



**Abuse of Power as a Significant Factor for the Demise of the Ideals of
Animalism in Animal Farm and the Corresponding Demise of Communism
in Russia**

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Table of Contents

- Introduction..... 3
- Chapter 1: Previous Research and Historical Background 5
 - Historical Context 5
 - Orwell And His Political Background 8
 - Previous Research 9
- Chapter 2 - Abuse of Power in Animal Farm and Corresponding Parallels in Historical Context 13
 - Instances of Abuse of Power in Animal Farm..... 13
 - Pigs abusing power using their intellect and covering up their actions with propaganda 14
 - Napoleon abusing power by ruling the animals with fear and terror..... 17
 - Abuse of power by betrayal, creating divisions and distorting of rules..... 19
 - Abuse of power by putting animals to unbearable workloads and pigs behaving like and interacting with the humans 21
 - Similarities in Abuse of Power by Napoleon and Joseph Stalin 23
- Conclusion 25
- Works cited..... 29
 - Primary Source: 29
 - Secondary Sources: 29

Introduction

Animal Farm, written by George Orwell in 1945, is an allegory representing the events that happened during the Russian Revolution in 1917. Orwell faced great difficulty in getting his novel published as it contained criticism of the political leadership in Russia at that time, but once published, it became popular and has remained so and was chosen by Time Magazine to be among 100 best English-language novels 1923- 2005 (1). Orwell describes the idea of writing the book about a farm in "*Preface to the Ukrainian Edition of Animal Farm*" as a vision "...I saw a little boy, perhaps ten years old, driving a huge carthorse along a narrow path, whipping it whenever it tried to turn. It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the proletariat" (2). The idea was compelling as it reminded him of the oppression carried out by Stalin in Russia.

The plot of the novel is set on a farm for animals called Manor Farm, somewhere in England, where the owner of the farm, Mr. Jones, is scared away from the farm by the animals after he gets in conflict with them. The novel begins when the Old Major, a prize-winning boar, invites the animals of Manor farm for a gathering in the big barn of the farm, where he tells them of a dream he has had of a farm where all animals live together peacefully without any humans around in an atmosphere free of oppression and control. He goes on to tell the animals to work hard in order to turn his dream into reality and teaches them a song called "Beasts of England" (14) as a lyrical description of his dream. The animals greet the Major's vision of a dream farm with great interest and enthusiasm and when he dies just three days after making the speech, three younger pigs named Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer decide to take advantage of the enthusiasm and formulate the main principles of the Major's vision into a philosophy called "Animalism". It eventually results in the animals taking over the farm, and in order to highlight the fact that it now belongs to the animals, they decide to

change the name of the farm from Manor Farm to Animal Farm. All the animals are very excited and pledge to do all they can to realize Old Major's dream farm with great enthusiasm, exemplified by the commitment of the carthorse "Boxer" to the prosperity of the Farm in his well-known phrase "I will work harder" (32). This and similar phrases are used by the pigs to keep the other animals motivated despite having many difficulties and setbacks so that they can be exploited to the maximum.

Animals at the farm start to build a communist society after taking over the farm by rebelling against their human master. Everything seems to work well in the beginning but things gradually change for the worse and the Animal Farm ends up becoming a totalitarian state governed by the ruling class consisting of pigs. By highlighting the gaps that exist between the ruling pigs and the common animals, the author demonstrates the complete reshaping of what started out as a democratic movement by the animals into a hypocritical dictatorship. *Animal Farm* thus is an allegorical retelling of the events that took place in early 20th century in Russia leading up to the formation of the Soviet Union, characterized by a revolution and eventual installation of a dictator. In order to describe the events in *Animal Farm* and relating them to corresponding parallel events taking place during the Russian Revolution, the writer has skillfully made use of a number of animal characters and some human characters that are not merely characters in their own right but also stand for their classes.

The essay starts with a chapter that provides a background overview of the historical events and political atmosphere prevailing in Russia in the beginning of 20th century, resulting in the Russian revolution in 1917. It also includes a section on previous research. In Chapter 2, a literary analysis forms the main part, where it is argued that the abuse of power is a significant contributing factor for the demise of the initial ideas and ideals. This is shown to be due to the dictatorial role of Napoleon in *Animal Farm*, which corresponds to effects of the dictatorial role of Joseph Stalin in Russia.

Chapter 1: Previous Research and Historical Background

The present essay deals with abuse of power in *Animal Farm* and its corresponding parallels in Russia after the revolution in 1917. It is therefore appropriate to provide an overview of historical context of the political atmosphere prevailing in Russia at that time. The author's own background and his political ideas also plays a significant role in shaping the events described in the novel, and brief information about the author and his political ideas is therefore provided. A section on previous research is also included.

