

38. Comparison/Contrast: Emmanuel Goldstein's "Theory & Practice of Oligarchichal Collectivism"

Students and teachers who get through "The Book" will need to see its value, not just in terms of understanding Orwell's full narrative import, but to see how many of 'Goldstein's ideas' have significant modern parallels. Giving context to the contemporary world we live in gives even greater value to this reading experience and assures students those ideas are permanent and are worthy of their consideration. Students can apply the 'Principles of IngSoc' directly to their own school experience, as many learning institutions have similar authoritarian structures where accountability is elusive and the individual is marginalized.

The following comparison-contrast representations cherry pick the fundamental points of "The Book," locate them in the Signet Edition (1980), and provide, in theory, modern parallels and contexts for Goldstein's assumptions. It would be interesting for students and teachers to add, update, and give macro and micro contexts to the points provided.

Comparison/Contrast: Emmanuel Goldstein's "Theory & Practice of Oligarchichal Collectivism"

#	Page	From <i>1984</i> (Signet Edition 1980)	Modern Parallels
1	184	High, middle, low social groupings	Wealthy, middle class, welfare class
2	185	Superstates: Oceania, Eurasia, Eastasia	Current superstates: The West (USA, Canada, Europe); Russia/China; OPEC (oil producing nations in the Middle East)
3	185	Concept of perpetual war	Middle East; Former Soviet States; projected 100 years in Iraq and Afghanistan; South & North Korea; the Congo in Africa; Arab Spring; Israel & Palestine
4	186	Specialized soldiers	Mercenary soldiers in Iraq: Blackwater, C.A.C.I., KBR, Chilean mercenaries
5	186	Shortage of consumption goods	Sporadic oil shortage affecting gas and petroleum by-products and energy costs; permanent fluctuation in gas prices; WHO predicts eventual shortage of fresh water
6	186-7	States cannot be conquered	M.A.D. (Mutual Assured Destruction): Official Nuclear policy between USA & Soviet Union during Cold War; still largely in effect; economy trumps diplomacy

7	187	Self-contained economies;	Global market is backfiring; default of Greek, Euro economies = possible collapse of EU; Bank crash has had similar effect; we're about to AGAIN experience 'contracting' economies; banks too big to fail are now bigger than ever; no USA bankers have been jailed for wrecking world economy
8	187	Cheap (slave) labor	First world economies exploit third world countries for cheap labor and resources; outsourcing; West uneasy about flood of immigrants from third world countries; massive unemployment resulting (see Greece, Spain, England, Ireland, parts of USA)
9	188	Labor expended on armaments	USA, France, China, Russia, North Korea all build a large % their respective economies around arms manufacturing; US spends more than all others combined
10	188	Standard of living does not benefit from substance or labor	Only non-military first world nations (e.g., Scandinavian countries) have consistently raised their standard of living in past three decades for large portions of their populations; the West has borrowed its standard of living and now must pay it back. In America, in 1929, the GDP during the Depression was minus-100% (we owed as much as we were worth in terms of our national deficit; from 2000-to now it is back at minus-100% GDP (14+/- Trillion dollars). Americans work harder now than ever, putting in more hours than ever, saving less, and having less leisure time on average. (Note: The US economy has so many stabilization features [FDIC, Social Security, etc.], and that our economy is so substantial, our wealth is the standard by which the world measures its wealth. However, some in Congress want to eliminate stabilizing measures.)
11	189	Industrial machines: vision of society; wars and revolution permanently stalled progress	Arms race caused the collapse of Soviet Union; Cold Warrior mentality derailed US "peace" dividend, spending on environment, science, education, health care
12	190	Preservation of the hierarchical order of society is based on the perpetuation of poverty and ignorance	1% of the US population controls most of the wealth; the middle class has steadily declined over the past three decades; US has highest adult illiteracy rate and high school dropout rate, and infant mortality rate of most first world countries.
13	191	Essential act of war is to waste products of human labor (e.g. 'floating fortress'=100 cargo ships)	US military wastes 100's of millions on Osprey helicopter (doesn't fly); F-22 fighter (\$133 million each) & B1 bomber (1\$ billion each) not suitable for current wars. Cost of one B1 bomber= 25-35 new schools

