

## George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: An Outcry Against False Revolutionary Leaders

**Dr. Omar Osman Jabak**

Department of Arts and Education, Community College, King Saud University Saudi Arabia

### Abstract

The present research study attempted to provide an interpretation of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* as an outcry against false revolutionary leaders who go back on their promises and turn into dehumanized dictators even worse than the dictators against whom they and their fellow revolutionaries rebelled. To achieve that objective, the researcher read the novella critically within its socio-political context and traced the transformation of the leading character, Napoleon, who stands for such revolutionary leaders. The data of the current research were all extracted from Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The researcher used content analysis to analyze the selected data and developed an analytical comparison through which he closely examined Napoleon's character before and after the revolution. The findings of the study revealed that Napoleon was an opportunistic revolutionary who used the revolution to an evil end. Napoleon's dramatic transformation from a noble revolutionary into a ruthless, corrupt ruler proved that Orwell's novella can be read as an attack on false revolutionary leaders who become dehumanized despots, far worse than the dictators whom they aspired to replace with democratic leaders.

**Keywords:** Animal farm; Revolutionary leaders; Totalitarianism; Dictatorship; Corruption.



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### 1. Introduction

There is a common consensus that literature, in general, not only mirrors life with all its bitter and sweet moments (Duhan, 2015), but it also opens a multitude of exciting possibilities for our imagination; for everything we see in literature is very likely to be true. George Orwell's short novel, *Animal Farm*, first published in 1945 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal\\_Farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_Farm)), is a great example of how this literary work records the ups and downs of life. In fact, this novella can be read as a blatant attempt on the part of the novelist to show how absolute power with which revolutionary leaders are invested can lead to gross corruption because such unrestrained power makes them believe they are absolved from responsibility and accountability. By doing so, George Orwell seems to agree with the famous English historian Lord Acton who, in 1887, stated, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority" (Manser, 2007).

Through his artistic use of an allegorical animal farm to stand for the whole world at large, George Orwell depicts a true-to-life picture of how human beings behave towards their fellow human beings once they assume power. Orwell makes it clear that his ultimate purpose of writing in general is "to make political writing into art" (Quinn, 2009). In this respect, *Animal Farm* can be seen as a literary work which tries to show how revolutionary figures, who used to criticize power and the corruption that accompanies power, turn into ruthless, megalomaniac dictators once they have access to absolute power and become in control of the masses. It can be inferred that George Orwell seems to indirectly suggest that leadership and power should involve accountability and responsibility which can act as a safety valve for corruption and abuse of power.

George Orwell was a communist in his early youth, but he gave up communism later on when he felt that the noble goals and promises for which it was established had been like pie crust made to be broken. In fact, the Russian Revolution which broke out in 1917 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal\\_Farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_Farm)) and the totalitarian rule that followed it inspired George Orwell to write *Animal Farm*. In one of his letters, George Orwell expressed this attitude by saying, "For quite fifteen years I have regarded that regime with plain horror" (Gross, 1971). In response to this sharp turnover of the goals and promises of communism, George Orwell's overwhelming love for communism was replaced by equally bitter hatred of power and leaders who show insatiable hunger for power and dominance.

In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell makes use of allegory which acts on different levels (Rodden, 2003) and helps depict the shocking truth of the corruption and degeneration of the revolutionaries who come to power after a long, painful struggle with so-called dictators. These revolutionary leaders succumb to their egoistic desires for power and power-related pleasures as they part with the ideals, values and spirit of their revolutions. Napoleon, the main character in *Animal Farm* who leads the revolution against dictatorship and oppression, undergoes drastic changes after succeeding to power with the help of his fellow animals. Orwell underpins these changes in his portrayal of Napoleon before the revolution, shortly after the revolution and when Napoleon becomes the new ruler of the farm. Orwell himself states the real purpose of this short novel by telling us his opinion of revolutions and power in general:

*That kind of revolution (violent conspiratorial revolution, led by unconsciously power-hungry people) can only lead to a change of masters. I meant the moral to be that revolutions only effect a radical improvement when the masses are alert and know how to chuck out their leaders as soon as*

the latter have done their job.... What I was trying to say was, 'You can't have a revolution unless you make it for yourself; there is no such thing as a benevolent dictatorship (Bloom, 2007).