Historical Context

Russia in early 20th century was a huge empire, ruled by Tsar Nicholas II and consisting of the vast lands of present day Ukraine and Belarus. Neil Faulkner in his book entitled *A People's History of the Russian Revolution* describes Tsarist Russia comprising of a vast territory of diverse geography. It stretched from “Poland and the Baltic Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east, from the icebound wastes of the arctic in the north to the baking steppes of Central Asia in the south” (10). There were people from almost 200 regional and ethnic groups speaking about 125 or more languages living in the country.

Russia under the Tsar was poorly organized in a militaristic manner. Faulkner describes the Tsar's rule as autocratic and points out that interaction among factors like “backwardness of economy”, “weakened civil society” and “competition with the rival powers” as the main factors responsible for such a state (9). The majority of the people were mainly poor farmers and peasants, who lived very deprived lives due mainly to low yield from meagre farmlands (10). They were forced to work hard and were unable to take advantage of technological developments and innovations from the rest of the world. This resulted in many peasants finding it difficult to live in the villages and led to large number of

people leaving the villages and heading to big cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg in search of better employment opportunities in mining, mills and metal-works (20).

The industrialization in Russia as compared to rest of the world was also slow. Even though it started before the start of the World War I, Faulkner mentions that when “other parts of Europe were industrializing. Russia was not. The gap between the capitalist nation-states of Western Europe and the medieval empire of the Tsars was widening” (18).

The majority of people in Russia were still very poor and the gap between the poor majority and the rich minority was widening and becoming larger. Further factors such as increasing corruption among government circles, retaliatory policies against the opponents by Tsar Nicholas II, and the loss faced by Russian military in World War I contributed to the widespread dissatisfaction and revolt against the government. The government could not come up with a plan and the chaotic situation grew every passing day, resulting in riots over food shortage in Petrograd (St. Petersburg). Robert Service in his book entitled *The Russian Revolution 1900-1927* mentions that Army personnel became reluctant to fire on the rebels in 1917, which forced Tsar Nicholas to announce that he no longer wanted to be in power, and was ready to leave the office, which he eventually did (29). His departure from power resulted in the appointment of a provisional government with Georgy Lvov as its head, who attempted to preserve Russia’s involvement in the war but faced much resistance, especially from the powerful Petrograd workers’ soviet who wanted Russia to abandon the war and focus on internal problems instead. Such resistance groups, consisting of the members from both civil society and the military units, were also gaining ground in other big Russian cities and towns. Even though there were many small resistance groups, the movement was dominated by the groups like the Socialist Revolutionary Party, Mensheviks and Bolsheviks. Joseph Zajda in his article entitled “The Russian Revolution” mentions that the Socialist Revolutionary Party

consisted of about 800,000 members followed by Mensheviks with about 200,000 members after February 1917 (2).

Chaos in the society was growing and gravity of the deteriorating situation can be realized from the fact that the provisional government was reorganized four times in a short period of seven months between March and October. Aleksandr Kerensky became the head of the government but was unable to control the growing political and military chaos in the country. Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, in the meantime were able to gain support among the soldiers and hungry urban workers giving them majority in the key cities of St. Petersburg and Moscow, which emboldened them to occupy key government buildings in a “bloodless and peaceful” change of government in October 2017 (4). Aleksandr Kerensky tried to take control but was unsuccessful and was forced to leave the country, resulting in a new government consisting mainly of Bolsheviks in a newly formed country called Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also called the USSR (1), with Russia becoming the world’s first socialist country in 2022 (1). Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky were appointed as the “head of communist party” and “leader of Red Army” respectively in Lenin’s government but when he died in 1924, a new struggle for power in the USSR started between them, resulting in Stalin winning the battle with Trotsky and his followers being labelled as traitors (4). Trotsky was forced to leave the country permanently and a Stalinist assassinated him in 1940 in Mexico.

Animal Farm by George Orwell is an allegory where the events of the Russian Revolution, resulting in the communist takeover are criticized. The significance of the message contained in the novel according to John Rossi in his article entitled “Orwell on Fascism” is undeniable in the sense that Orwell was the first among the writers at that time who was able to identify communism as a dangerous form of totalitarianism instead of only a revolutionary power (207). Pigs are the most important characters in the novel and are used by the author to represent the ruling class that have taken over the management at the Animal

Farm after Mr. Jones, the owner of the farm. The author's choice of pigs to represent the ruling class is interesting as the associated meaning of the word is that pigs are the greediest animals, as they eat a lot and their belly never fills. They are so greedy and lustful that they even forget about their relationships. It is likely that these characteristics make the pigs Orwell's most appropriate choice to represent the ruling class of the world. In a study entitled "Symbolism in Animal Farm", carried out by Eman AbdelRahman, the author mentions that Snowball in the novel represents Leon Trotsky, Napoleon stands in for Joseph Stalin, and Old Major represents Karl Marx (16-23). In a similar way as the Russian Revolution led to much misery and many deaths in the common Russian population, the corresponding animal revolution in Animal Farm ends in tragedy. Through his novel, Orwell explains how political systems are used to curb individual freedom. Even though it is allegory of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Joseph Stalin, it can also, according to Jesse Matz in his article entitled "The Modern Novel: A Short Introduction" be an exploration of any rebellion or political uprising (92).

