

1984 is Happening Now – Part Seven

*If you want a vision of the future,
imagine a boot stomping on a human face forever.*
—1984 by George Orwell

Past columns have addressed many of the then-future events and technology Orwell “foresaw” in his seminal work *1984*.

These last *1984* columns, however, will include the book’s most damning passages.

There’s little reason to add many comments to the italicized excerpts. You’ll realize that the technology, manipulation of the masses, and global events Orwell predicted over 50 years ago have occurred, are occurring, or soon will occur.

The two aims of the Party are to conquer the whole surface of the earth and to extinguish once and for all the possibility of independent thought. There are therefore two great problems which the Party is concerned to solve. One is how to discover, against his will, what another human being is thinking, and the other is how to kill several hundred million people in a few seconds without giving warning beforehand.

Though we think we have two political parties, they are nothing more than two sides of The Party. On the Federal (Soviet) level, both Democrat and Republican ideologies equal Communism. The Democrats approach it from the social welfare state. The Republicans—with this latest NeoCon takeover—now embrace the Trotskyite philosophy of endless conflict and the Straussian belief in manipulating the masses by any means necessary for the good of The State.

If he were allowed contact with foreigners he would discover that they are creatures similar to himself and that most of what he has been told about them is lies. The sealed world in which he lives would be broken, and the fear, hatred, and self-righteousness on which his morale depends might evaporate.

We live in a “sealed world,” one in which we are spoon fed disinformation by IngSoc, a.k.a. mainstream media. To get U.S. citizens behind wars with races and ethnicities other than Anglo-Saxons, it was necessary to dehumanize and demonize the Vietnamese for the Vietnam War and now the Arab people, whether Muslim or not, for Gulf Wars I and II and further aggression throughout the Middle East.

The plan is, by a combination of fighting, bargaining, and well-timed strokes of treachery, to acquire a ring of bases completely encircling one or other of the rival states, and then to sign a pact of friendship with that rival and remain on peaceful terms for so many years as to lull suspicion to sleep.

Sound like the U.S. strategy in the Middle East? The U.S. is continuing to build bases and/or is maintaining a military presence in nearly every former Soviet republic. And the U.S. has just built a base in Israel.

What is the U.S. doing encamping our troops between the Arab states and Russia? When does Israel get to fight its own regional battles and release our troops from doing what Israel’s military should? By the way, how is Iraq and Iran a threat to the U.S.?

And even technological progress only happens when its products can in some way be used for the diminution of human liberty.

All those wonderful devices out there for your “safety”: thumb scans, iris scans, implanted chips, chipped cell phones, barcode tattoos, ubiquitous video cameras, backdoors in computers

There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to in . . . the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized.

The telephone has always had the potential to “hear” you even when it’s on the hook. Penetrating radar now exists that can “see” you in any building.

Here we reach the central secret. As we have seen, the mystique of the Party, and above all of the Inner Party, depends upon doublethink. But deeper than this lies the original motive, the never-questioned instinct that first led to the seizure of power and brought doublethink, the Thought Police, continuous warfare, and all the other necessary paraphernalia into existence afterwards.

Doublethink in 1984 is best represented by these paradoxical elements:
WAR IS PEACE. FREEDOM IS SLAVERY. IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.
But what are we hearing today?

We’re safer here because we are fighting abroad.

Are you nuts?

9-11 happened in the U.S. The problem is here, right? But, no, our troops are sent to a hostile land—the supposed bad guys’ own backyard—and what did we think would happen? We are not any stronger at home. And our brave and loyal troops are subjected to never-ending attacks. How much easier could the government have made it to keep our troops in perpetual harm’s way? For what? Corporate profits gained on pirated oil and pipeline and infrastructure construction?

We’re exporting freedom and democracy to other nations.

Unfortunately, those nations on the receiving end of our freedom and democracy exports aren’t seeing it the same way. It’s tough to sell we’re the good guys when we’ve bombed nations into snot and killed an ever-mounting number of innocents.

In the meantime, we in the U.S. are enjoying less and less freedoms.

Prices are rising, but there’s no inflation.

The cost of the oil scam alone has been passed on to the consumer in almost every purchasable item. The airline and trucking industries will never be the same. Your commute to work will eat up more of your paycheck. But keep buying those SUVs and other gas hogs.

And take heart in the in the knowledge that:

WAR IS PEACE. FREEDOM IS SLAVERY. IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.

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