### 1.1. Objectives of the Study

The present study seeks to achieve the following two objectives:

1. To examine the transformation of Napoleon's character from a freedom fighter into a ruthless dictator;
2. To prove that Orwell's *Animal Farm* is an outcry against false revolutionary leaders.

### 1.2. Research Questions

Based on the above-stated objectives of the study, there are two questions for this small-scale qualitative study:

1. How does the character of Napoleon change in the course of the short novel?
2. Why can Orwell's *Animal Farm* be regarded as an attack on false revolutionary leaders?

### 1.3. Significance of the Study

There have always been revolutions against tyrannical rule throughout human history. The twentieth century witnessed many revolutions in Europe, the United States, Russia, the Middle East and the Far East ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:20th-century\\_revolutions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:20th-century_revolutions)). George Orwell happened to be an eyewitness to the European revolutions and the Russian Revolution of 1917. He also experienced the transformation of revolutionary figures in Europe and Russia into dictators who betrayed the principles and ideals of their revolutions. So, he wrote *Animal Farm* as a political satire against corrupt revolutionary leaders who change into tyrants. The short novel can also be viewed as a timeless warning for future revolutions to stick to their ideals and principles in order to replace tyrannical regimes with democratic ones.

As there has lately been a wave of revolutions in the Arab World, politically referred to as Arab Spring ([History.com Editors, 2018](#)), which broke out in 2011, the present study comes just in time to act as a warning for these revolutions, and the ones on the horizon, to stick to their legitimate demands and noble ideals if they really want to replace totalitarian and dictatorial regimes with democratic ones. In addition, by exposing false revolutionary leaders and their megalomania, the present study will hopefully contribute to raising people's awareness of the fatal dangers of such corrupt leaders and the necessity of bringing them to account for the betrayal of the lofty ideals of the revolutions to which they supposedly belong.

## 2. Literature Review

This section is intended to provide an account of the literature available on different readings, aspects and topics of Orwell's *Animal Farm*. In this respect, it is worth mentioning that the researcher did not find any study dealing with the topic of the current study or carrying its title, despite the availability of so many studies on Orwell's *Animal Farm* to date. Due to space constraints, the following parts of this section will provide a somehow limited selection of studies discussing *Animal Farm* from different perspectives and angles.

To begin with, [Najmalddin \(2018\)](#) carried out a study on the causes and effects of revolution with reference to Orwell's *Animal Farm* as a case study. The researcher believed that revolutions, throughout history, have been triggered by the oppression and injustices suffered by the masses at the hands of totalitarian, repressive regimes. He also believed that revolutions should change societies and people's lives to the better and not to the worse. However, what happened in *Animal Farm*, and to many other real revolutions, as the researcher thought, was that one dictatorial regime was replaced by another dictatorial regime and that the living conditions of the masses became even worse than before the revolution(s). In this respect, the above study and the present study tend to agree that Orwell's *Animal Farm* serves as a warning to the masses not to be deceived by revolutionary leaders who turn their back on the principles and ideals of the revolutions and the prospects of improving their living conditions at all levels. The above study, however, is about the nature of revolutions in general, whereas the present study focuses on exposing false revolutionary leaders who take advantage of revolutions rather than serve them with might and main.

[Fajrina \(2016\)](#), conducted a study on the identification of the animals in *Animal Farm* with real characters of the Russian Revolution, such as Stalin, Karl Marx, Trotsky, Pravda and others. In addition, the above-mentioned study touched on an important aspect, also tackled by the present study, which is the serious harm which dictatorship or totalitarianism causes to society at large. The main objective of the above study was to match the allegorical animal characters in *Animal Farm* with real people who contributed to the Russian Revolution at that time. In this respect, the scope and objectives of the above study are quite different from those of the present study, despite its conclusion that totalitarianism cannot be a viable alternative for tyranny.

