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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to its Critical Insights Series; *Critical Insights: Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Edited by Thomas Horan, an Assistant Professor of English at The Citadel, *Critical Insights: Nineteen Eighty-Four* contextualizes George Orwell's final and finest novel within the author's multidisciplinary oeuvre, the complex cultural climate of its composition, and the diverse range of critical responses to the text. In his dystopian masterpiece, George Orwell deftly weaves political satire, cultural studies, linguistics, and prescient caveats into a haunting narrative replete with unforgettable characters and enduring motifs.

Beginning with **The Book and the Author**, Editor Thomas Horan provides an introduction on *Nineteen Eighty-Four* along with a biography on Orwell. The book then shifts to a series of three **Contextual Essays** that address *Nineteen Eighty-Four*'s literary and historical importance as well as its ongoing relevance to contemporary readers, providing a foundation for further study and scholarly work. In his essay addressing *Nineteen Eighty-Four*'s cultural and historical background, Bradley W. Hart traces Orwell's antiauthoritarian political development through the nineteen thirties and forties, focusing on Orwell's increasing resistance to both left- and right-wing extremism. In his "Critical Lens" chapter, Tony Burns provides an overview of scholarship that questions the traditional notion that *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is an anti-utopia. In her "Comparative Analysis" chapter, Regina Martin considers the influence of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* on Dave Eggers's *The Circle*.

The remaining essays provide **Critical Readings** that present a range of engaging critical interpretations of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by prominent scholars. In the first of these, Gregory Claeys addresses how *Nineteen Eighty-Four* illustrates the broad, multifaceted conception of nationalism presented in Orwell's 1945 essay "Notes on Nationalism." Jill Belli analyzes Orwell's nuanced assessment of the sociopolitical effects of nostalgia through his portrayal of Winston Smith's veneration of the past. While acknowledging that *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is primarily a work of dystopian fiction, Erik Jaccard analyzes the text as an English catastrophe novel, a late nineteenth- and twentieth-century genre that portrays the realities of and responses to rapid societal collapse. Conceding that the world of global superstates envisioned by Orwell is unlikely to come about, Rafeeq O. McGiveron examines *Nineteen Eighty-Four*'s historical value as a document of the early Cold War but also as an exposé of authoritarian subcurrents in England's putatively benign socialist movement. Clifford T. Manlove examines how governmental power in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* functions according to Freud's conception of the primal horde.

Other essay topics are:

- “Beyond the Love of Big Brother: Paranoid Reading, Non-Fascist Ethics, and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*” by Sean A. Witters
- “*Nineteen Eighty-Four* Today: The Impossible Desire to Archive as the Secret Core of Ideology” by Dario Altobelli
- “Writing Against Dystopia” by Charles Tedder
- “*Nineteen Eighty-Four* in 1984” by Jackson Ayres
- “*Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Surveillance, and After: From Telescreens to the NSA” by Andrew Byers
- “Privacy and Control in Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*” by Donald Morris

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Nineteen Eighty-Four* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of George Orwell’s Life**, a list of **Major Works by George Orwell**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Nineteen Eighty-Four* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

Free Online with Print Purchase.

In addition, *Critical Insights: Nineteen Eighty-Four* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

Critical Insights: Nineteen Eighty-Four

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