Orwell and His Political Background

The real name of George Orwell, who was born in Bengal, India in 1903, was Eric Arthur Blair. He stayed in India for a while but he was brought to England in early days of his life where he was educated at St. Cyprian's first and at Eton later with a scholarship. Popular socialist and liberal ideas were a common topic of discussion at Eton, especially in the period following World War I. It was natural for Orwell to get involved in these discussions and get ideas and inspirations, which remained with him later on in his life. Instead of continuing his education at the university after graduation, he opted to join the Indian Imperial Police, which made him serve in Burma (present day Myanmar) from 1922-1927 but he decided to resign from the police due mainly to his dislike of imperialism. Being a democratic socialist, he was

extremely suspicious and critical of Stalin's actions and intentions. However, since it was difficult to criticize him directly due to the prevailing geopolitical environment, he decided to use his novel in order to highlight long-term catastrophic consequences he was able to foresee.

Orwell has written many novels including *Down and Out in London and Paris*, *Coming Up for Air*, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, *Burmese days*, *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Given the fact that Orwell was employed by the Indian section of BBC eastern section to counter the German and Japanese propaganda, Valerie Meyers believes that his experience at the BBC where he worked with condensing, simplifying and arranging information for propaganda purposes helped him to complete *Animal Farm* in the very short time of 3 months (101). Janne Hirvisaari in his article entitled "Some Animals Are More Equal than Others - A Posthumanist Reading of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*" is of the view that Orwell skillfully made use of the literary form allegory to convey his message. This means that characters in the story are represented as animals but are used to convey some philosophical or moral message, concerning the Russian Revolution and its catastrophic consequences (25). There are many similarities and analogies between the events in Orwell's *Animal Farm* and the Russian Revolution of 1917, which are highlighted in the novel. The events in the novel and corresponding parallel events in Russia evolve in similar ways and end up with the rise of one party (communist party) in case of Russia and one species (pigs) in case of *Animal Farm*. In both cases, this was made possible with manipulations, fear, oppression and terror.

Previous Research

Since its publication, *Animal Farm* has remained the focus of attention for many researchers wanting to dig deep both for interpretations and implications for different societies. One

example is Daneshara Sepehr's article entitled "Corrupt Ideology, Revolution, *Animal Farms*: The Misinterpretation of Revolutions in Twentieth Century through George Orwell's *Animal Farm*", in which the author takes up Orwell's belief that all the revolutions in 20th century take the nations back into more gloomy ideals even worse than the previous political situation (1). The author further argues that promises made by the leaders at the start of revolutions are impossible to achieve and calls them pipe dreams, forcing leaders to come back to reality where they have no choice except taking a systematic approach to build a ruled based society that follows the commandments in its true spirit (2).

In a study by David Dwan entitled "Orwell's paradox: Equality in *Animal Farm*", he discusses the ways in which the concept of equality is the central issue of the novel and puts a question mark on the viability of the coherence of equality as a theoretical principle, instead of focusing on the satirical portrayal of Stalin's regime (655). The author takes the view that *Animal Farm* should be considered as a criticism of all sorts of political ideologies that claim to value "equality" but use a highly distorted definition of this (656). The author also believes that Orwell's view on the abuse of the idea of equality is influenced by his experience in Spain, and argues that although he acknowledges the concept of equality to be vital, it cannot be the solution to all the problems since the concept itself is very complex and liable to be misinterpreted (679).

Robert Pearce has also carried out a study involving *Animal Farm* entitled "Orwell, Tolstoy and Animal Farm". Pearce in the article mentions the common perception about George Orwell and Leo Tolstoy having contrasting attitudes to life but proclaims that the difference may not be as serious as believed, and argues instead that Orwell gets his inspiration for manipulation of the seven commandments of Animalism in *Animal Farm* from Tolstoy (66). Pearce further explains that his view is strengthened because rewriting of the commandments has no historical parallel and believes that Tolstoy has a great influence on

Orwell, which is reflected in his writings (67). However, while this influence is likely, I will argue that the commandments can also be seen as reflecting Marx's communist manifesto.

Further, Paul Eissen in his article entitled "George Orwell and politics of *Animal Farm*" takes up the issue of pigs taking advantage of animals due to their inferior intellect, which could either be natural as not all the animals are born with equal intellect or artificial due for example to the lack of education. Eissen argues that as long as animals are unable to remember the events from the past, there is very little chance for them to have control over their future (1-2), and thinks that *Animal Farm* is a story about a revolution that has gone wrong. He further argues that the ideas of Communism, Fascism and Animalism are all nothing more than illusions, and are used as instruments by the ruling class to satisfy their greed and desire to have all the power and control in their hands (2). Although, as we will see, the idea of revolution is indeed compromised in Orwell's novel, I suggest that it is important to look at the specific historical context he is criticizing.