In a study on the theme of corruption in *Animal Farm*, [Nouasri \(2015\)](#) believed that Orwell succeeded in establishing a crucial link between power and corruption through the character of Napoleon. The study also focused on propaganda as a powerful instrument in the hands of corrupt leaders to falsify facts and justify their appalling atrocities and crimes. The general conclusion of the above study is in line with the topic of the present study to a certain extent. The above study concluded with a very important statement about the nature of human beings. The quotation goes as follows:

Some [people] will always exist who are more ambitious, ruthless, and willing to grab power than the rest of society and some within society will be willing to give up power for security and structure. In that sense *Animal Farm* is regarded as a cautionary tale, warning readers of the revolution. [Nouasri \(2015\)](#)

However, the last sentence of above quotation is too general and does not make much sense as revolutions against tyranny are normal and legitimate as long as they replace tyranny with democracy and bring justice, prosperity and welfare to the masses.

In another study on Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Kumar (2014) sought to provide an understanding of the society which he thought Orwell tried to depict in his novella. Unfortunately, Kumar's study is scientifically erroneous as it is full of misleading generalizations. For example, because Napoleon became a corrupt leader and the revolution did not achieve its desired aims, Kumar came to the following erroneous conclusion.

No political party is honest for more than a few months and these few months represent the prosperity. But the selfish and unscrupulous politicians take over and re-establish the same kind of evil and political system which the revolution had overthrown. All revolutions are failures, but they are not all the same failure (Kumar, 2014).

The above conclusion is in fact a sweeping statement which cannot hold true for all political parties and revolutions. To claim that 'no political party is honest for more than a few months' is not only an overgeneralization, but it is also an illogical statement that is not true for all political parties. To also accuse 'all revolutions of being failures' is not only a false conclusion, but it is also historically untrue as there were many revolutions which culminated in success, and there will be revolutions in the future which will hopefully be successful.

In another study on the theme of equality in *Animal Farm*, Dwan (2012) discussed the concept of equality as being the focal point of Orwell's satirical novella. He believed that Orwell cast aspersions on "the coherence and viability of equality as a theoretical principle" (Dwan, 2012) which unfortunately remained an ideal, with no practical existence with regard to human experience. Dwan also drew on Orwell's biography to jump into hasty and erroneous conclusions, such as the conclusion that *Animal Farm* could be seen as an attack on "all political ideologies since equality is fundamental for all forms of government" (Dwan, 2012). Equality will also be discussed in the present study but in a different way from that of Dwan's above-mentioned study. The breach of the principle of equality will be one of the many violations committed by Napoleon after he became the sole ruler of the farm, following the success of the revolution.

Segreti (2011), carried out a study on *Animal Farm* from a purely literary point of view, using Conceptual Integration Theory as the theoretical framework of his study. The present study, however, approaches *Animal Farm* from a socio-political perspective. Segreti picked Napoleon's character to which he applied the theory with its integral components. He also discussed the literary device of symbolism as a powerful tool for achieving political aims, such as attacking the ruling regime and pinpointing the ills of society. Although the above study and the present study both examine the character of Napoleon, their scope and objectives remain completely different.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1. Data Collection

The data collected for the present qualitative study were passages and excerpts taken mainly from George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (Orwell, 2004) as this edition of the novella is in the form of a downloadable e-book which can be accessed and downloaded easily. The researcher read the whole novella very carefully and selected certain passages and excerpts which he found could provide answers for the research questions and help realize the objectives of the present study. To better understand the transformation of the main character, Napoleon, who is the axis of the present study, the researcher used content analysis (Mayring, 2014) and developed an analytical comparison table which would help understand the most significant changes in Napoleon's character before and after his figurative metamorphosis into a totalitarian dictator.

#### 3.2. Data Analysis

After collecting the data from certain passages and excerpts taken from *Animal Farm* (Orwell, 2004), the researcher examined these data and decided to include some of them which he found pertinent to the topic and scope of the study. The analysis of the relevant data was conducted using content analysis, and an analytical comparison table was developed by the researcher to display the differences in Napoleon's character before and after his transformation into a totalitarian dictator.

