

SOVIET DISUNION: THE FALL OF EVIL EMPIRE

Chong Ho Yu



VLADIMIR LENIN (1917-1924)

- World revolution: International Communist Movement
- 1917: removed religious instruction from school curricula
- 1918: deprived the formerly official church of its status of legal person
- “Communism, common wife”
- Sexual revolution: More liberal than the West
- Syphilis spread throughout the country.
- 1922: estimated nine million abandoned children



JOSEPH STALIN (1922-1953)

- Collectivization
- The Ukrainian Man-Made Famine of 1932-33 (Holodomor):
- Heavy industry
- Writers or intellectuals are oppressed
- Massive surge in officially promoted nationalism and xenophobia, everything foreign was condemned and everything Russian was praised.



JOSEPH STALIN (1922-1953)

- Cold War
- 1945 Turkey was pressured by the Soviet government to allow Russian shipping to go through the Turkish Straits
- 1947 Truman Doctrine
- 1948 Berlin Airlift
- 1949 PRC established
- 1950 Korean War



NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV (1953-1964)

- de-Stalinization
- Stimulate the consumer economy
- 1960 U-2 incident
- 1961 construction of Berlin wall
- 1962 Cuban missile crisis



DISSIDENT: ANDREI SAKHAROV

- 1953: Father of USSR's hydrogen bomb
- From late 1950s he became activist in civil liberty and international peace, and faced persecution
- Won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975.
- The Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament.



LEONID BREZHNEV (1964-1982)

- 1975 “liberated” South Vietnam
- 1979 invaded Afghanistan
- Charlie Wilson's War
- “Trust in cadres”: a privileged class
- Give economic interests to people e.g. free health care, subsidized housing, state pension...etc.
- Developed socialism: welfare state
- “They pretend to pay us and we pretend to work”





LEONID BREZHNEV (1964-1982)

- Passive resistance by adopting Western styles



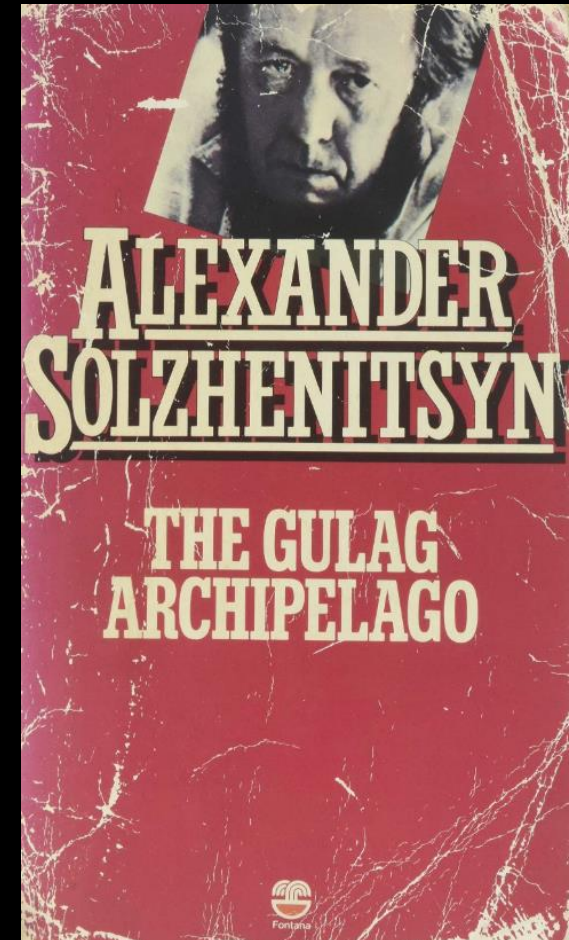
HELSINKI ACCORD AND HELSINKI GROUPS

- 1975 Helsinki Accords: 35 countries, including the US, Canada, and all European countries except Albania and Andorra signed the declaration. The West recognizes Soviet dominion of East Europe, but USSR should respect their human rights
- Moscow Helsinki Group (1976–present)
- Ukrainian Helsinki Group (1976–81)
- Lithuanian Helsinki Group (1976–82)
- Georgian Helsinki Union (1976–93)



