

Trump's America vs. Orwell's 1984: A Comparison

The following table presents a detailed comparison between George Orwell's dystopian classic *1984* and various aspects of Donald Trump's presidency, highlighting the disturbing parallels

Orwell's 1984	Trump's America
The Assault on Truth and Reality	
The Ministry of Truth <i>distorts facts</i> and rewrites history to suit the Party's narrative	Introduction of " <i>alternative facts</i> " by Kellyanne Conway, establishing a pattern where objective reality became subjective and malleable
"The Party told you to <i>reject the evidence of your eyes and ears</i> . It was their final, most essential command"	Trump (2018): " <i>What you're seeing and what you're reading is not what's happening</i> "
Language as a Weapon	
Government creates <i>Newspeak</i> , a simplified language designed to limit critical thinking	<i>Uses simplified language, repetitive slogans, and redefinitions</i> (e.g., calling "tariff" a "beautiful word" while misleading about who pays them)
<i>Doublethink</i> : holding contradictory beliefs simultaneously (e.g., "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength")	Supporters reconcile <i>contradictory positions</i> (e.g., Trump claiming Ukraine "started" the war while positioning himself as supporting Ukraine)
Media Control and Manipulation	
The Party <i>controls all information sources</i>	Repeatedly <i>labeled press "the enemy of the people"</i> ; threatened NBC's license; led "CNN sucks" chants; sued media companies
Party controls which <i>information citizens can access</i>	<i>Directs followers to specific news networks</i> (especially Fox News); approach compared to authoritarian regimes' information control
Erasing and Rewriting History	
Inconvenient <i>facts disappear down "memory holes"</i>	<i>FEMA temporarily removed unfavorable Puerto Rico disaster statistics; Trump deleted tweets endorsing losing candidates</i>
<i>Altering the past</i> is central to Party power; "the past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became truth"	Repeatedly <i>revises his own history</i> and <i>denies verifiable statements he previously made</i>

Orwell's 1984

Trump's America

Surveillance and Control	
<i>Telescreens</i> constantly monitor citizens	Concerns about privacy, especially regarding the Department of Government Efficiency (<i>DOGE</i>); increasing normalization of privacy intrusions
" <i>Thought Police</i> " monitor for independent thinking contrary to Party ideology	Attacks on dissent, <i>calls to investigate media outlets</i> , efforts to punish critics; pressure to conform to approved narratives
Authoritarian Tendencies	
Big Brother embodies <i>absolute power</i>	" <i>Admiration and fascination with political strongmen</i> " in Russia, China, Turkey, etc.; remarks about using "dictatorial powers" if reelected
<i>Big Brother's omnipresent image</i> and unquestioned authority define Oceania	<i>Unprecedented media coverage</i> creates similar effect; described as "the White Ford Bronco presidency" due to constant focus

This comparison reveals troubling similarities between Orwell's fictional dystopia and certain aspects of contemporary American politics during the Trump era. As Orwell warned, political language can be "designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."