The analytical comparison table included two main categories which were 'Napoleon's character before coming to power' and 'Napoleon's character after assuming power'. The passages and excerpts selected as the data for the study were minutely scrutinized and classified into either one of the above two categories. By looking at the analytical comparison table with its two categories or columns, it becomes easy for the reader to spot the changes in Napoleon's character and see the extremely diabolical transformation of this revolutionary leader into a hard-hearted dictator.

### 4. Findings and Discussion

After conducting content analysis on the data of the present study, the researcher was able to develop an analytical comparison table into which he categorized the major findings of the study. Table 4.1 below lists the themes which were discovered after examining, analyzing and categorizing the relevant data. The examination and analysis of the data yielded six themes, all revolving around the transformation of the main character of the novella, Napoleon. This comparison table also represents the findings of the study which will be discussed in great detail in the subsequent paragraphs. The researcher will discuss each theme or finding as elaborately as possible in order to

show how fake revolution leaders not only betray revolutions, but they also turn themselves into demi-gods who rule with iron hands.

In the beginning of the short novel, Orwell portrays Napoleon as a highly cooperative pig who starts his life with the other pigs as an excellent team player. In fact, Napoleon has a close friend who is Snowball. They both led the revolution to victory. They always seek each other's advice and act in the best interest of all their fellow animals. They both change the name of the farm from Manor Farm into Animal Farm after the success of the revolution, hence giving an extraordinary example of great friendship and teamwork. Soon after the name of the farm has been changed, the "new unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live forever after" (Orwell, 2004) is posted on the wall by both friends, Napoleon and Snowball. This law consists of seven commandments which read as follows:

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal (Orwell, 2004).

These commandments, especially the last two ones, reveal the utilitarian aspect of the new regime under a new leadership which promises to abide by these supposedly permanent rules. Soon enough, the animals start acting in perfect harmony and setting up committees in an attempt to organize and distribute work and duties. Later on, most of these committees turn into failures because no animal sticks to their duty. Here it seems that George Orwell wants to say that committees in general do not organize work as they are supposed to, but they freeze work and help people shirk responsibility and waste time preparing for titular, futile meetings.

Later on in the novel, things start taking a new turn as pigs, headed by Napoleon, start to have some privileges over the other animals in terms of drinks and food; they start eating apples and drinking milk under the pretext that these are nutritive and good for the body and that:

Pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of this farm depend on us. Day and night, we are watching over your welfare. It is for YOUR sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! (Orwell, 2004).

This is a clear indication that even in the most communist and utilitarian community, some people will be given preferential treatment at the expense of other people under very false and silly pretexts which only aim at misleading the masses. Again, it seems that leadership entails more personal privileges and gains than responsibilities. Orwell here makes clear the intentions of the new leaders who seem to live in luxury, while the masses should always tighten the belt and lead an ascetic life, and if the masses object, they will be threatened with the possibility of the old, overthrown regime coming back and taking revenge on them. This is a cunning way followed by totalitarian regimes to rule and silence the masses, too.

As the novella proceeds, disputes between the two leading pigs, Snowball and Napoleon, flare up from time to time, especially when there are meetings to discuss important plans and strategies for the improvement of the farm. These superficial disagreements are in fact indicative of the cut-throat competition between these two leading figures who do their best to prove who is more capable. Moreover, each wants to show that he is smarter and better in order to become the sole leader of the farm. It goes without saying that the differences between the leaders of any political party will absolutely enfeeble the unity of the party and throw it into chaos and separation. It also seems that when absolute power is concerned, there must be one ruling leader, not two.