DISSIDENT: ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

- 1945: he was arrested and imprisoned after he wrote negative comments in a private letter
- His books were banned: Cancer Ward (1968), August 1914 (1971), and The Gulag Archipelago (1973)
- 1974: he was arrested and deported from USSR to Frankfurt, and stripped of his Soviet citizenship.
- Moved to Stanford, USA later
- Head of KGB Yuri Andropov tried to discredit Solzhenitsyn
- 1994: Returned to Russia
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t--pNU9ZfVE>



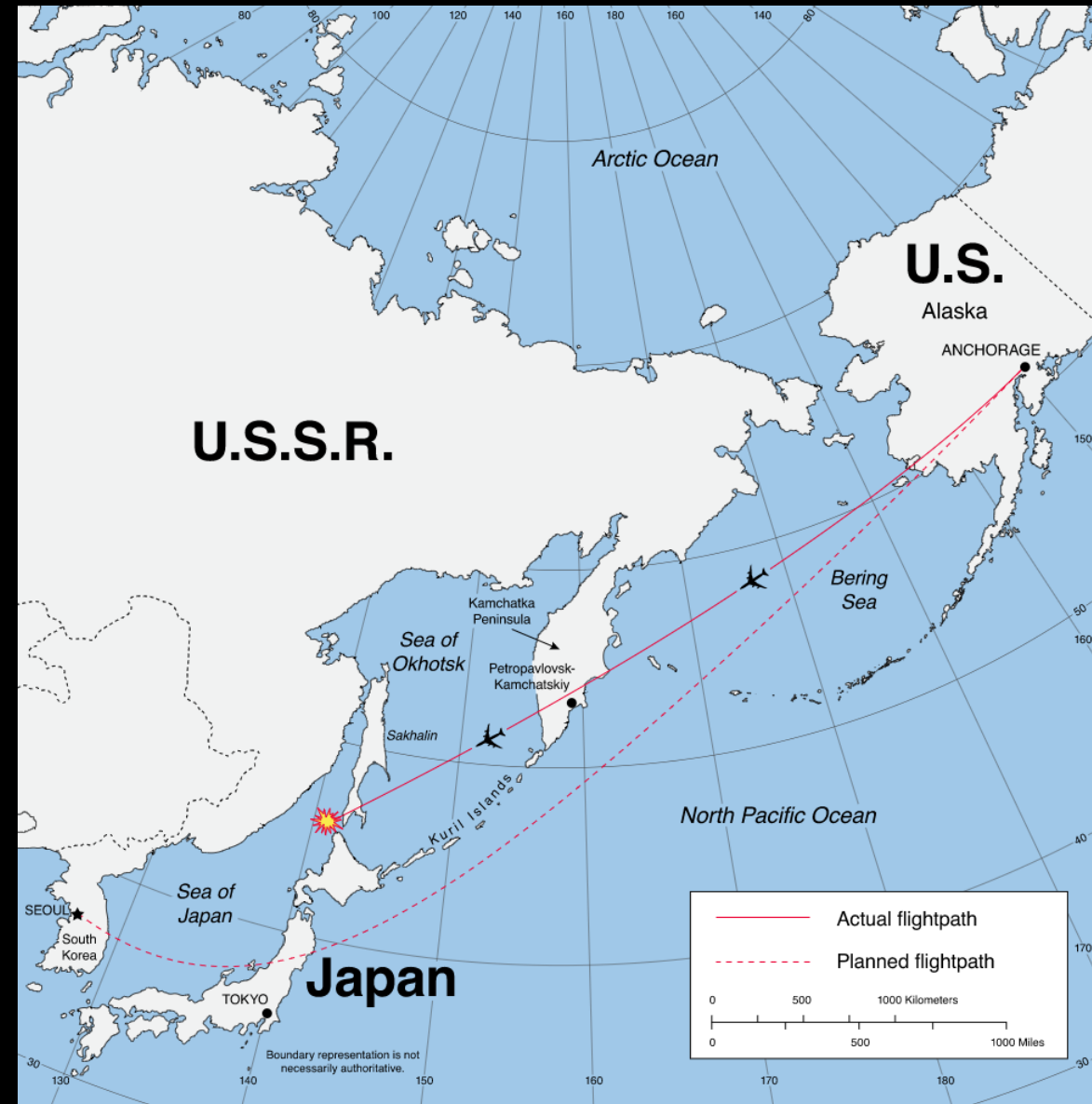
YURI ANDROPOV (1982–1984)

