

# ANIMAL FARM: AN ISSUE OF COMMUNISM

## INTRODUCTION

The book *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, published in 1945, has a controversial history because of its depiction of communism. Throughout its history it has been banned in Soviet Russia and promoted in the US and other democratic nations (Gerrard, 2014). This presentation will explain why it was banned in one location but promoted in another.

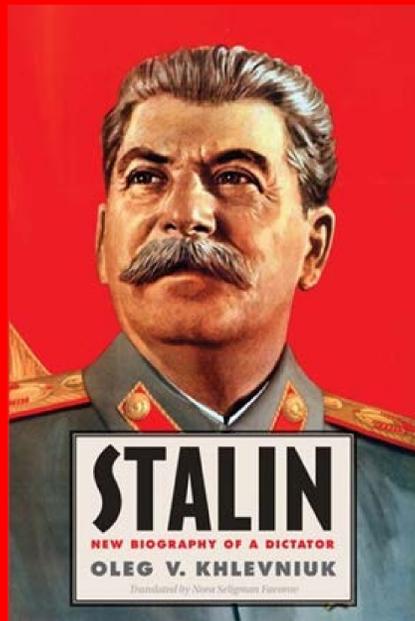
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## HISTORY

This book was published right around the time of the Cold War. There was a growing feud between the United States and Soviet Russia, including a naval standoff. There was the space race around this time. Russia and the United States were again in competition to put the first man on the moon. The main reason there was so much conflict was due to differences in the government structure with the US being a democracy and with Russia being a communist nation (Gerrard, 2014).

## WHY THIS BOOK?

*Animal Farm* was a politically powerful novel thanks to its underlying message warning about the dangers of communism. Especially during this time period, there was a lot of tension surrounding authoritarianism of communism vs. the freedoms of democracy (Sutherland, 2015).



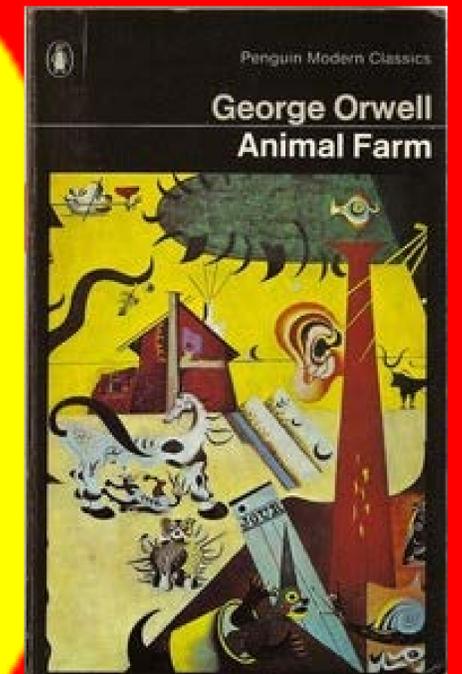
<https://www.goodreads.com>



<https://www.pinterest.com>

## WHO THE CHARACTERS ARE

Napoleon	=====	Stalin
Boxer	=====	Russians
Snowball	=====	Trotsky
Old Major	=====	Lenin
Squealer	=====	Propaganda



<https://pen.org>

## RUSSIA

As a communist nation, the Russians clearly wanted to ban this book. *Animal Farm* challenged their entire government system, showing that the people's sacrifice only benefitted the people in power. When the pigs take charge, it is clear that communism is not for people, just the pigs (Gerrard, 2014).

## THE UNITED STATES

While Russia was in favor of banning this book, the US was strongly against banning this book in order to promote democracy. The CIA actually funded animated films of this book that were to be distributed throughout the world (Gerrard, 2014). They were successful in alerting people everywhere about the dangers of tyranny associated with communism (Sutherland, 2015).

## CONCLUSION

The political agenda depicted in this book has entire nations banning/promoting it. Books like *Animal Farm* are great examples of polarizing texts that are challenged constantly and show the reasons why books are banned, as well as why they shouldn't be.

## SOURCES

Gerrard, David. B. (2014 Sept.). *Animal Farm: Banned by the Soviets, Promoted by the CIA*. Retrieved from <https://pen.org/animal-farm-banned-by-the-soviets-promoted-by-the-cia/>  
Sutherland, John. (2015 May). *An Introduction to Animal Farm*. Retrieved from <https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/an-introduction-to-animal-farm>