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George Orwell

Word Count: 1225

To be a good writer is hard but to be a memorable one is harder. Then what does it take to make a writer notable? The answer is that he or she has to be unique and this is what this particular essay is going to talk about- the uniqueness of a political writer recognized by the name of George Orwell. George Orwell or originally known as Eric Arthur Blair, was an essayist, a novelist and a literary critic with the pen name derived from the Orwell river and the King George VI<sup>1</sup>. He had a lot of well-accepted books, essays, short stories and even poems even though they were not his forte. It might seem as if George Orwell was just an ordinary satire-familiar political writer, however, looking deeper into his works, one will realize that he has made contributions to humanity mainly in two sectors, namely the political science and the language English. In my opinion, the most interesting thing about George Orwell is his bold ability to express and convey the political messages to people via his well-written work and leave them to rethink after finishing reading.

Orwell's best talent was writing the satire political criticism books that were surprisingly suitable for all ages. It might sound odd to combine the two qualities together, nevertheless his two famous books; 'Animal farm (1945)' and 'Nineteen-eighty four (1948)' have proven his reputation. Both books were written for the

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<sup>1</sup> Petri Liukkonen. "George Orwell (1903-1950)." Kirjasto, The Public Library. 28 Jan 2013. <<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/gorwell.htm>>

purpose of bringing people's attention to the officials' exploitation of people in democratic countries and the impacts totalitarianism had over them. The theme Orwell used to relate the stories was in the form of fiction. His metaphors were simple yet vivid. For instance, in the world of animals he made up, or rather the metaphor of the real world, justice was defined as equal and more equal<sup>2</sup>, in which the latter generally meant privileged. George Orwell was a democratic socialist. Therefore, the plot of this book was based on anti-Soviet Union conception at that time. Orwell then had a great difficulty to find the publisher of the book who was as well fearless like him. After he finally found one, the book became a hit and a talk about. Orwell's another masterpiece, which cost him the proper treatment for his tuberculosis<sup>3</sup> was 'Nineteen-eighty four'. He died a year after completing the book on his bed in his friend's remote house. This political sci-fi novel turned out to be listed in 100 best books of all time by the World Library, 100 best novels by Modern Library in both editor's and reader's lists, and 100 best English novels in 2005 by TIME magazine<sup>4</sup>. These incredible ranks reflected how timeless his works were.

Other impressive impacts Orwell had left for humanity would be the cultural and linguistic ones. There were many 'inspirations' he gave to the filmmakers and producers to turn his books into films, cartoons, and television programs. The movies adapted were 'Nineteen eighty-four' in 1954 and another adaptation of the same name in 1984, another movie was the 'Coming up for air' in 1965 and lastly, a 'Merry War' in 1997 which was adapted from the book 'Keep the Aspidistra flying' written and

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<sup>2</sup> George Orwell. Animal farm. 1945. p.133.

<sup>3</sup> Chris Durlancher. "George Orwell- A life in pictures." Youtube. 28 Jan 2013.  
<[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRF9Aro\\_1Ck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRF9Aro_1Ck)>

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Nineteen Eighty-Four." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 30 Jan 2013.  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteen\\_Eighty-Four](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteen_Eighty-Four)>

published in 1936. The only cartoon adapted was undoubtedly 'Animal farm.' Lastly, there were also many Television programs created under the George Orwell's initiative tropes, such as the 'Big Brother' and 'Room 101'. Not only that, the trope 'Room 101' was widely excluded from buildings as they believe it contained all the undesired things as in the book '1984'. Apart from that, one of Orwell's essays namely the 'politics and English language' pointed out his creativity of unlikely linking between political and English language problems. He addressed concern that the small ignorance people were overlooking in everyday could eventually lead to political issues in which ignorance became common and no one wanted to fight for the rights. He wrote a few rules of writing in English, which became useful and universal. More remarkable than any other of his works would be, the fictional language, 'Newspeak' he created along in the book '1984'. The examples of words we commonly see would be 'Doublethink', 'Unperson' and 'Thoughtcrime'<sup>5</sup>. These words also inspired other modern writers to create similar words such as 'groupthink' and 'doublespeak' in which the latter was the ironic tribute of the same name for public speakers whose messages were ambiguous and dishonest.

George Orwell had all the characters a great writer 'required' to write the political works. He was obsessed in writing, devoting to works, preferable of isolation, on a hunt for inspirations and a heavy smoker who was unlucky in love. It was no doubt he did leave something more than just another pile of books to the world. On a shallower level of thought, Orwell was expressive and fearless. Most of his essays were composed based on his own experiences. He had a quite experienced life, serving army in Burma, volunteering in Spanish civil war and lost every single

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<sup>5</sup> George Orwell. "The Principles of Newspeak." The Newspeak Dictionary. 1 Feb 2013. <<http://www.newspeakdictionary.com/ns-prin.html>>

fortune and went for all the works possibly offered to him<sup>6</sup>. He wrote over 350 articles over his career of being a journalist. His experienced life had a lot of significant impacts on his works. George Orwell got into Eton College with King's scholar but previously joined St. Cyprian's School where he hated it and wrote the 'Such such were the joys' essay later in his adulthood. He worked for the British police force in Burma where another essay of his, 'A hanging' and his first novel, 'Burmese Days' were composed. Upon his return to England, discontent with the imperialism, he resigned from the police force and drifted around England and Paris, working and living with the poor. He even tried to get arrested to find materials to write. The other book of his was then born entitled 'Down and Out in Paris and London'. These were the examples of his works' origins. His works were so skillful that there was a British prize of his pen name called 'Orwell prize' for outstanding political writing since 1993. They regarded that the prize was for writers who could fuse the beauty of political articles into a piece of an artwork that Orwell claimed to be his goal in the very beginning. Furthermore, there was also a term 'Orwellian' to describe a situation or anything that seemed anti-totalitarianism or futuristic like Orwell.

In conclusion, George Orwell was no doubt one of the most influential political writers of 20th century. Both left and right wings used his works against each other. His clear exposition of cruel reality instead of the ideal beautiful world people imagined made him unforgettable in the sense that he was fearless to stand up for what he thought was right. Orwell was said to be capable of writing the unspeakable

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<sup>6</sup> Steven Kries. "George Orwell, 1903-1950." The History Guide Lectures on Twentieth Century Europe. 2 Feb 2013. < <http://www.historyguide.org/europe/orwell.html>>

truth of his time. On the other hand, he could likewise be an exceptional reminder to people who tried to stand up against the government or any kind of officials. His name was remembered but it cost him his whole life. Orwell did not lead the lively life. His fame was at its peak after his death. Yet, he was remarked as one of the best writer since 1945<sup>7</sup> due to all the contributions he made to this world and this is what makes him remained interesting and influential until today.

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<sup>7</sup> Warwick Collins. "Public Poems." A blog on literary and political matter. 1 Feb 2013. <<http://www.publicpoems.com/2008/01/times-books-section-under-editorship-of.html>>