

Animal Farm - A Satire on Russian Communism. ⁽⁷⁾

Themes - Main Ideas:

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George Orwell is an important figure among English novelists. His literary works reveal his deep insight into the social and political problems of our age. He is known as a social critic, a political satirist and a great humorist who presents the bitter facts of the modern society. His style as well as his language is quite simple and comprehensible. His Animal Farm has been a craze for the readers.

For its theme and main ideas Animal Farm is treated in different ways. On the one level it is a humorous animals' story, a fable that exposes human weaknesses and strengths acted out by different animals. On the other, it shows how and why revolutions fail and how power corrupts. But its most important aspect is to see it as a satire on the events of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Russian Communism. In fact, here, Orwell translates the events of the Russian history between 1917 and 1943 into a delightfully controlled fantasy.

Orwell criticises Karl Marx's idealism who propagated an Utopian Paradise in which men were supposed to be equal and free. This idealism led to the fright-

frightening dictatorship. The Russian Communism was established on the basis of an impossible dream which misled the people. Only a group of clever leaders were controlling, manipulating and exploiting the general mass to keep themselves in power. Out of those leaders, finally emerged a single leader (Stalin) who became a tyrant and organised the whole state for his own aggrandisement. Orwell saw that Russian Communism dominated by Stalin became as evil and oppressive as Fascism in Hitler's Germany and Franco's Spain.

George Orwell points out the fact that power corrupts the rulers. Exploitation is possible as long as general people are unaware of their rights. When they get awareness and realise their inherent strength, Revolution takes place. The new rulers too follow the traditional path and become more corrupt than the former ones. Animal Farm aims at the same story. Old Major makes the animals aware of their right. Revolution takes place and Jones is expelled out. But, there erupts conflict between Napoleon (Stalin) and Snowball (Trotsky) to over power the Farm. Eventually, Snowball is defeated and Napoleon

becomes Mr. Jones⁹ at the end of the novel.

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Thus, we see, Animal Farm is a satire on the Communist Regime of Russia under Stalin. George Orwell exposes the Soviet myth and lashes at the evils of Revolutionary Socialism.