

TYRANNY OF TOTALITARIAN RULE: A PRAGMATIC STUDY

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“The worst crime committed by totalitarian mind-sets is that they force their citizens, including their victims, to become complicit in their crimes. Dancing with your jailer, participating in yours in your own execution, that is an act of utmost brutality.”

Azar Nafisi

Abstract

This article argues that (A) tyranny is the ideology of totalitarianism. By the use of various tools these leaders of totalitarian states are subjugating the masses. With this new term the new and more terrifying form of tyranny came into being. (B) The history of totalitarianism gives a clear of tyranny which has been faced by the people who were living under such rule. (C) Leaders of totalitarianism like Benito Mussolini, Hitler, Joseph Stalin, by Putting self on center these leaders were using much more power and got knowledge how to control over the masses, because of the knowledge of having power made them dictators and acknowledge them that they are superior and others are inferior one having lived under the rule of such government which had truly atomized or controlled over the masses (D) History has recorded the past of totalitarian tyranny but the present situation is as well filled with such rules, like North Korea under Kim Jong Un, but in comparison to the past the present situation as per the finding is as well harsh. (e) The representation of totalitarianism in dystopian literature like “1984”, “1st September” gives an overview of the harsh rule of totalitarian dictators.

This paper engages in critically analyzing the situation which has been faced by people who were living under the rule of totalitarian states. People had not just faced physical dilemma but mental too. For ex having fear while doing something against the ideologies of such states. The study of tyranny directly and indirectly will give a kind of insight of the victims who were living under such states.

Keywords: Totalitario, Tyranny, Totalitarianism, Power, Dictator.

INTRODUCTION

Totalitarianism is a kind of political system which holds total control not just over the public life but all the aspects of the private life of the individual. It does not allow any kind of individual opposition party, as well as the claims of the individual against the state. It is a kind of extreme and complete form of authoritarianism. In such kind of states political power is held by autocrats or dictator or absolute monarchs and these all possess the absolute power. The campaigns that they employ for propaganda which, they broadcast by controlling their own state-controlled mass media. Totalitarian states are often characterized by extreme political subjugation, a complete lack of democracy, widespread personality cultism, total control over the economy, massive suppression of, massive suppression of speech or public communication, mass surveillance, limited freedom of movement, widespread state terrorism, all these aspects can be found in totalitarian regimes

ROOTS OF TOTALITARIANISM

Totalitarianism is a 1920s movement which started with fascism. Fascism was political system which Rose to power in Italy. Benito Mussolini was the dictator. People were staying under the rules and regulations of the state. In this state those who criticize the government or do not obey were punished. The leader used strong army police force in order to maintain the laws and orders. These fascists were claiming that those who were strong and fittest can survive. Even in schools’ teachers were teaching students that only the states are important even they were trained to follow the rules of the ruling party. People did not have freedom of speech and even people were given the jobs in industries if they need. As per the findings the beginning of fascism was the beginning of ‘tyranny’. Teaching the rules and regulations in schools symbolizes that in future as well the same

system will go ahead, because students are considered as future teachers. Hitler was much crueler than Mussolini, common people were suffered a lot under his rule and Jews were tortured and killed by him. Peoples social and private both the life were tortured. As per the findings, when people are tortured it not just gives physical wound but mental too. for ex when the bomb was thrown on Nagasaki, and Hiroshima, people had fear of the same situation and today as well people birth with physical deficiency. And this situation has left its effect on the mind of the people. In Russia as well, the life of the common people was in plight, people lost their freedom people had to read what the state allowed. Those who couldn't follow the rules and regulations they were leaving the country and those who couldn't tolerate it they committed suicide. Education was strictly banned by the state children were taught how to be a good socialist or communist. Even churches were shut down even worshipping god was considered as crime because people had to worship Stalin, not to god. If people were showing their talent it had been considered as paranoid. As per the findings, these ideologies symbolize that one has to eat whatever has served to you, you can't demand anything against it. If one will demand he/she has to stay hungry but he/she won't get what you have demanded. And if one can tolerate the hunger then only one can live in the state or he/she can leave the state, no matter whether he/she is killing himself/herself or thinking of leaving the state.

Mussolini in concerned with totalitarianism has used power on people, because he was aware that 'power' is something through which he can control over the masses his knowledge regarding his power made his mentality stronger about how to use power. He controls over the masses as he considered himself more superior to the masses.