**Table-4.1.** Analytical comparison

<b>Napoleon's character before coming to power</b>	<b>Napoleon's character after assuming power</b>
He had a close friend, Snowbell and was a team player.	He banished his close friend to remain the only one in power.
He and his close friend changed the name of Manor Farm into Animal Farm.	In the end, the old name of Manor Farm was retained.
He was referred to as 'Comrade'.	He demanded he be referred to as 'Leader'.
Unalterable law was enacted by which all animals should abide and live forever (with seven commandments).	This law was broken by Napoleon commandment by commandment.
Animal farm was declared a democracy.	Napoleon is the only candidate running for leadership or dictatorship.
There were seven commandments.	There was one commandment only stating that all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

As the two apparently close friends start to realize the signs of their contention, teamwork is no longer seen as an option or a strategy to be followed in the farm. Instead, jealousy, rivalry and self-interest prevail, hence making room for the early seeds of corruption and destruction. As the novella proceeds, the differences between Napoleon and Snowball grow out of proportion until Napoleon, the more resourceful, plans to get rid of Snowball and become



the only leader of the animals. It seems that the proverb 'If two ride on a horse, one must ride behind' (Speake, 2008), applies to the aggravating situation between these two antagonized rivals. As a result, Napoleon succeeds in forcing Snowball out of the farm and becoming the sole ruler of the farm. This is a very significant change in Napoleon's character because he who gets rid of his close friends for the sake of power can easily part with the ideals and principles of the revolution. This important point of difference has been presented in Table 4.1 as the first theme. This, indeed, marks the beginning of Napoleon's transformation into a hard-hearted dictator with no regard for ideals and values such as friendship and comradeship.

Surprisingly enough, when the other animals wonder why Snowball, who has been Napoleon's principal partner and bosom friend, is banished in such a humiliating way, the answer is "That, he said, was Comrade Napoleon's cunning. He had SEEMED to oppose the windmill, simply as a manoeuvre to get rid of Snowball, who was a dangerous character and a bad influence." Speake (2008)

With Napoleon as the sole leader of the farm, the possibility of abusing this power invested with him becomes even greater. Soon, he begins violating the unchangeable law which he, along with the other animals, has vowed to abide and live by forever so as to multiply his wealth, terrorize the other animals and satisfy his lust for power. The first commandment is the first one which Napoleon breaks for he has decided to do business with man, the professed enemy of the animals. "Napoleon announced that he had decided upon a new policy. From now onwards Animal Farm would engage in trade with the neighbouring farms." (Speake, 2008) The violation of the seven commandments is a discrete theme presented in Table 4.1 as another aspect of Napoleon's transformation into a cruel tyrant.

Then follows another violation of the commandments when Napoleon's title changes from 'Comrade' into 'Leader' who now moves to live in the house as the sty no longer suits his new title as the leader of the farm. This is also a dramatic change in Napoleon's character which has been recognized as a distinct theme in Table 4.1. Of course, Napoleon, along with the other pigs, sleeps now in beds, which is again another violation of the commandments. Of course, there is always an excuse for such behavior. The mass media represented by Squealer in the novella (Fajrina, 2016) is never short of any cogent excuse for the violations committed by the leaders. Squealer keeps justifying Napoleon's corrupt policies and fraudulent behavior by reminding the other animals that the mental work which Napoleon and the other pigs do is so demanding that they need a comfortable place to rest in. "I can tell you, comrades, with all the brainwork we have to do nowadays. You would not rob us of our repose, would you, comrades? You would not have us too tired to carry out our duties? Surely none of you wishes to see Jones back?" (Fajrina, 2016)

This is it; the other animals have to adapt to their new leader's corrupt policies and the new system, or else the old system and tyrant will be restored to wreak havoc on the farm. If any of the animals shows any sign of dissatisfaction or disobedience, they will definitely meet their nemesis. At this point, Napoleon takes off his mask and shows his true colors by wiping the floor with everyone who might even think of going against his orders. To teach the rest of the animals a memorable lesson, Napoleon asks his dogs to drag four pigs to a general meeting and place them at Napoleon's feet and

Napoleon now called upon them to confess their crimes. Without any further prompting they confessed that they had been secretly in touch with Snowball ever since his expulsion, that they had collaborated with him in destroying the windmill, and that they had entered into an agreement with him to hand over Animal Farm to Mr. Frederick. They added that Snowball had privately admitted to them that he had been Jones's secret agent for years past. (Fajrina, 2016)

