

Maria Tatsynets, Maria-Anna Kudla

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

PANDEMICS IN TERMS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY BASED ON GEORGE ORWELL'S ANTI-UTOPIA "1984"

Social epidemics are part of history and to some extent influenced the course of state-building processes, having a direct impact on the formation of public opinion and consciousness of an individual and community.

Winston Smith, the main character of the dystopian novel "1984," was repeatedly influenced by totalitarianism. In fact, he is a representative of the public who became a victim, a rebel and a victim again. The totalitarian machine was intended to wipe out any resistance from the face of the Earth. "Who controls the past controls the future; whoever controls the present controls the past." It shows that in order to achieve its ultimate goal, the government controlled its own "truth."

The "truth" mentioned in the novel is clearly visible in the slogan that governs the totalitarian society of "1984": "War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength." It indicates an order of principles of power that contradict common sense and has elements of an oxymoron. The authorities only seek to spread their power, regardless of the real welfare of citizens, guided exclusively by their own interests.

People are affected by the government in Orwell's masterpiece. The dystopian world is terrifying. It caused big problems among humanity and people felt widespread pressure.

The totalitarian propaganda presented in the novel is a powerful tool of understanding the problems of such society under real conditions, as it clearly reveals the elements of the propaganda policy of Hitler and Stalin, who were gaining the favor of their supporters in this way.

The novel concretizes the idea that one person has enough courage and strength to go against the whole system, as if he is the one chosen to overcome the wall of cruel idealism, the illusion of social standards, but these intentions are destroyed. Precisely, the collective social pandemic makes such a goal practically unattainable. People gradually become pawns in the Big Brother's game. It leads to the fact that they feel a lack of inner strength, suffering from weakness, which is correlated with the ideological law of power. This influence occupies a key place in a dystopian world accompanied by a large number of social problems.

In "1984" there is no mention of the symptoms characteristic of physical epidemics, but those that the author discovers in the novel are much more dangerous for humanity, because they harm the greatest value in human life as a social unit – humanity. The government fears the possibility that the citizens will understand the game and rise together.

As far as I see, the government is too cruel and complicated in 1984. It controls every step of the person and doesn't give any chance for wellbeing and personal space. The Big Brother is the main character who ruins everyone's life. It became a common situation

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and everybody became depressed, lost the idea of life and started to live in an artificial way. There is the idea that one member of society can try to break the illusion of the social standards but this collective social epidemic doesn't let people do it. The ruling power and the effects of it destroy people's conscience and then humans stop being individuals.

Problems described in "1984" are relevant now. They show us the destruction of identity. "We're in an age where we're all more aware of media manipulation, fake news and alternative facts," Dr. Jerry Dickey said. I completely agree as the world became a bit different. Although there is more space for privacy nowadays, most people are easily manipulated by the Internet, advertisements, and posters.

That is why the authorities choose a simpler method, which consists of destroying apostasy in the very beginning, in fact, in the very thought of disobedience or apostasy. We note this in the example of the concept of "unanimity," which is used in the novel to depict the only correct view of the world and the only correct perception of power. "Big Brother is watching you" – this phrase is a leitmotif in the content structure of the entire novel and conveys the main idea embedded in the ideology of the analyzed society.

References:

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