



Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism: a modern style government in which the state involves itself in all facets of society, including the daily life of its citizens. A totalitarian government seeks to control not only all economic and political matters but the attitudes, values, and beliefs of its population, erasing the distinction between state and society. The citizen's duty to the state becomes the primary concern of the community, and the goal of the state is the replacement of existing society with a perfect society.

*TOTAL*itarianism ~ The *total* in **totalitarianism** refers to total, complete, full, entire, absolute control of all aspects of life.

Basically, the defining elements of a totalitarian government are:

- An evolving ideology to guide the state
- A single all encompassing political party, which is usually led by a dictator (a ruler who assumes sole power over the state)
- System of terror
- Monopoly over all forms of communication (TV, radio, newspaper, etc.)
- Complete control over the military
- Absolute control over the country's economy.

Totalitarian governments keep themselves in power by:

- **Single-party state** (a type of party system government in which a single political party forms the government and no other parties are permitted to run candidates for election.)
- **Secret police**
- **Propaganda**, through the state-controlled mass media
- **Personality cult** (a political institution in which a country's leader uses mass media to create a larger-than-life public image through unquestioning flattery and praise)
- **Regulation and restriction of free speech and criticism**
- **The use of mass surveillance**
- **Widespread use of terror tactics** (eliminating competition and persecution of specific groups of people)

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!



Totalitarianism

to·tal·i·tar·i·an

adj.

Of, relating to, being, or imposing a form of government in which the political authority exercises absolute and centralized control over all aspects of life, the individual is subordinated to the state, and opposing political and cultural expression is suppressed: "A totalitarian regime crushes all autonomous institutions in its drive to seize the human soul" (Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.).

In English that means...

totalitarianism

n 1: a form of government in which the ruler is an absolute dictator (not restricted by a constitution or laws or opposition etc.)

Totalitarianism is:

- Total control of the country in the government's hands
- Paranoia and fear on the parts of the leader(s)
- A distortion of nationalism
- No individual rights
- Free speech punishable by death
- A policy of aggression
- Total control over cultural aspects of the country
- The use of a scapegoat to blame all the problems on
- Paranoia and fear on the part of the people
- Far too much police power
- Capable of genocide and mass murder

EXAMPLE: LIFE IN HITLER'S NAZI GERMANY