This is what most dictators and tyrants do; they falsify history, fabricate stories, wrongfully accuse innocent people of treason and coerce them to confess their uncommitted crimes, and finally kill them in cold blood. "When they had finished their confession, the dogs promptly tore their throats out, and in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded whether any other animal had anything to confess." Fajrina (2016) By putting these innocent pigs to death in such a blood-thirsty manner, Napoleon violates the sixth commandment of the law which he and the other animals have established to help them run the farm justly. It is crystal clear that through the cruel atrocities committed by Napoleon, George Orwell wants to expose false revolution leaders who succumb to the corruptive influence of absolute power which makes them wrongly believe that they are not subject to accountability because they arrogantly think they are above the law.

Napoleon then issues a decree in which he also changes the national anthem without even having consulted the other animals about this important change. Driven by the glamour, charm and delusion of absolute power, Napoleon goes to extremes in his behavior and actions and keeps acting as though he were God. More importantly, with absolute power and megalomaniac dictators, sycophants become very common, and they start currying favor with the leader or ruler by calling him different names and composing eulogistic poetry lauding his so-called great efforts in serving his nation. The same happens to Napoleon whose head is now swollen with unmatched craving and lust for power. In this respect, Orwell observes "Pigs liked to invent for him such titles as Father of All Animals, Terror of Mankind, Protector of the Sheep-fold, Ducklings' Friend, and the like." Fajrina (2016) All achievements are attributed to the despotic leader, Napoleon, and establishments and institutions are also named after him. Wisdom, generosity, flamboyance, tactfulness, and greatness are but some of the countless attributes to be ascribed to Napoleon undeservedly. Apparently, George Orwell wants to satirize the political leaders who try to change history so that they look like the ones who are making the history of their nations, and therefore they should be honored duly by having schools, streets and other public utilities and establishments named after them.

The violations of the law which Napoleon and the other animals have enacted and approved of continue until the last article or commandment is broken when Napoleon and some other pigs celebrate a false victory and drink

alcohol excessively. This is the last straw which has in fact brought the communist revolution which the animals led in protest against man's oppression and tyranny to an early end. It seems that the farm under Napoleon's despotic leadership is even worse than what it was like under Mr. Jones' leadership because shocking atrocities and injustices seem to be the strategies and tactics by which Napoleon rules the animal farm.

When the animal farm is announced to be a republic, unfortunately there is only one sole candidate who is the self-same dictator, Napoleon. "There was only one candidate, Napoleon, who was elected unanimously." (Fajrina, 2016) This is another distinct theme provided in Table 4.1 as a significant sign of Napoleon's change into an absolute tyrant. What is the use of having a republic if democracy is never practiced and only one ruler runs for elections and rules for life? It can be suggested that Orwell is categorically opposed to false republics which only practice oppression and commit atrocities against humanity under the name of democracy. In this particular respect, Orwell says, "Every line of serious work I have written since 1936 has been written *against* totalitarianism and for democratic socialism, as I understand it." Quinn (2009)

Under Napoleon's corrupt leadership, reward and desert never keep company because he does not see any one worthy of credit and honor but himself. For example, Boxer who has always been a loyal follower of Napoleon and who stands for diligent workers all over the world is mercilessly put to death when he is injured in a battle defending the farm and the system instead of being duly treated at the best hospitals. However, to always polish Napoleon's image, rumors and lies spread that Boxer is not slain at the slaughterhouse, but rather dies peacefully at the hospital, and as he is dying, he whispers "Forward in the name of the Rebellion. Long live Animal Farm! Long live Comrade Napoleon! Napoleon is always right. Those were his very last words, comrades." Orwell (2004)

