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Comparison And Contrast Essay On The Movie 1984.

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Nineteen Eighty- Four was published in 1949. This book was published by an English author who was very good in his work as it was one of the best- selling books of his time. In 1949, George Orwell published his book which was made into a movie. This was so that it could reach a lot more people in a different perspective. The book '1984' was able to become more popular as it predicted how the situation could be in the year 1984 although it had been published in 1949. The book tried to show how the world could have become by the year 1984 as most of the world's population could be under government surveillance all the time, propaganda and under fear as cold war could be a thing that could be present all the time. There are multiple differences in the context and content of the book and the movie.

The major difference between the two was level of devotion. The movie shows more devotion and is focused on relationships as compared to the book that uses rigid military terms and positions. The book continued to show how people would be living under very difficult conditions. In the book, the Great Britain is said to have become the capital of the superior state named 'Oceania'. At this time, the Great Britain has come to be known as 'Airstrip One'. According to the book, the leader of the super state Oceania is called the 'Party' who exercises dictatorship in his rule (Orwell). This is evident following the fact that Party has employed 'Thought Police' whose main work involves persecuting people who tend to show any actions that relate to independent thinking. Everybody is expected to follow the rules and laws put forward by the Party. Any ideas of individualism are greatly discouraged.

One of the key differences between the book and the movie is the level of relationships, emotions and sentiments shown. The book has more emotional appeal, while the movie is strictly military in context. For instance, the Inner and Outer Party members call each other by the titles of "brother" or "sister" in the book, however, in the movie they use the term "comrade". Similarly, O'Brien doesn't really reveal his affiliation with the Brotherhood in the movie as he did in the book. Also, in the movie the reason for calling Aaronson, Rutherford, and Jones as traitors and counterrevolutionaries was not explained while it was done very comprehensively in the book.

In comparing the book and the film 1984, Michael Radford the film director had a lot of work in making sure that the film is widely sold. Therefore, he added great commercial appeal to the story as narrated in the book. He had the responsibility of making sure that all the important details in the movie were as present as in the book. Both in the book and the film are that he was able to make sure that the film revolved the main character as in the book who was Winston a worker in the Ministry Of Truth. However, their characterization was contrasting.

In both the book and the film, it is seen that the world was led by one leader who had a very strong rule as the government of the two spheres that is Eastasia and Euroasia were very allied to their ruling super-state by the name Oceania. Orwell used these three countries and the three social classes i.e. Proles, Outer Party and Inner Party to reflect the horrors of war, fight for power and totalitarian authority. However, the director failed to dramatize this socio-political horror and became too conventional. For instance, the director was unable to highlight the purpose and theme behind iconic dialogue by INGSOC i.e. "Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present, controls the past." Precisely, this dialogue holds the essence, theme and the real feel of the novel which gives the hints of totalitarian power, political authorities, propaganda, etc. Winston as the overall leader of world had a very dictatorial form of leadership as it is seen that in his state, anyone who tried to have an individualistic form of thinking risked death. This is evident in both the book and the movie as he had a police force for thoughts. This is seen in that; anyone who tried to do an action contrary to the set laws was to die. People lived in a world that orders from the leader were to be followed to the letter as seen in both in the book and the film. The film director was very keen to show that the idea of the author of the book which was such a world was as a result of very extreme political ideas was vivid and could be easily understood.

Also, the film lacks the sense of historical significant in reference to several other historical events that had inspired Orwell to write his book. Some of the events that are hinted in the book include Berlin Blockade, Prague Coup, soviet atom bombs, communism, etc. These were the political horrors that provoked Orwell to think about the possible horrific life in near future and wrote a futuristic novel with the elements of social horror and political trauma. The movie lacked this essence.

In continuity of the similarities between the film and the author, different races of the world were supposed to adhere to the rule of the big brother to Winston. All the races of the world in their


different regions where the world had been subdivided into three spheres were subject to the rule of their leaders who in turn reported to Oceania the super-state where Winston lived. The big brother to Winston is seen to be a leader who enjoyed loyalty from the other two divisions of the world and any law he passed was observed in all other spheres.

The author and the film director have clearly illustrated that the idol big brother to Winston was a popular dictator who controlled everything. All credit was given to him whenever there was victory or anything good happened. He had subdivided the government into four major branches; the Ministry of Truth that was responsible for coming up with lies thus lying to the people about the past, the Ministry of Peace whose main purpose was war, the Ministry of Supplies which specialized in creating starvation and organizing starvation and finally the Ministry of Love whose main aim was to disrupt peace and torture people. People lived in fear and had to follow the rules of the big brother to the letter for fear of persecution. This is seen in both the film and the novel.

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Contrast between the book and the film are clearly seen in the movie. Although Michael Radford tried his best in translating the novel into a film, he left out many details in the novel such that if one saw the movie without having read the novel and later came to read the novel, then he would realize of the many differences as many ideas were left out while some of the norms as in the novel were changed. It is obvious that the novel will always be a better masterpiece compared to the film.

The original masterpiece can never be copied to the letter as it is impossible to cover all the details. The

only possible way when translating a book into a film is to try and show the main ideas of the book since it is not possible to incorporate every aspect of the book into the film.

The Ingsoc's symbolic salute was changed in the movie. In the book, George Orwell incorporated the clenched fist salute as a form of political uniformity with Oceania being the super power. On the hand, Radford incorporated the crossing of the forearms form of salute as a way of showing salute. This goes a long way in showing how information as in the novel has been diverged from what the author of the novel aimed to bring forward. Another major contrast is that, the author of the movie aimed to warn his society of communism. In this regard, we can clearly see that the novel was about political awareness. As for the movie, much emphasis has been on the love of Winston and Julia. In the movie, it is seen that the background of Julia could not her allow marry Winston and a lot of emphasis has been put in this. In comparing what the author of the booked aimed to convey and what the film mostly concentrated on, we can realize that the book remains to be a masterpiece indicating political torture. In this regard, the movie feels to have a weak means of trying to convey the strong message the author of the novel aimed to convey.

In the book, there were different categories which people were categorized into. There was the Inner Party, which was the most respected class socially, the Outer Party which was second to the Inner Party and finally the Proles which consisted of the workers. The Proles consisted of the biggest population of all the overall population. The film has not clearly indicated this. The film has failed again in that it regarded as all the races equal and subject to the rule of the big brother to Winston. Even though it is true they were all his subjects, clarification that the society was not equal such that there were different classes of people is important in getting the proper information the author aimed to convey. Failure to convey the right information by the movie makes one get unclear picture which the book brings out clearly.

The major point which the author aimed to bring forward was that, after the second world war, Europe was to be very careful to avoid dictatorship which could be bad for the economy and the people in general. He tried to show the citizens how difficult life would be by having unreasonable ruler in power and that it was important for the people to be aware of this so as not to become victims at one point. The film failed miserably in bringing out this message as it is themed about the forbidden love between Winston and Julia.

This clearly shows that the book remains to be the original masterpiece and bringing out the ideas which the author aimed to bring is not possible. Written words are able to compress information and give it in a much clearer way compared to cinematography. It is therefore important for anyone willing to get the information in its clarity to read the book.

When it comes to comparing and contrasting, it is much easier to align ideas that have the same message and also show how they differ from others. This is what is referred to as comparing and contrasting. Finally, it is important to have a clear understanding of the discussion so as to determine whether important points in the discussion have been omitted so as to know where to add them in the process of comparing and contrasting ideas as in the case of 1984 the novel and film.

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