

Letteratura

1984

Trascrizione

1984 is about totalitarianism. And totalitarianism is a twentieth century phenomenon.

Communism in Russia, nazism in Germany, fascism in Italy, the Franco regime in Spain, maoism in China.

All these leaders still have their supporters but it doesn't stop there. News broadcasts showing the launch of rockets from North Korea also show people celebrating, acting as a block and revelling in a display of power.

1984 is about the power of the state over the individual but also how that power is achieved and maintained.

Today modern technology means more surveillance and like for Winston in 1984, privacy is one of the modern world's major preoccupations. In 2011, the biggest-selling English language paper in the world was shut down for listening in on private phone calls and using private detectives to delve into people's private lives. Orwell said: "Early in life I had noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper." The news and how it's reported is still an ongoing debate.

One current phrase is "The post-truth era". It expresses the tendency for people to be influenced by emotional, appealing phrases and arguments which have no basis in fact. As in the Brexit campaign, or Trump's campaign for the Presidency of the USA, during which Mexicans were described as rapists and murderers and African-American communities as "crime infested hell holes". During the Trump campaign for president the sales of 1984 increased. In 2015 the Stanford Literary Lab's survey on the World Bank's annual reports found that the language used was increasingly difficult to understand.

It used the word "Bankspeak," in its title, a direct reference to the expression "Newspeak" used in 1984.

Another means of control in totalitarian states is torture. It still exists in our world. It is a part of the present day world which some people, like Winston, cannot tolerate.

1984 still provokes and stimulates. It is still relevant!

Salmo, the rapper, uses it to refer to his world. It has been adapted as a film, first shown in 1984 (another film is being planned) and a play. It has been choreographed and performed by the European award winning Northern ballet theatre, with original music.

The novel by Margaret Atwood, "The Handmaid's Tale," takes it one step further.

It describes the world of a totalitarian regime that has taken power and stripped women of their civil rights.

1984 still packs a powerful punch, but don't forget, as George Orwell said: "It's up to you...!!!"