In yet another study involving *Animal Farm* entitled "The Dual Purpose of *Animal Farm*", Paul Kieschner explores both the artistic and political purpose of the novel. The study brings up many topics, including Orwell's views on socialism, capitalism and fascism, the author's choice of genre and its impact on the novel (764-765). Kieschner also analyzes certain aspects from the novel and makes efforts to connect them to events in the real world. The most remarkable claim in the article is about the Donkey in the novel named Benjamin, which the author believes is a representation of Orwell himself (765). Kieschner's claim is based on the fact that Benjamin is the only one among the animals who understands all the tricks used by the pigs for manipulating the common animals in almost the same way as Orwell himself did in relation to the communists in Russia. It was Benjamin, who revealed the true fate of the horse Boxer to the other common animals, and Kieschner argues that he

suddenly plays the role of an author and decides to blow the whistle instead of remaining silent and thereby places sympathy before safety (765).

As is evident from the included studies of Daneshara, Dwan, Pearce and Kieschner, there are many ways of interpreting the events in *Animal Farm*. The concept of equality taken up by David Dwan can for example be compared with Orwell's use of animals and their actions in *Animal Farm* to educate the readers about the concept. Mr. Jones in the novel is shown to take away everything from the animals before the rebellion, which led the animals to agree on a commandment that "all animals are equal" right after the rebellion and becoming free from the tyranny of their human master (14) in order to try to reach equality among themselves. This newly established "equality" is short lived though and turns to inequality after the pigs started to bend the initially agreed commandments to their liking. Another interesting aspect that is taken up by Paul Kieschner is his remarkable claim about the Donkey Benjamin, which the author believes is a representation of Orwell himself (765). Although the aspect is interesting, I find it difficult to agree with the author in the sense that Orwell unlike Benjamin chose not to remain silent but opened up and showed his disliking by writing the novel. Benjamin, who represents all the intellectuals during the Russian Revolution, on the other hand chooses to remain silent and ignore the politics. He was the only animal that never believed in the rebellion but he never opposed it either unlike Orwell. As is obvious from the previous studies mentioned above, the events in the novel can be interpreted in many different ways but it seems that most of the critics do not touch upon the aspect of abuse of power. This lack of focus on the aspect of abuse of power shows that there is a legitimate need to carry out such a study, which leads us to the analysis section of the present essay.

Chapter 2 - Abuse of Power in Animal Farm and Corresponding Parallels in Historical Context

The basic idea of revolution at the Manor Farm, which later becomes Animal Farm, originates with the dream of Old Major, a wise and persuasive pig. The ideas from the dream that he shares with the other animals consist of many factors, for example a desire to strengthen the working class combined with a strong argument to create equality and unity, but it all becomes hijacked and ends up in a complete totalitarian takeover by a dictator. The text in the novel cannot be understood fully without taking into account the full context, and the symbols used by the author gives a complete picture when taken into account together with the prevailing social and political environment coinciding with the time when the novel was written.

The main message Orwell puts across through the novel is that political leaders are selfish and are worried only about their own interests instead of serving the masses and that they do not hesitate to misuse their power to achieve their goals, thereby taking away the political and civil rights of common people. There are many factors contributing towards the failure of the idea of Animalism in *Animal Farm* and the corresponding failure of the ideals of communism in Russia. In this essay, I argue that abuse of power by leaders is the most significant factor contributing towards the demise of the idea of Animalism in Animal Farm under Napoleon and corresponding ideals of communist rule in Russia under Stalin.

Instances of Abuse of Power in Animal Farm

The first sign of abuse of power in Animal Farm appears in the speech made by Old Major, where he asks, “Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short” (9). It describes how Mr. Jones, who is usually drunk,

does not care much about the welfare of the animals and is therefore abusing his power, which unfortunately does not end there but continues after the revolution. Instances of abuse of power by the ruling pigs in Animal Farm and their corresponding parallels in Stalin's Russia are analyzed below.

Pigs abusing power using their intellect and covering up their actions with propaganda

The attempts to gain power using dirty tricks and deception by the ruling pigs starts with the hijacking of a peaceful democratic movement, which was started with an aim to improve the living conditions for the animals at Manor Farm, which becomes Animal Farm after the animal takeover. Abuse of power starts already in the early days after the takeover, when the pigs assumed control of the farm without any elections taking place: "the pigs occupied themselves with planning out the work of the coming season. It had come to be accepted that the pigs, who were manifestly cleverer than the other animals, should decide all questions of farm policy..." (52). Even though all the animals agree to obey the seven commandments, the pigs start to break them by abusing their intelligence and power. This they do by making other animals do the hard physical labor while they take the responsibility for supervision and education on themselves: "The pigs did not actually work but directed and supervised the others. With their superior knowledge it was natural that they should assume the leadership" (30), and "The work of teaching and organizing the others fell naturally upon the pigs, who were generally recognized as being the cleverest of the animals" (17). This highlights the fact that education is a powerful tool, which the pigs use to their advantage by manipulating other animals with inferior intellect to serve them. Pigs use education to get the initial advantage over the other animals and once they realize its effectiveness as a weapon, they deny it to others so that they can continue with their dominance and abuse of power. This lack of

intellect can be compared with the study carried out by Paul Eissen mentioned above in chapter 1, where the author argues that it is this inferior intellect, which leads the animals to forget the events from the past and thereby reducing their chances to have a control over their future. Abuse of power by taking advantage of other animals also continues when for example it comes to eating and drinking milk and apples:

Never mind the milk, comrades! cried Napoleon, standing in front of the milk buckets. That will be attended to. The harvest is more important. Comrade Snowball will lead the way. I shall follow in a few minutes. Forward, comrades! The hay is waiting (28).

Hearing this, animals troop down to the hayfield to harvest but notice upon their return that milk has disappeared. This shows that the animals are lured into working more while the milk has been taken away in their absence to be consumed by the pigs. The common animals are made to believe by the pigs that even though they do not like milk and apples, they are consuming them to be able to achieve the common good for the farm: “It is for your sake that we drink the milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back!” (39). Squealer in this quote puts emphasis on “your” in order to highlight that the pigs are eating apples and drinking milk for the benefit of the common animals. In order to make sure that the other animals do not get suspicious, Squealer continues saying:

You do not imagine I hope that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. I dislike them myself. Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples (this has been proved by Science, comrades) contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig (39).

This statement is skillfully used to trick the animals into believing that pigs are acting in this way in order to work for the interests of other animals and that they are working to serve them. Squealer continues and persuades the animals that the apples “contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig” (39). It can be concluded that although Squealer presents the consumption of milk and apples as a selfless act and relates it with tiring brainwork, this is not true in reality, and the pigs are abusing their power and are exploiting the common animals to deny them of their rights.

After the animals take over the farm, pigs declare themselves the leaders. They go one-step further: “It had come to be accepted that the pigs, who were manifestly cleverer than the other animals, should decide all questions of farm policy...” (52). In another example of abuse of power in deciding on farm policy, Napoleon makes some announcements in front of the terrified animals to inform them that “In future all questions relating to the working of the farm would be settled by a special committee of pigs, presided over by himself. These would meet in private and afterwards communicate their decisions to the others” (60). In order to consolidate his dictatorship and to put an end to the democratic process, he further states that although “the animals would still assemble on Sunday mornings to salute the flag, sing 'Beasts of England', and receive their orders for the week; but there would be no more debates” (60). This more or less puts an end to whatever democratic process there is at the Animal Farm and puts it on course to becoming a totalitarian regime.

After expelling Snowball and taking the harsh steps to curb the common animals of any freedom left, Napoleon sends the propaganda master Squealer to the farm in order to calm down the animals and explain the need for the new arrangements in such a way that it is done for the betterment of the animals at the farm. The statement made by Squealer that “No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make

the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?" (61), is one of the best example of pigs exploiting the farm animals due to their supposed lack of superior intellect.

Napoleon abusing power by ruling the animals with fear and terror

Snowball proposes building a windmill as he thinks it would make life easier for animals. Napoleon does not like the idea and argues that it is just a waste of time and money. He instead suggests spending on weapons and using them to spread the revolution. It is proposed to have a voting to decide whether the windmill shall be constructed or not. Snowball makes a speech in favor of building a windmill and all animals' turns in its favor, but when Napoleon arrives, the situation changes. Napoleon's disagreement about the building of a windmill with Snowball increases larger and he:

... stood up and, casting a peculiar sidelong look at Snowball, uttered a high-pitched whimper of a kind no one had ever heard him utter before. At this, there was a terrible baying sound outside, and nine enormous dogs wearing brass-studded collars came bounding into the barn. They dashed straight for Snowball, who only sprang from his place just in time to escape their snapping jaws. In a moment, he was out of the door and they were after him. (58).

This shows the tremendous power Napoleon is able to achieve in a short period and the expulsion of Snowball indirectly symbolizes the use of the Soviet secret service to get rid of Leon Trotsky by Joseph Stalin.

Napoleon using enormous dogs to throw out Snowball is evidence of abusing power by creating fear and terror among the common animals, which is visible from the reaction of the animals to the dogs when they comes back after chasing away Snowball: "Silent and terrified, the animals crept back into the Barn" (59). When Napoleon's propaganda minister Squealer is trying hard in vain to convince the animals that Snowball is