Hitler in concerned with totalitarianism was strongly having the idea that people who are 'stronger' or 'fitter' have a natural right to consume who are weaker. while he became a dictator, he broke all principles of treaty of Versailles. He killed, and tortured people. He holocaust and genocide about six million Jews and millions of other victims.

Stalin in concerned with totalitarianism was as well one of the cruelest dictators amongst all dictators. He spread his fear such a way that even the author Anna Akhmatova scares to publish the poem which was written on Stalinist terror.

As per the findings all these dictators who are taken as the examples of totalitarian leaders are power hungry people. These all are aware that if one wants to make himself/herself as those kinds of person who is very different to others one has to do something that is very different. Using ideologies are the ways to make some boundaries so that all these people should be confined by it and they should not go beyond it. Even making boundaries for people symbolize that one should not think about being a leader, one should not get an opportunity to do any kind of opposition.

While totalitarianism was ended, and nations started establishing themselves as democratic nations at that time they had puzzle establishing such identity as the democratic nations. As per the findings, this is the philosophy that whatever is done that takes the form of outcome. Here the result that has been left by the movement is the physical and mental effect. Even the history as well created. whenever one reads the history of totalitarianism one comes to know that earlier there was a form like monarchy was existed however this kind of rule was not existed, when one came in to being, and when it was gone obviously physically it is gone but still it exists with the knowledge of having it among us as its effect.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kets de Vries. (2006). **"The Spirit of despotism: Understanding the tyrant within" Human Relations**. argues that totalitarian regions are filled with terror with the existence of their leaders, terror comes through the hands of leaders and humans are paying the price of the existence of the dictatorship. In a form of suffering.

Mozaffari. (2007). **"What is Islamism? History and definition of a concept" "Totalitarian Movements and political Religions"**. takes into consideration 'Islam' as totalitarian ideology he points out that, the differences of sectors remain in between various Islamic groups, their aim remains the same and the use of violence is not rejected (Islamic groups symbolizes 'totalitarian ideology').

Johnson.and Till. (2004). **"Post- totalitarian national identity: public memory in Germany and Russia social and cultural Geography"**. have written that Post Totalitarian societies are facing problems in reshaping their identities as democratic societies. Because some way or the other they faced tyranny and they were bound by the old oppressive totalitarian tyranny.

Greenwald (1980) **"The totalitarian Ego fabrication and Revision of person History"**. argues that ego or self is a kind of institution of knowledge. Having knowledge of one's own self 's power makes an individual more powerful.

Popper. (1945) **"The Open Society and its Enemies"**. Said that Totalitarianism attacked upon the open society, and he defended open societies against its enemies and considered Plato, Marx, and Hegle as their followers.

Milosz. (1953). **"The Captive Mind"**. argues how the human mind was working under such kind of totalitarian regimes, in order to survive in such kind of states one has to sell themselves to the state, and their ideologies too.

Foucault. (1977). “**lecture at college de France**”. He compares pyramid with that of power structure. In which one person or a group of people stay at the top of the pyramid, and they hold power, and ‘normal’ people are at the bottom of the pyramid. Here, ‘normal’ people stand for those people who are the victim of dictator’s tyranny. Mill. (1859). “**On Liberty**”. speaks about ethical system of ‘utilitarianism’ to society and state. Mill talks about “struggle between authority and liberty”, describing the tyranny of the particular government. According to him it should be controlled by the liberty of the citizens.

As per the findings some way or the other the major issue which is related to that of totalitarianism is the ideology which these leaders are using because all these rules and regulations are made for the masses, the masses which are related to that of ‘control’ through various mediums.

COMPARISON OF THE CONCEPT WITH PAST AND PRESENT

The history of totalitarianism has given the clear picture of people who were bullied, they put into the concentration camps, secret police were organized for observation. The freedom of people was snatched away. Even the new technology made total control possible. People has to obey the rules and regulations. In present situation as well the use of force, fearful obedience use of execution, imprisonment, even citizens are restricted to have communication with the outside world, the government has reduced all the basic liberties even during Covid19 the North Korea became more isolated than ever because too much restrictions were imposed on people and the communication with the outside countries has been banned. The finding is, putting banned and restrictions are the ideologies that these rulers are using obviously, earlier secret police were doing the task of spying over people and now direct imposition is there.