14	191	The psychology of the 'scarcity of small privileges'	In the West we are always told to be thankful for what we have, no matter how bad or expensive things get
15	192	Keeping the elite in power provides stability for society during war	G.W. Bush, Barack Obama (Iraq War, Afghanistan War), R.M. Nixon (Vietnam War), F.D. Roosevelt (WWII), A. Lincoln (Civil War) ran on this premise
16	192	The mental hysteria of the Inner & Outer Party in service of war ("duckspeak")	Patriotism, Nationalism is cultivated mostly among the middle class to support invasion of Iraq; Congressmen shouted down by Tea Partiers at Town meetings
17	193	Science and speculative learning only advance in the cause of war. Newspeak has no word for 'science'	US, Russia, China dedicate their greatest minds and scientists to building weapons of mass destruction We reduce scientists to nerds; we counter scientific theory with ideas like 'creationism' and "intelligent design"; we underfund science despite its benefits in health and industry
19	194	All superstates possess atomic bombs as a means of stability WAR IS PEACE	US, Russia, China, France, England, India, Pakistan, Israel possess nuclear weapons, yet we worry about more nations possessing them when only a few bombs could destabilize the world
20	195	Conventional weapons are the practical choices for perpetual war; yet the bulk of labor goes into creating weapons of immense mass destruction, which go unused	Iraq and Afghanistan are conventional wars requiring conventional weapons, but we spend trillions of dollars' worth on advanced weaponry that we cannot use in these theatres, often depriving ground troops of protective gear to help them
21	196	Contact with foreigners is prohibited; xenophobia is encouraged, as is isolationism	During times of international military and economic stress, the West practices xenophobia, authors anti-immigration legislation, and oppresses its minorities
22	196-7	Prevailing superstate philosophies: Oceania: INSOC Eurasia: Neo-Bolshevism Eastasia: Death Worship (people would rather die than be conquered; they would die a "thousand deaths" for their leader =Hierarchies preserved	Prevailing superstate philosophies: West: Capitalism Russo/Sino: Socialist/Marxist / Capitalism OPEC: Monarchical /Theocratic Petro- Capitalism Cultural Fanaticism: Suicide bombers =Hierarchies preserved
23	198	When war is continuous it is not dangerous	Except to our soldiers, how dangerous is the War in Iraq/Afghanistan to most Americans?

24	199	War is waged by the ruling group against its own subjects to keep society intact: WAR IS PEACE	Terrorist threat levels keep us on our toes; we tolerate inflated energy prices, despite “defeating” an oil-rich nation. Yet, we are safe. WAR IS PEACE
25	203	History is cyclical, therefore intelligible, therefore alterable	History is written by the victors; history is forgotten by those who don’t study it; Americans know less history every year that passes; school history textbooks avoid anything critical of the conquering nation’s sins of war and colonialism.
26	204	Earthly paradise as a promise is a lost hope	Year after year, human rights—an emblem of civil paradise—disappear more and more as the planet becomes destabilized by war, terrorism, and environmental catastrophe. We favor security over rights; without rights, security is an illusion.
27	205	The Managerial Society: bureaucracy is the new aristocracy	Corporate cosmology triumphs over government: profit over people; corporate power over human progress; uniformity over diversity; centralization over localization. Accountants, lawyers, stock analysts, bankers are the new guardians of humanity.
28	205	Constant surveillance	Traffic video control, credit card info, Facebook, email, on-demand, cell phone monitoring, street monitoring, toll booth monitoring, drone spying, NSA (Snowden)
29	206	Abolition of private property (collectivism); permanent economic inequality	Massive foreclosures, Wall Street bail outs; permanent national debt; America is the greatest debtor nation of all time;
30	207	Masters never revolt	As Americans are not asked to sacrifice, to save, to do really anything but consume, Americans have not protested this war despite its economic drain; the masses cannot understand the implications of this as they are not educated in the nuances of war and its effects on commerce
31	208	Big Brother	The President? God? TV? The Automobile? The Internet? Who or What is Big Brother?
32	209	Inner / Outer Party membership built around orthodoxy. Those who are militantly opposed, or discontent are ostracized	Social hierarchies are built around status and education; orthodoxies based on tribal loyalties. What are NHS hierarchies? Are they cliques? Honors classes? Sports? Drama? Band? Other? What are some American hierarchies? Minorities, gays, nerds, liberals, hippies—are they ostracized in America? In schools? Churches? States?

33	210	Intellectual liberty is not liberating if there is no intellect	Superfluosness of opinions; blogs; disrespect for language, reading, scholarship (high stakes testing); emotional opinions trump thoughtful, fact-based debates
34	210	The Thought Police	Helicopter parents, jealous friends, nosy neighbors, pollsters, invasive media
35	211	No private emotions	No mood swings; no down time; no sadness; no excessive silliness; need to join; need to bend to peers; need to imitate; no down time
36	212	Crimestop: “protective stupidity”	Personal dumbing down; underachievement a point of pride; settling for a passing grade; resenting smart people; shaping opinions through emotion and not facts; using force and hysteria to convey authority; following orders without questions; giving in to routines
37	212	Blackwhite: believing a complete lie	79% of Americans believed in 2003 that Iraq was involved in 9/11; poor people drag down the economy; immigrants steal our jobs
38	212	Alteration of the past	Swift Boat Veterans for Truth lie about Kerry’ service in Vietnam; G.W. Bush lies about own service record; Clinton lies about sex; Reagan creates myth of 1950’s— “Morning in America”—the good old days. The Truth: McCarthyism, Cold War, high unemployment, Jim Crow Laws, white flight from the cities, rise of military industrial complex, TV begins dumbing down America—some “Morning in America”)
39	213	Mutability of the past	Our history fades when people don’t read, journalists don’t report news, people become incurious about the past, people do not debate ideas, people do not stand up for justice (e.g., Florida election of 2000)
40	214	Doublethink: mental cheating: War Is Peace Freedom Is Slavery Ignorance Is Strength	Some pro-life adherents support death penalty; we hold dear family values, yet our divorce rate is over 50%, there’s a marriage penalty tax, families have to pay fees for children to be involved in after school activities because communities do not want to share in the tax burden that, spread out, could easily support these activities. Our missiles are called “Peacemakers”; our former president—the most powerful position in the world—was ignorant of world history, was a ‘C’ student, was proud of being incurious; our freedoms are defined by the fruits of our labor, even if our labor spends us into debt and servitude.