an enemy and an agent of Mr. Jones, he instead decides to use the element of fear by stating: “I warn every animal on this farm to keep his eyes very wide open. For we have reason to think that some of Snowball’s secret agents are lurking among us at this moment!” (88). What he wants to convey to the animals in other words is that anybody daring to contradict the pigs in what they were stating is true will be declared as Snowball’s agent and will therefore be subject to harsh treatment. Another example of Napoleon’s abuse of power through fear and terror is when he convenes a meeting of all the animals and makes use of the enormous dogs to terrorize many smaller animals for forceful confessions and executions: “Napoleon stood sternly surveying his audience; then he uttered a high-pitched whimper. Immediately the dogs bounded forward, seized four of the pigs by the ear and dragged them, squealing with pain and terror, to Napoleon’s feet” (89). The poor small animals are not left with much of a choice other than to confess that they are Snowball’s agents, are in touch with him and are working for the farm’s return to Mr. Jones, which leads to their immediate execution by the enormous dogs, who just tore their throats apart. This event in Animal Farm symbolizes the mass killings during the period 1936 to 1938 in Russia, where according to James Haris: “... the regime of Joseph Stalin summarily executed 750,000 Soviet citizens without trial or any legal process” (1). Napoleon does not stop there but uses this act of terror instead to make other animals confess crimes they have not committed and thereafter ordered their executions. All the above mentioned examples points to the fact that Napoleon has become such a tyrant who will not hesitate to use the fabricated confessions and consequent executions to kill anybody daring to put a question mark on his authority.

Squealer instills a constant fear for the return of Mr. Jones in the Animal’s minds as is evident in the quote:

Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we

pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades (39).

In another example to instill Mr. Jones' fear among animals on another occasion, he states:

... with all the brainwork we have to do nowadays. You would not rob us of our repose, would you, comrades? You would not have us too tired to carry out our duties. Surely none of you wishes to see Jones back? (74).

This works like a hanging sword on their heads and keeps them motivated to work.

Abuse of power by betrayal, creating divisions and distorting of rules

When Mr. Frederick of the neighboring farm attacks Animal Farm and uses blasting powder to blow the farm away, the animals at the farm fight back very bravely and manage to win the battle but at a very huge cost as many animals, including Boxer, are wounded. However, he manages to recover from this but becomes so weak that he collapses while working at the windmill. He is taken away in a knacker's van on the pretext of being taken to the hospital, but in reality, he is being sold out by Napoleon in order to collect money to buy whiskey for the pigs. When the donkey Benjamin alerts the other animals about the foul play, Squealer immediately comes to Napoleon's rescue and is able to persuade the animals that the van belongs to the hospital even though there is a knacker's signboard on the van, which they forgot to remove or repaint. An announcement of Boxer's death is subsequently made by Squealer, who announces that Boxer shall be remembered and honored by arranging a festival and that his sayings "Napoleon is always right" (62) and "I will work harder!" (62) are going to remain forever. In other words, he is doing this in order to convince all the animals to work even harder.

Another example of the abuse of power in the novel becomes apparent from the fact that the pigs, especially Squealer and Napoleon, together with dogs, enjoy special treatment at the expense of other animals. All the animals, whether weak or strong, put in as

much effort as they can in order to ensure that the assigned work is completed on time. Boxer sometimes starts working early and finishes late, while ducks and hens also contribute as much as they can according to their size and capacity. During all this time when other animals are working hard, the pigs are taking it easy and pretend to be thinking but are avoiding the hard labor in reality. This inequality and injustice leads to the development of social class in the farm consisting of pigs as the ruling elite and all other animals as their subjects or slaves. The divide between these classes grows rapidly as is evident from the change of the commandment so that “All animals are equal” becomes “All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others” (142), referring to the pigs enjoying the privilege of having a higher status among all the animals. They are able to attain tremendous power, which they could use to get whatever they want. They makes use of it and sets up a room called the “harness room” for their own use where they learns important skills like carpentry and blacksmith work, while the other animals are given access only to learning basic reading and writing. Another occasion when the difference between animal classes becomes noticeable is when Mr. Pilkington of the neighboring farm says: “if you have your lower animals to contend with’ he said ‘we have our lower classes!” (146), which is an indication that pigs have made the divide so big so that it is noticeable even to human leaders.

Pigs also abuse their power by not obeying the initially agreed commandments. One most important commandment is that “all animals are equal” but when Napoleon becomes a powerful dictator and starts to misuse his power, he starts changing these rules so that he can be able to do all he wants, which most animals did not realize since they were not very smart. This indirectly symbolizes one of the false promises of communism in Stalin’s Russia where they were promised equality at the start of the revolution but were misled and never got it in reality. By the end of the novel, the commandments are changed as follows:

Original commandments	Changed commandments towards the end of the novel
Four legs good, two legs bad	Four legs good, two legs better
No animal should sleep in a bed	No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets
No animal shall drink alcohol	No animal shall drink alcohol to excess
No animal shall kill any other animal	No animal shall kill any other animal without cause
All animals are equal	All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others

The changes are made to suit the pigs' actions and desires in such a smart way and making small incremental changes so that it becomes very difficult for the common animals to see the differences, and even if some animal do notice it, he or she is made to believe that he/she has forgotten. The seven commandments in Animal Farm mentioned above are the equivalent of the communist manifesto during the Russian revolution. Stalin did what Napoleon does, not following the commandments and keeping on changing them according to his wishes, which leads to monopoly and hierarchy. All this leads to both Stalin and Napoleon going power mad and behaving as hypocrites to such an extent that nobody dares to stand up to them or question them.

