

A Farm, Revolutions, And Communism

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Animal Farm by George Orwell is allegory which talks about a farm - "Manor Farm", which is controlled by Mr. Jones, the farmer of the farm, with tyranny. The animals work hard, but all their products are taken by Jones, and they get just enough to provide their basic needs. The animals start a revolution and take over the control of the farm. After the revolution, the farm changes its name to "Animal Farm" and works as communist society. However, bit by bit, the pigs take more power, resources, and wealth for themselves, and at some point in the story "Napoleon" - the leader pig, starts controlling the farm with tyranny, like Jones did. The book's theme is about how a revolution can betray its own values.

Animal Farm was written by Eric Arthur Blair, who published the book under the pen name George Orwell. Orwell was born in June 25, 1903 in India, which was under British rule, and moved

to England with his mother and brother in 1904. He worked for the police in India, but resigned after five years, because he wanted to be a writer and more importantly, because he felt he was working in a system which he didn't believe in. After that, he lived in poverty by choice, because he wanted to meet and to know the poor. A few years later, Orwell fought in the Spanish civil war. Orwell wrote *Animal Farm* to criticize and express his opinions about the Russian Revolution, and you can find a lot of connections between it and the story (ג'ורג' אורוול). The book can be seen as an allegory about societies and how they act after revolutions. The book helps us understand that to keep the government in the control of the citizens, all the citizens must be active and "supervise" the leaders. They need to supervise them to make sure that they do not take too much power for themselves or manipulate the truth to hide their self-interested motives.

"Revolution, in social and political science, a major, sudden, and hence typically violent alteration in government and in related associations and structures" (Encyclopædia Britannica). The term is also used to describe dramatic changes in our society and how it works, such as the industrial

revolution. There are thought to be three main causes for revolutions. First, when people are disappointed of the political situation and/or the social situation. The second reason is when there is a disequilibrium in the society. The third reason is when there is a conflict between two groups in the society and they can't settle it using a political system. (Revolution) The reason which happens in the book is the first one, because the animals are disappointed in how the political system works, and want to change it. A lot of revolutions, such as the one described in the book, finish as a the same or even worse situation than before it.

The idea the animals start with is Communism. Communism, according to oxford dictionary is "A theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs". That could be the end of the story, and everything was good, but slowly, the pigs took exclusive control over the farm and controlled it with tyranny. Tyranny is "[...] an autocratic form of rule in which one individual exercised power without any legal restraint" (Lewis, Tyranny). The pigs pass the most basic laws in their society, and change them as they wish

to make themselves have more power and luxury, and control over the other animals.

The first major time when the pigs are taking over the control is in the meetings of all the animals. "It was always the pigs who put forward the resolution. The other animals understood how to vote, but could never think of any resolution of their own" (Orwell(English), 48). Even though the pigs didn't put any change in the law which allows them to exclusively make laws, the other animals do not even think about any resolution on their own. The author wants us to be aware that we can make a change. He warns us to not be passive, and always think for ourselves about how we can make things better, and not to just rely on other citizens.

Near the end of the story, the animals get less food, sometimes even less than what they got from Jones. "There were times when it seemed to the animals that they worked longer hours and fed no better than they had done in Jones's day" (Orwell(English) 99). The animals work harder, and get less food than before the revolution, which was made because of that reason, but now, it happens not because humans, but because of

themselves, and the leaders of the revolution. If the other animals would have taken more responsibility after the revolution itself, and not just relied on the pigs, this wouldn't have happened.

In conclusion, I think the novel is still relevant because of two main reasons. First, the book has a lot of connections to the Russian revolution, and can help a reader a lot to understand it and understand the concept of communism. Secondly, and more importantly, the book gives a lesson the author wants to teach us, which is to always be aware, and to always keep an eye on our leaders and not to give them too much power, or allow them to take too much power. Finally, we should watch that they don't hide the truth to keep themselves in charge. Orwell's lesson is, really, for us to keep the control in our own hands in a democracy.

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