- The Soviet ambassador to Hungary from 1954 to 1957, involved in the suppression of the 1956 Hungarian Uprising.
- Chairman of the KGB in 1967: Mass arrests and sent "socially undesirable" to psychiatric treatment.
- During the Prague Spring in 1968, Andropov was the main advocate for "extreme measures"



YURI ANDROPOV (1982–1984)

- September 1, 1983: Korean Airline 007 was shot down by Soviet missiles.
- USSR accused US of using the airliner for spying.
- The black box was found on Sept. 15, 1983 but the information was released in 1993: 1. No evidence that KAL 007 is a spy plane 2. no evidence that the Soviet interceptor attempted to contact KAL007 or give a warning shot.



KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO

- Lasted one month (Feb 13, 1984–March 10, 1985)
- USSR decided to find a younger and healthier leader.
- Relationship with USA deteriorated.
- More educated society
- Exposure to new ideas from the West



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

- Tried to improve the relationship with the US
- True believer of Communism
- Admit that the practices of Soviet socialism were far from democratic.
- Political and economic restructuring (perestroika)
- openness in civic discussions of both the past and the present (glasnost')



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

- 1986 April 26 Chernobyl disaster
- Very close to May 1 Labor Day
- Evacuation after 36 hours
- Gorbachev announced it after 18 days
- “9 people died”
- “The worst is behind us”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k3wnXBE5S0>



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

- Real democracy: orderly and responsible public participation.
- Real freedom in “civic responsibility” and “law and order” (Pravoporiadok).
- Criticize the problem of leadership quality: Formalism, procrastination...etc.
- Promote a high moral code
- Reform failed



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

- Hardline Communists viewed his ideas as radical.
- Liberal-minded citizens disliked his continual commitment to Communism and insisted on greater change.
- 1989 the Fall of Berlin Wall and revolutions in East Europe
- In 1990–1991, the Baltic States and Georgia demanded independence
- 1991 August 21: Coup
- Boris Yeltsin was elected President of the Russian Republic and USSR dissolved





American Airlines was among the companies that received a notice from China's civil aviation administration demanding that they follow Chinese law in referring to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. | Ted S. Warren/AP Photo

White House: China's demands to U.S. airlines 'Orwellian nonsense'

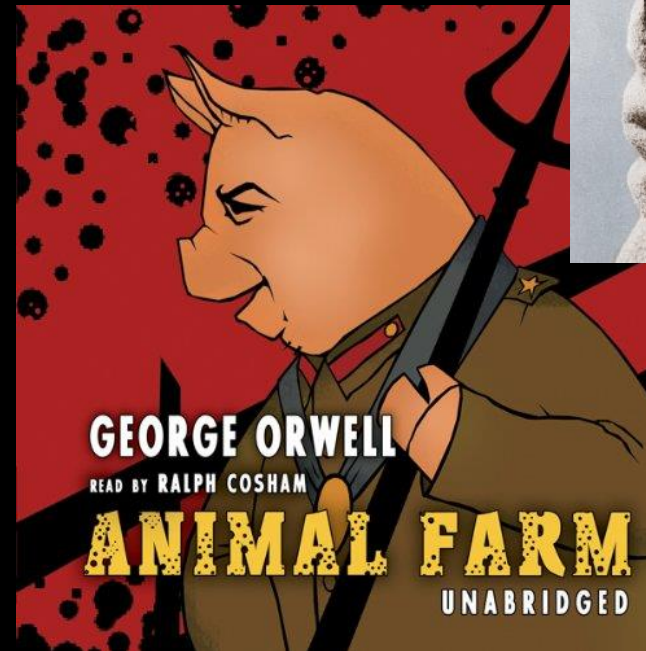
By BRENT D. GRIFFITHS | 05/05/2018 01:53 PM EDT

ORWELLIAN NONSENSE?

