

TOP 2 WAYS NINETEEN  
EIGHTY FOUR  
PREDICTED THE FUTURE

# Number 1-Technology relating to privacy

The first and perhaps most obvious aspect of modern life that author of the novel nineteen eighty-four George Orwell makes an accurate prediction about is his interpretation of technology and its effects on privacy in the future.

# Number 1-continued

“Whichever way you turned, the telescreen faced you.” when analysed by a marxist critic, this quote, among many others, can be interpreted as Orwell expressing the fear society had at his time of state owned technology being used to invade the privacy of almost every aspect of a person’s life, a sort of all seeing eye; an analogy of which is very accurate, given that the telescreen is said to be facing you whichever way you turn, giving an organic almost sentient quality to the piece of technology, which is in essence is part of what makes the text a dystopia. This concept in turn revolves around the marxist philosophy that that a person’s or in this case a writer’s surroundings have a large impact on the underlying ideas presented in their work.

# Number 1-continued

With this in mind, it can be seen as doubly interesting that Orwell has incorporated an idea that would have been unthinkable at his time, the idea that not only are the citizens living under the Party's rule being constantly watched, but they have little to no objection to it. It is once the reader has identified that idea when the similarities or “present day truths” become very apparent. While a surface level analysis of the telescreens would likely bear very little resemblance to anything of the same scale in today’s society.

# Number 1-continued

However, once the time is taken to look at the facts, it becomes very obvious that the parallels between the telescreens depicted in Nineteen-eighty-four and modern technology is much more evident than the average person would like to admit. To use an example from the supposed free democratic western society that Orwell was a part of, and that I am from, a mobile phone, a device carried by most of the people in society today, something that uses extraordinary amounts of private data including location history or search history which in some cases be sold to third parties(which when done correctly is perfectly legal) direct advertising in a manipulative manner, a detail, like those being watched in nineteen eighty four, which is overlooked or not cared about by the general population.

## Part 2-Social Hierarchy

In Nineteen Eighty-Four George Orwell writes about how you have the inner party or the upper class working with and for big brother, then you have people like Winston who are the outer party that work for the party but aren't in powerful positions and then you have the proles that are the industrial working class. Despite the fact that the proles make up 85% of the population of Oceania they are ruled by an entity that they have no say in they just do what they are told and work to survive.

## Part 2-continued

Today's society consists of the upper class, the middle class, the working class and the lower class. The comparison between now and time George Orwell was writing about is so similar it's uncanny. These days you normally will only hang out or be friends with the same people in your class if you go to a public school then you are going to be friends with other people that go to public school. If you are in private school you are going to be friends with mostly upper class people with parents who are in the upper class.

## Part 2-continued

This relates back to 1984 because if you were a prole you would only be around other proles and if you were in the inner party you would only ever be around those people because if you were seen with proles or people from the other party it was seen as a bad thing or like you were upto no good.

Shot for listening