Theme of power with reference to Totalitarianism in George Orwell’s “1984”, and in W. H. Auden’s “1 September 1939”

Totalitarian rule exists because of the hunger for power. The more you get the more you demand for it the more hunger will increase the way it is portrayed in *1984*

“The second thing for you to realize is that power is power over human beings. Over the body-but, above all, over the mind. Power over matter- external reality, as you would call it-is not important. Already our control over matter is absolute”. (Orwell,P.333)

Power hungry people are using it the way they want, no matter whether it breaks human from within or from outside. The pleasure of the people will be destroyed symbolizes that they will be confined by the ideologies of the rulers. Michel Foucault in his concept of “power and knowledge” he conveys that power exist due to having the knowledge of having power and through the knowledge they become much more aware about how to use power. So, the intoxication of power grows their hunger for power and this power makes them dictators.

The party is ruled by mysterious leader named “Big Brother” The party has three slogans “WAR IS PEACE, FREEDOM IS SLAVERY, IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH” (Orwell,P.6)

These slogans symbolize that the state is surrounded by totalitarian kind of government. Where people can’t live in peace, they are oppressed by powerful dictators. They were doing Constant surveillance through telescreen, cameras and hidden microphones. The party brutally purifies those who are not following the ideals through ‘Thought police’ all are slaves no one is free.by ignoring all this the government feels strength. Michel Foucault in his analysis of power, analyze that power relies on knowledge and teaches how to use knowledge. These dictators are very well aware that how to use their power they have total knowledge of their power

“I sit in one of the, On fifty-second street, Uncertain and afraid” (Auden)

“1 September 1939” is one of such poems which, condemn fascism which hold outside abroad. It contains the event of Nazi Germany’s invade to Poland. Which spreads darkness on the land. The poem starts with indirect reference of the rise of fascism in Germany. Which has the speaker who feels “uncertain and afraid”.

“Find what occurred at Linz, what huge imago made, A psychopathic god:”. (Auden)

The poem even contains the reference of the German dictator Adolf Hitler who born in Linz. These references show how dictator through the use of power affects the behavior of society. The use of the phrase ‘psychopathic God’ as per my findings symbolizes that the way Hitler was bullied during his childhood and the suffering that he got has made his psychology such because what kind of upbringing we get, we become the same in our life. Those psychological wounds of his childhood made him such ‘German God’.

As per the findings, this totalitarian tyranny has its roots in ‘human psyche’. Because when one gives more importance to himself/herself than others then only one considers himself/herself self as more superior to others. Controlling over the masses through all the suitable or unsuitable ways symbolize that these dictators are not willing anything against the state just control over the state. Because it breaks their ‘ego’ which again symbolizes that if the ideologies are broken by the masses then that would lessen the dignity the superiority as a ‘leader’ of the particular state. While one is a governor of the state, he /she has a kind of mentality and ruling over others makes his /her mentality different then the common people. As a dictator one considers himself/herself as a ‘god’ it symbolizes that you have to consider a dictator as a superior power like god. If you won’t obey what has been said then you will be punished. The fear of punishment forces the citizens to obey the rules and regulations.

SUGGESTIONS

- 1) Totalitarian states should become Democratic states, so that people will be able to get freedom in all the fields.
- 2) The brainwash which these politicians are doing through the use of various policies should not be accepted by people, because even in democratic states as well leaders are using strategies for winning the elections, however having won the election they are as well showing their true sides.
- 3) People should avoid following the rules and regulations of the dictators with unity because unity has its own power.
- 4) The idea of 'inferiority' and 'superiority' is creating this situation, considering others as powerless and one's own self as powerful has its root in it. So such kind of psychology should not exist among people.
- 5) People should oppose these kinds of parties collectively rather than individually, because a group is more powerful than the individual.

CONCLUSION

Tyranny defines totalitarianism both in present and in past too. The modern totalitarianism is as well cruel like the older one. Hitler was too much cruel the way he used cruel methods in order to do what he wanted, 'Gestapo' force which was so cruel, how people were put into the concentration camps. All the power-hungry dictators had used different methods in order to rule over the people on their own way. But at a same time, these dictators have never changed their nature in order to control over the masses they were imposing their own ideologies over people and the psychology of the people were same. The research has concluded the findings, that no change has been observed comparing to the history of totalitarianism and the present situation of totalitarianism. In present North Korea is ruled by un Kim Jong. Kim Jong Un in North Korea has restricted people to communicate. The regime has isolated people and they are trying to control every aspect of the life of masses, even they are facing poverty they have restricted even the press too. However, the beginning of democracy has ended totalitarian tyranny. Because it has spread liberty among people, freedom among people.

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