- In May 2018 China told several US airliners to add “China” into the name of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, or face consequences.
- Trump accused China of “Orwellian nonsense.”
- What is “Orwellian nonsense?”

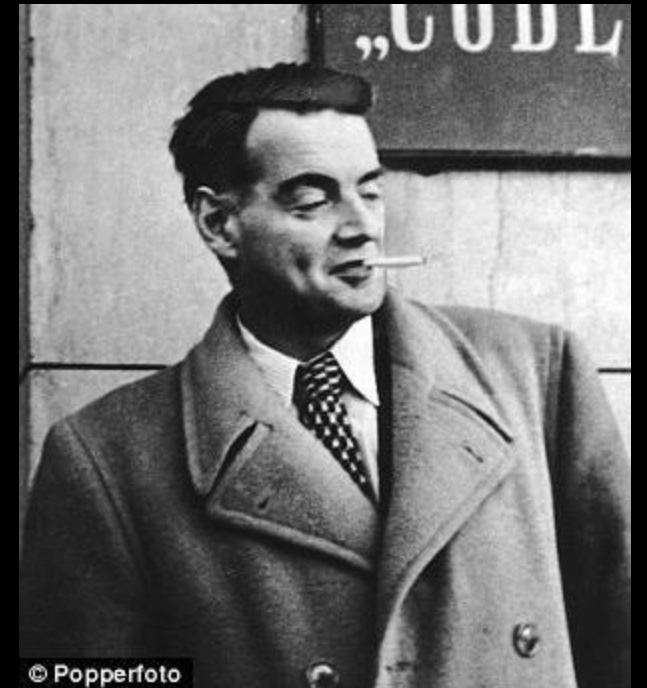
GEORGE ORWELL

- Animal Farm (1945); written in 1943
- Satire of Stalin and Communism
- “To combat the negative influence of the Soviet myth upon the Western Socialist movement.”
- Politically incorrect because USSR is the ally of UK in WWII
- Rejected by 4 English publishers before it could be published.



GEORGE ORWELL

- Soviet spy Peter Smollett (recruited by Kim Philby) advised publishers not to publish the book.
- Became best-sellers in UK and US.
- Translated in 60 languages.
- “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others”



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GEORGE ORWELL

“There’s a farm, and the animals get fed up with the way the farmer runs it, so they chuck him out and try to run it themselves. But they run it just as badly as the farmer and become tyrants like him, and they invite the humans back and gang up with them to bully the other animals.”

—George Orwell

GEORGE ORWELL

“I wouldn’t want to see the USSR destroyed, and think it ought to be defended if necessary. But I want people to become disillusioned about it, and to realize that they must build their own Socialist movement without Russian interference.”