Abuse of power by putting animals to unbearable workloads and pigs behaving like and interacting with the humans

The common animals are made to do a tremendous amount of work so that:

Throughout the spring and summer they worked a sixty-hour week, and in August Napoleon announced that there would be work on Sunday afternoons as well. This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half (65).

We can conclude that the pigs abused their power by making the work voluntary on Sundays on one hand, and punishing the animals to cut the rations in half on the other hand. The corresponding parallel in Stalin's Russia according to Natasha Frost is a period of 11 years without a weekend in Soviet Union (1). Another example of the abuse of power to force the animals to overwork becomes evident when Clover asks Boxer how he was feeling after he falls down, to which he responds by saying, "It is my lung" (126) in a very weak voice. He continues: "It does not matter. I think you will be able to finish the windmill without me" (126). This description in *Animal Farm* corresponds to the betrayal of workers under Joseph Stalin who had promised to do a much better job as compared to his predecessors and promised that there would be more food for them with better resources, but killed them instead by making them work too hard.

All the while when Napoleon is gaining in power, he also keeps on changing his behavior. He starts behaving like human beings, drinking whiskey, sleeping in a bed and engaging in trade with neighboring farms, all in complete violation of the principles of animalism. Squealer on the other hand is given the task to cover up these violations, which he skillfully does by convincing the animals that Napoleon is a great leader, who is doing everything possible to make life easier for the common animals despite the fact that they are left in the cold, kept hungry and are overworked. The abuse of power by keeping animals hungry in *Animal Farm* is comparable with the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Stalin's Russia, where according to Robert Conquest almost 7 million people died due to this man made crisis. Out of nowhere and without any clue of what was going on behind the closed doors, "One Sunday morning, when the animals assembled to receive their orders, Napoleon announced

that he had decided upon a new policy. From now onwards Animal Farm would engage in trade with the neighboring farms” (69). This clearly goes against the previously agreed commandments and an abuse of power by Napoleon, who takes the decision without any consultations with the farm animals. The pigs also decide for themselves to be sleeping in beds and when the farm animals become suspicious, Squealer comes forward to say “...that we pigs now sleep in the beds of the farmhouse? And why not? You did not suppose, surely, that there was ever a ruling against beds? A bed merely means a place to sleep in” (74). He further explains:

A bed merely means a place to sleep in. A pile of straw in a stall is a bed, properly regarded. The rule was against sheets, which are a human invention. We have removed the sheets from the farmhouse beds, and sleep between blankets (74).

In another apparent violation of the rules, pigs also starts behaving like humans and when they indulge in a party with humans beings, it becomes difficult to differentiate between them: “The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which” (149). With such mix-ups, Orwell wants to convey that pigs follows so closely to humans and adapt to their habits so that they can hardly be counted as animals.

Similarities in Abuse of Power by Napoleon and Joseph Stalin

There are many similarities between Stalin and Napoleon. For example, both coming to power without being elected, having powerful guards around them, and living a luxurious life at the expense of the workers, who are forced to work a lot. Another such similarity is that both of them did not hesitate in eliminating anybody speaking against them from the scene. Napoleon starts out as a good leader but things quickly change for the worse and he becomes harsh and

power-mad, causing a lot of conflict among the animals. He orders other animals to work while he himself sits aside idle. Any one questioning his authority and wanting to change the leadership is subject to the harsh treatment by the dogs resulting in death in some cases and serious injury in others.

Socialism in Russia changes to a dictatorship in an almost similar pattern and both Stalin and Napoleon are shown to be ruling through fear, caring only for themselves and having no interest in improving the living conditions for others, thus negating the very basic reasons for the original revolution. They keep the food supplies under their strict control from where they themselves can get as much as they want but the working class gets just as much as needed to keep on living and working. In almost the same way, both Napoleon in Animal Farm and Stalin in Russia abuse their power denying the workers of their rights to freedom and welfare as well as tamper with the laws to suit them. What Orwell wants to show is that excessive power in the hands of dictators can easily turn into violence against the ordinary masses in a similar way as it happened in Animal Farm.

Conclusion

To summarize and conclude, we can say that the ruling pigs in the Animal Farm, which symbolically represent the rulers of the Russian totalitarian state, were reluctant to make use of the possibilities to work for the betterment of their masses but indulged instead in dirty tricks and deceptions to gain power and abused it to mistreat other animals. They mainly did this by breaking the initially agreed commandments, the analogy of the communist manifesto, and by changing them to suit their luxury lifestyle. Orwell has skillfully created a picture of the political scenario after the Russian Revolution by using different animal characters, giving them human qualities. Pigs stand for the ruling class. More specifically, Napoleon stands for Joseph Stalin, Snowball symbolizes Leon Trotsky and Squealer refers to the propagandist elements of the totalitarian government.