Now towards the end of the short novel, George Orwell depicts Napoleon as an absolute ruler who is filled with the feeling of self-aggrandizement as he is now a carbon copy of the former regime against which he and the other animals rebelled. In fact, he behaves far worse than the old regime, and Orwell watches Napoleon's transformation into a demi-god very carefully. "Out came Napoleon himself, majestically upright, casting haughty glances from side to side, and with his dogs gamboling round him." Orwell (2004) As Napoleon makes his appearance in this god-like manner, Orwell observes "It was as though the world had turned upside-down." Orwell (2004) It is such a disappointment that leaders who once said they were equal to the rest of the other people and that they would serve their fellow human beings and treat them equally without fear or favor should be so corrupted and defiled that they no longer feel they are flesh and blood as their hearts and minds are now ossified. At this point, the seven commandments which form the constitution of the animal farm at the beginning of the new regime are now truncated and altered into one single commandment that reads:

*ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL  
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN  
OTHERS* (Orwell, 2004)

This is the last theme provided in Table 4.1 as the concluding sign of Napoleon's complete transformation into a totalitarian dictator who sees himself now literally above the law. This is the essence of the whole story! Leaders in totalitarian regimes can change any law without taking anyone's approval and without paying any attention to the interests of their subjects.

As there are no more excuses for the violations committed under the tyrannical rule of Napoleon, it must be borne in mind that though human beings are created as equal people, some people regard themselves as more equal than others due to the power invested with them. So, it is power and the hunger for power which corrupts people and makes them commit the most unthinkable crimes in the name of humanity, peace and love. The short novel ends with the name of the animal farm being changed into 'The Manor Farm' (Orwell, 2004) which is the original name of the farm before the revolution and before Napoleon's rule.

By coming to this sad end, it seems that the novella comes full circle. In fact, it sounds as if George Orwell wants to say that, in essence, human beings are corrupt if they are given full reign to behave as unaccountable, unprincipled rulers with absolute power, regardless of the titles given to their political regimes. Unfortunately, the novella ends almost exactly where it really begins, with the animals or masses struggling under oppression, tyranny and dictatorship on account of corrupt leaders' insatiable hunger for absolute power. In this regard, Stephen Ingle observes that in *Animal Farm* "Orwell showed that the kind of revolution undertaken by the animals (violent, conspiratorial, and led by a consciously power-hungry elite) could only result in one group of leaders replacing another" (Ingle, 2006).

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, it has hopefully become clear that George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is a bitter attack on megalomaniac revolutionary leaders who come to power by virtue of their brotherly cooperation with the public along with their noble goals and aspirations but fall prey to the charm and lure of absolute power. Under the influence of such tempting power which is above any law, revolutionary leaders tend to forget their promises of making their countries better places for their country fellows. Unfortunately, they start behaving like the former leaders whom they have revolted against and overthrown. Orwell might have wanted to suggest that people are people all over the world and throughout history, because when they are invested with absolute power, they are most likely to commit the most unimaginable atrocities and crimes against their fellow human beings.

Last but not least, the study has shown that Napoleon in *Animal Farm* stands for a revolutionary leader who transforms into a ruthless dictator, corrupted by absolute power, which he enjoys by dint of his self-appointed post as the one and only leader of the farm. As such, he violates not only the constitution he once vowed to adhere to, but he also breaks all kinds of human codes only to satisfy his insatiable hunger for power and sustain his position as the

sole leader. In the course of this small-scale study, Napoleon has proved to be a despotic ruler who distorts facts, falsifies history, fabricates stories and has all public utilities named after him just to satisfy his brutal desires for fame, power and personal aggrandizement. Future research studies on *Anima Farm* may approach Napoleon from a different perspective or may discuss a different topic from the topic of the present study.

## About the Author(S)

**Omar Jabak** holds a PhD degree in Translation and Interpretation. He has been teaching at the university level for over two decades besides being a freelance translator of the language pairs Arabic/English and English/Arabic. He has published Arabic translations of some English fictional and non-fictional works, book reviews and some research articles. His research interests include Arabic-English translation theory and practice, machine translation, audio-visual translation and cultural and religious studies. ORCID [0000-0003-3596-3635](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3596-3635). Web of Science Researcher ID: [W-4378-2018](https://www.webofscience.com/wos/authorid/detail/W-4378-2018).

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