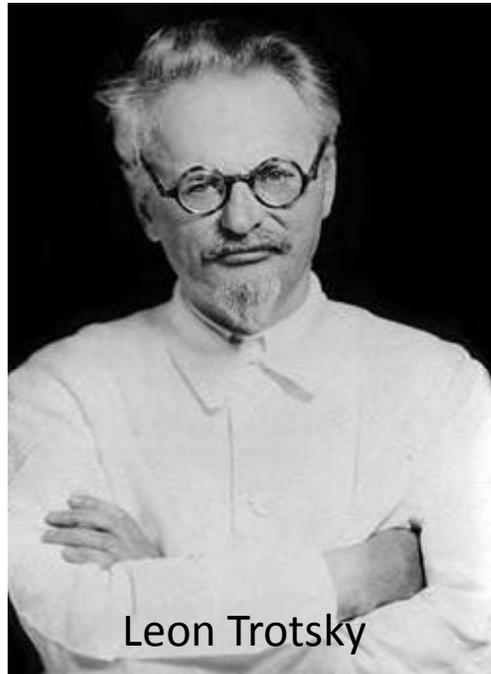


***“The Book”* Within a Book: Emmanuel Goldstein’s View of Oceania**



Leon Trotsky

The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism
from 1984

<http://www.populareconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Leon-Trotsky.jpg>