The entire journey from Manor Farm to Animal Farm and back to Manor Farm is filled with deception and exploitation of common animals. It begins with the pigs taking over the farm and becoming the self-proclaimed rulers without any election or voting and choosing the role of supervision for themselves while forcing the other animals to do the hard labor. Pigs also abuse their power by taking valuable items such as milk and apples for themselves while underfeeding the other animals to such an extent that it was hardly enough for them to survive and keep on doing the hard work. Napoleon's abuse of power is seen from his lying to the common animals that Snowball is evil and by his taking the puppies away from their parents with a promise to teach them, but in fact training them to do his dirty work. Napoleon changes the commandments to suit himself, lying by saying that they were not changed. He steals Snowball's idea to build the windmill while taking credit for it himself. He sells Boxer away for slaughtering while lying to the other animals that he was taken to hospital. In other examples of the abuse of power, pigs abuse their power to get whisky, to indulge in trade with neighboring

farms, and by living in houses and sleeping in beds, while leaving animals hungry and burying them under endless work. The more power pigs gained the more tyrannical and cruel they became, resulting in them becoming corrupted by power, and their moral senses diminished. Their corruption combined with having never-ending greed made them resemble and behave like human beings.

Through the narrative in *Animal Farm*, Orwell was able to show that the animal revolution was a failure and resulted only in pigs and dogs getting rich at the expense of other animals. Orwell describes the fact that “Somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer—except, of course, for the pigs and the dogs” (136). Napoleon, just like Stalin, was a very harsh and clever leader, who took advantage of his position. He was smart in the sense that he made very small incremental changes, bit by bit, so that animals can absorb them without much resistance. Examples of such incremental changes he made were in the commandments, to their workload, to turn Snowball into a villain. Although his power increases substantially throughout the novel, he never felt he had enough and always desired for more power, which made him corrupt to the core until he got absolute power to control everyone on the farm.

Pigs altered all the seven commandments in *Animal Farm* frequently so that they suited their luxurious life styles while the common animals at the farm were not allowed to speak and argue freely against these changes. The first commandment, for example, is changed from “all animals are equal” to “all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than the others” and the fifth commandment changes from “no animal shall drink alcohol” to “no animal shall drink alcohol in excess”. Such changes are a grave betrayal towards the farm animals and amount to a massive abuse of power. When the farm animals question these changes, Squealer made them believe that they were the same from the beginning and that they had just forgotten a few words, which in fact were added later. Stalin also made similar changes in the communist

manifesto to suit his wishes and desires. The alcohol in the novel is a symbolic representation of money, which was distributed unequally and in an unjust manner between the ruling elite in communist Russia in similar ways, as previously in the Tsar's regime, completely ignoring the ideas of communism. The event finally confirming that the ruling pigs do not care at all about ideas of Animalism, takes place towards the end of the novel when:

...out from the door of the farmhouse came a long file of pigs, all walking on their hind legs. Some did it better than others, one or two were even a trifle unsteady and looked as though they would have liked the support of a stick, but every one of them made his way right round the yard successfully (140).

This was in complete contrast to the popular and frequent chant "four legs good, two legs bad". (37). The ruling pigs are now more powerful than ever and there is no rule left unbroken by them, thus neglecting all the ideas of Animalism and leaving no difference between pigs and humans. In other words, Orwell suggests that there is no difference between the reigns of Tsar Nicholas II and communist dictator Stalin.

The quote "the creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which" (149) shows that pigs have started behaving like humans to such an extent that they become undistinguishable from the human beings. Although the animals were able to get rid of their human master, Mr. Jones, all their efforts to build an animal society has gone in vain since the rulings pigs are not much different from humans. This can also be interpreted as a warning to the readers that they should hold onto whatever power they have in the society and not let the ruling class repeat their abuses of the past. To put it in simple words, Animal Farm shows the disgraceful descent of Napoleon as a ruler, who betrayed the trust of other animals and ended up being worse than Mr. Jones. The novel starts with the Manor Farm, which changes and remains Animal Farm for a while before returning to Manor Farm. The bare truth is that nothing has changed as far as the common animals are concerned and that the abuse of power

leads to catastrophic consequences. Similarly, the Russian revolution was a failure in the sense that not much was accomplished or changed. The fact that Napoleon's regime in *Animal Farm* falls apart with the farm ownership actually changing to human beings symbolizes the collapse of communism in Russia.

To sum up, we can say that the animals finally realized that the pigs had become just as cruel as their previous human masters had, and that political power works almost the same way regardless of whoever is in power and whatever ideology is used to justify cruel actions. The masses compared to the rulers are shown to have inferior intellect, which could either be natural as not all the people or animals are born with equal intellect or artificial due for example to the lack of education. Those in power exploit the ignorant and inferior masses, who can be easily manipulated controlled and oppressed by the use of power, which is exactly what happened in the authoritative and oppressive regimes of Napoleon in *Animal Farm* and in Stalin's Russia.

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