

This explains the principles in the excerpt of “the book” by Emmanuel Goldstein that Winston reads (on pages 184-217).

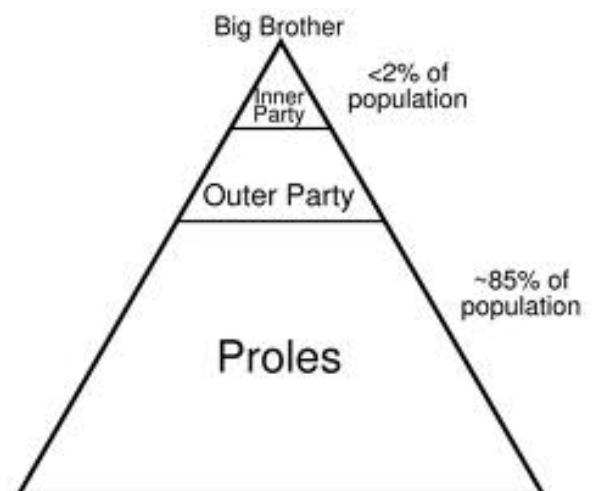
### Oligarchical Collectivism

- **Oligarchy:** when a select few rule the government, especially in a corrupt way
- **Collectivism:** a theory suggesting that society will benefit when everyone is working interdependently for the same goal
- Seems a bit contradictory, right?



### Ignorance is Strength.

- There have always been three kinds of people in the world: the High, the Middle and the Low.
- Equality threatens the hierarchy
  - A world in which everyone works short hours, has enough to eat, lives in a house with a bathroom and refrigerator and has a car would disrupt the order
  - Hierarchical society only possible on a basis of poverty and ignorance
  - “The consciousness of being at war, and therefore in danger, makes the handing-over of all power to a small caste seem the natural, unavoidable condition of survival.”
- The Middle, so long as it was struggling for power, has always appreciated the terms of freedom, justice, and fraternity.
  - They made revolutions with the idea of equality.
    - But then they established a fresh tyranny.
- The invention of film, radio, and TV made it easier to manipulate public opinion
  - In this society, TV transmitted and received information.
- The Pyramid of Oceanic Society
  - **Big Brother:** infallible, all-powerful. Every success, knowledge, and victory is issued from him. But no one has ever seen him.
  - **Inner Party:** 2% of the population. The “brain” of the State.
  - **Outer Party:** 13% of the population. The “hands” of the State.
  - **The Proles:** 85% of the population. The uneducated masses.



## The Proles

- Cannot graduate into the Party
- Are not to be feared.
  - “Left to themselves, they will continue from generation to generation and from century to century, working, breeding, and dying, not only without any impulse to rebel, but without the power of grasping that the world could be other than it is.”
  - They can be granted intellectual liberty because they have no intellect.

## The Party

- Live from birth to death under the eye of the Thought Police.
    - Not only any actual misdemeanor, but any eccentricity (possibly the symptom of inner struggle) is detected.
    - They have no private emotions or break from enthusiasm.
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## War is Peace.

- World split into three superstates
    - Absorption of Europe by Russia and the British Empire by the United States
    - Eastasia emerged after a lot of confused fighting
  - Three superstates constantly at war
    - Unable to destroy one another (or don't they want to?)
    - No real cause for fighting
    - Important to gain control of equatorial Africa, Middle East, southern India, and Indonesian archipelago to obtain slave and/or cheap labor
  - All major powers have atomic bombs to induce fear. No power is ever really in the lead.
  - Permanent war is the same as permanent peace. They both lack danger and people just get used to the situations.
  - “The two aims of the Party are to conquer the whole surface of the earth and to extinguish once and for all the possibility of independent thought.”
  - The four ways a ruling group falls:
    - Conquered by another group
    - Governing so inefficiently that the masses are stirred to revolt
    - Allowing a strong and discontented Middle Group to come into being
    - Losing self-confidence and willingness to govern
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## Other Principles of Ingsoc (English Socialism)

- Uncertainty surrounding the past is the central tenet of Ingsoc
  - The past is whatever the records and memories agree upon.
- Doublethink: power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously and accepting both of them
  - Telling deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them
- Linking opposites together
  - Confuses everyone until they can't question it