local people of the world to clear them up, awake and make them aware about current geopolitical situations .

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