—George Orwell



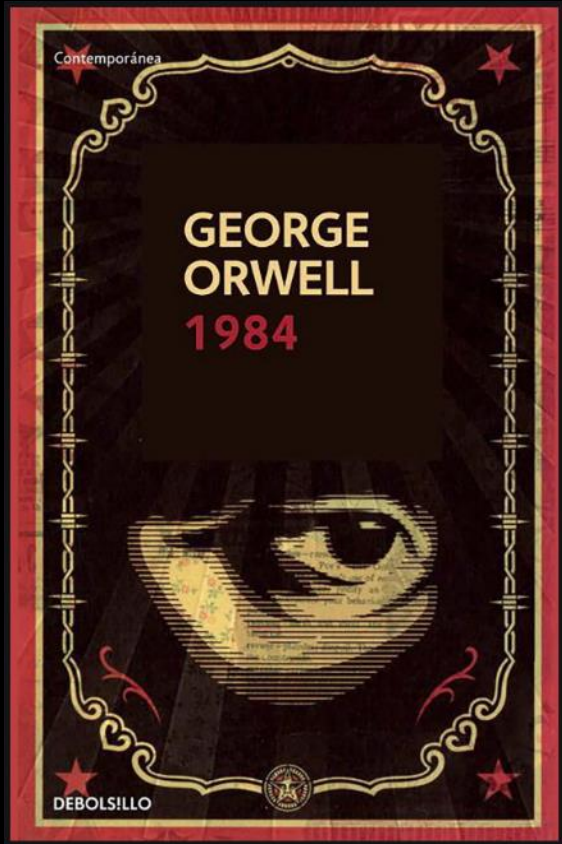
China

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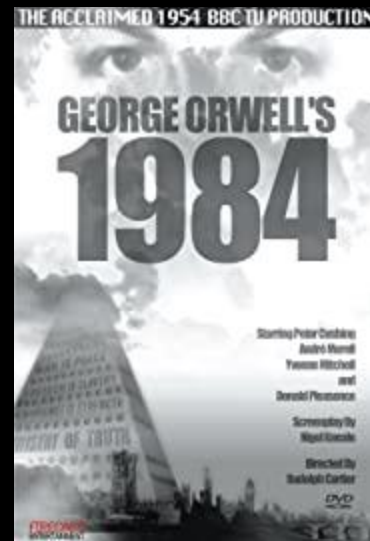
Thanking big brother

China's post-covid propaganda

GEORGE ORWELL: 1984



• Book: 1948



• TV: 1954



• Movie: 1956

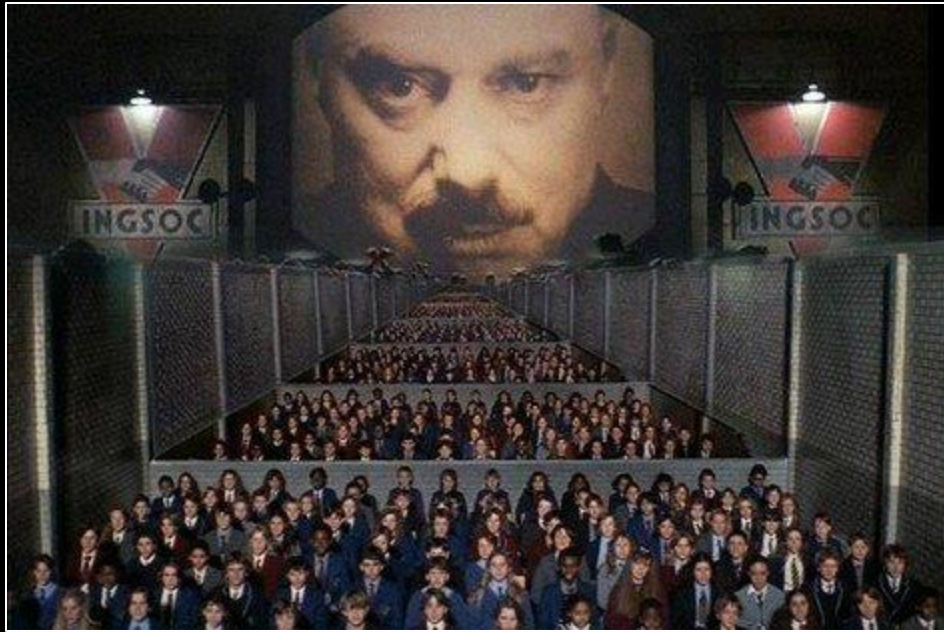


• Movie: 1984

GEORGE ORWELL: 1984

- The story is situated in 1984.
- After the nuclear war of 1965, the world has been ruled by three superpowers, Oceania, Eurasia and Eastasia. Oceania.
- People live under the benevolent rule of Big Brother and TV/cameras is installed everywhere monitor their activities.
- The mission of the Ministry of Truth is to alter newspaper articles and remove all references to people that are labelled traitors.
- Independent thought is suppressed; people are manipulated to hate the enemy of the state and to follow the party line in everything.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvGmOZ5T6_Y

GEORGE ORWELL: 1984



WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH



**BIG BROTHER IS
WATCHING YOU**

- “The big brother is watching you.”
- “War is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength.”
- People’s democratic dictatorship
- Democratic collective system

GEORGE ORWELL: 1984

“My recent novel is not intended as an attack on Socialism, or on the British Labour Party (of which I am a supporter) but as a show-up of the perversions to which a centralized economy is liable, and which have already been partly realized in Communism and Fascism.”

—George Orwell