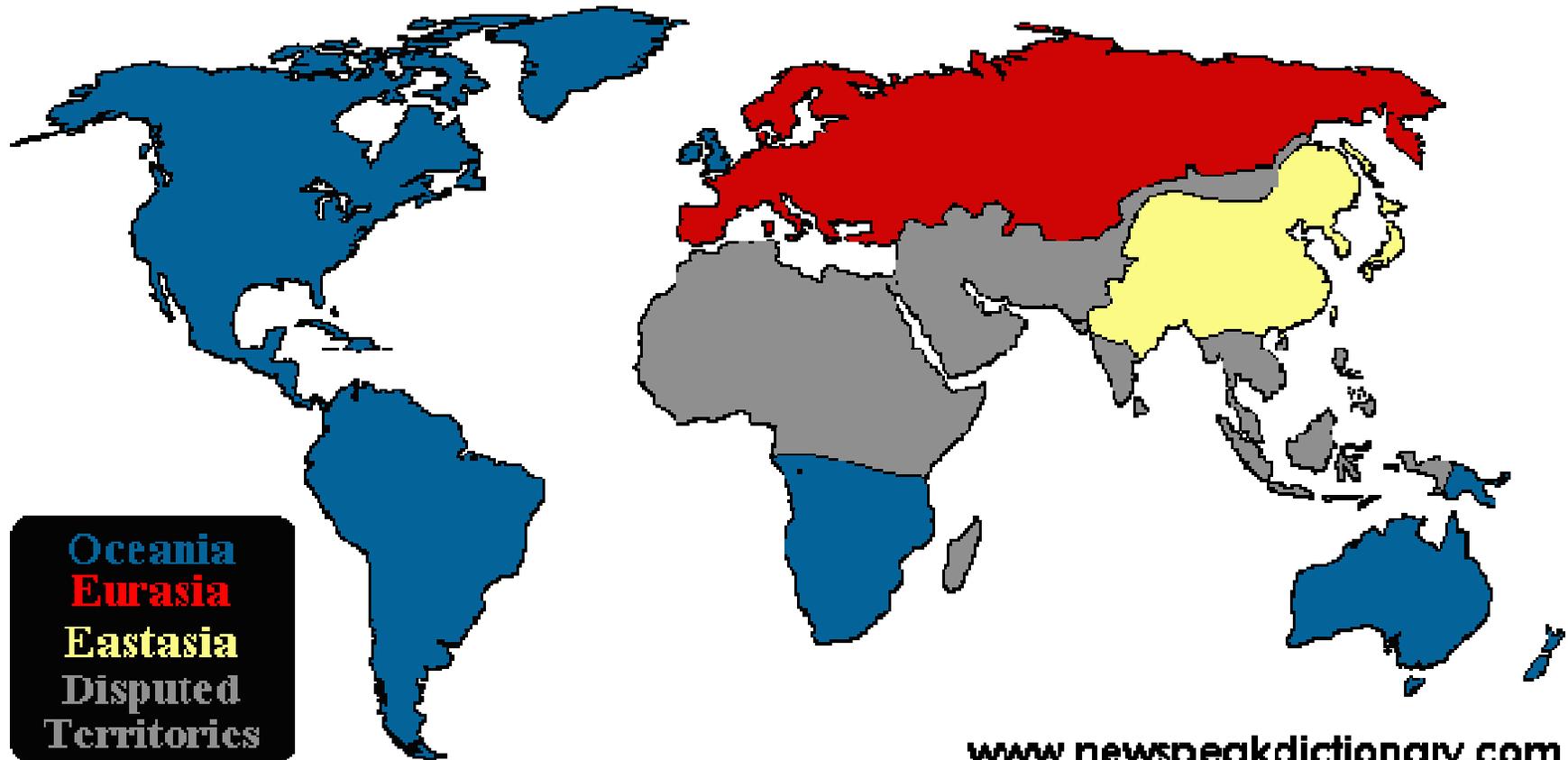
Oligarchical Collectivism

- The book said to have been written by Emmanuel Goldstein is entitled *Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*. The word oligarchical is the adjective form of oligarchy, which is a form of government in which a small group of people have control of a country or organization.
- Collectivism is a political theory of organization in which the ownership of property and the means of production are controlled by the people in general and not by individuals, as we have under capitalism.
- The book has three chapters entitled "War is Peace," "Ignorance is Strength," and "Freedom is Slavery," which are also the main slogans of the Party. The main ideas of the book are:

Global Stalemate

1. The three super-states of the world, Eurasia, Eastasia and Oceania, are each large enough to sustain the needs of their own populations and so don't need to fight each other for resources. At the same time, each is powerful enough by itself that it cannot be conquered by the other two, so all three are in a kind of global stalemate.

Three Superstates



Never-ending war

2. Although they do not need to fight each other, they do. The borders don't change much, but the war never stops. Never-ending war is used by all three as a way of consuming the products of human labor. If this work were be used to increase the standard of living (which is how it is under capitalism), individual groups would gain more knowledge and education and therefore political power, so the control of the Party over the people would decrease, and the Party might fall. In *1984*, continuous war is the economic basis of a hierarchical society – where the Party controls the top and the proles are at the bottom.

"War is Peace."

3. In becoming continuous, war has ceased to exist in any sense of the word we know today. The different sides are not trying to win anything. The continuity of the war guarantees the permanence of the current world order. In other words, "War is Peace."

An emotional focal point

4. Big Brother was created as an emotional focal point for people to connect to with their feelings, in the same way we might send feelings of hope, fear, reverence or the need for protection out to a president or other leading figure. There is an emotional need to believe in the ultimate authority of and victory of Big Brother. Whatever Big Brother says is “the absolute truth” because he is the one saying it. By this standard, anything not in line with what Big Brother is saying must be false (even if it came from Big Brother) and so is thoughtcrime.

The Upper, the Middle and the Lower.

5. Throughout history, there have always been three main strata of society; the Upper, the Middle and the Lower. At different times the Middle Class has gotten the Lower Class to support it in conquering the Upper Class and taking power (this is revolution), but then the old Middle Class becomes the new Upper Class and clings to power just like the ones they defeated used to. The Lower Class, on the other hand, never gets anywhere, but they have always been deceived by promised of equality. Until Big Brother came along, this cycle never ceased.

Collectivism: an idea the Party uses...

6. Collectivism doesn't lead to socialism (the equal sharing of the goods and services produced by society). All wealth now belongs to the new Upper Class, the bureaucrats (Outer) and administrators (Inner) of the Party. Collectivism has become merely an idea that the Party uses in its propaganda to make everyone think that everything belongs to everyone. This ensures the permanence of economic inequality, which helps keep the Party in power.
7. Wealth is not inherited from person to person, but it is kept within the ruling group. In the beginning this idea was attractive to people who thought the Party really was trying to achieve the equality promised by socialism.

No private emotions

8. The masses (Lower Class or proletariat – the proles) are given freedom of thought, because they don't think. A Party member is not allowed the slightest deviation of thought, and no private emotions. They are allowed to hate foreigners and traitors and love and fear Big Brother, but that is it. There is an elaborate mental training to ensure this, which begins in childhood and can be summarized in the concept of *doublethink*. This is one of the meanings behind the slogan “Ignorance is Strength.”

Doublethink in Recent History



“Work Brings Freedom”

**The Gates of the
Auschwitz
concentration camp.**

No basis for comparison

9. By controlling every emotion and every form of media, the Party ensures that no one at any level has a basis by which to compare their lives to anything better. This, combined with doublethink. This is how the Party is able to tell obvious lies (“everything is getting better”) and have people believe them without question.

Lack of values allows total control of humans

10. In the final analysis, efficiency – as defined by the Party - is calculated entirely in terms of control, without reference to any other values (like basic human needs or rights.) One of the lessons that came out of World War II and the **fascist** movements of the period was that those who have no ethical values have nothing to stop them from exerting total control over those they seek to abuse. If you don't feel that any action is wrong, then you can take any action you want.

The term **Fascism** was first used of the totalitarian right-wing nationalist regime of Mussolini in Italy (1922–43); the regimes of the Nazis in Germany and Franco in Spain were also Fascist. Fascism tends to include a belief in the supremacy of one national or ethnic group, a contempt for democracy, an insistence on obedience to a powerful leader, and a strong demagogic approach.

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/fascism?q=fascism+>

No mercy...



**A victim of
police torture
in China**

http://chinaview.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/face_tortured-gao-rongrong.jpg

