

The Book: *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*

- Chapter 3, WAR IS PEACE outlines the “conflicts” in this world. It is revealed, as Julia thought, that war is a sham. The reason for waging “war” is to eat up the surplus of consumable goods and to keep all people in a mental mood to keep producing for the war effort; it keeps everyone busy and everyone’s mind occupied. By becoming continuous, war in a way ceases to exist – WAR IS PEACE.
- Chapter 1, IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH outlines the essential structure of society:
 - 3 kinds of people: High (aim is to remain where they are), Middle (aim is to change places with the high) and Low (aim is to create a society in which all men are equal, but they are too undereducated and overworked to do this)
 - The High are always intent on crushing all opposition, in this case through propaganda, brainwashing and constant surveillance (made possible with TV and the Thought Police)
 - Collectivism is the way. Private property has been abolished.
 - There are only four ways in which a ruling group can fall from power: (1) be conquered from without, (2) govern so poorly that the masses are stirred to revolt, (3) allow a strong and discontent Middle group to come into being, or (4) lose its own self-confidence and willingness to govern.
 - The make-up of the Party: Inner 2%, Outer 13%, proles 85%
 - Admission to the Inner or Outer Party is not hereditary but by examination at age 16, but proles are not allowed to graduate to the Party.
 - It would be dangerous to educate the proles.

- Party members live their lives under the surveillance of the Thought Police. There are no laws just codes of behavior that if broken bring purges, arrests, tortures, imprisonments and vaporizations.
- Blackwhite (contradictory) refers to the level of loyalty to the Party that one would say black is white.
- The past is constantly altered to agree with the Party's latest line. Therefore, the past is controlled by the Party. (Winston's job is to rewrite history.)
- The four ministries are examples of doublethink (the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them): the Ministry of Peace concerns itself with war, the Ministry of Truth with lies, the Ministry of Love with torture, and the Ministry of Plenty with starvation.
- Again, after reading this, Winston understood *how*; he did not understand *why*.