

Chapter 1

Introduction

Introduction

The current study aims to highlight the absolute governments in the light of the totalitarian absurdity. This study deals with two basic questions. Firstly, it uncovers the way the absolute governments prove to be very despotic and what possible techniques they employ to rule in an unimpeded way. Secondly, these efforts are reduced to an absurd level. So the primary lens which is being employed is totalitarian absurdity.

This issue has been observed in history and the current decade is also enriched with the same old practice. The same techniques were being employed in the old days which are being used today. One can identify a single difference that lies between the totalitarian government of the past and the present and that is the geographical difference. The same old ways of ruling are being used in the current years but the working agent is in the west instead of east gradually extending itself to the far off countries. Thus the dictatorship is the same but the faces are different.

People of the mid twentieth century as well as those of the current decade have somewhat similar destinies. Their lives have been under trouble and the reason behind this horrific life is absolute governments. These regimes have been witnessed to dismantle political system, conditions of the masses are deteriorated, ascertain to be highly devastating, terrible and dreadful. A particular sect of society is exploited, tortured and marginalized. They are decentered by the despotic tendencies of the ruling authority and the use of power and authority is highly concentrated. The authorities in power prefer their personal ends over the collective national one's which make the lives of the citizens more than a burden to be lifted. In such kind of politically unstable situation the authorities may be from within the states or be like an alien who treats the citizens in a highly tyrannical way.

On the one hand, the century is flooded with the history of totalitarian regimes. On the other hand, these decades are diverse in social, political and cultural norms. There is

disharmony in the values on the part of the masses while the ruling class wants a society which might be in total harmony so that to rule in an unobstructed way. The gulf between this harmony and disharmony becomes the foundation stone for such kind of horrible situation in the century.

The twentieth century is enriched with fictional and non-fictional works which depict a politically charged and unstable atmosphere. The ruling class tries to suppress the common man of the country. It uses various techniques in order to stop any kind of uproar in the state. These techniques range from the excessive use of technology to the horrendous efforts of severe punishment of the masses. The situation may become worst if an individual who revolts against the authority is caught and put behind the bars where he/she can meet his/her ultimate end, which might be death or severe physical and mental torture. Those who are reluctant to deny the supremacy of the ruling class become the center of the atrocious treatment of the man in power. This shows the highly dictatorial tendencies of these established orders.

An analysis of the world of facts and fictions highlights such days of uncertainty and politically charged situation where an authority, most of the times, comes into existence overnight in an undemocratic way. Such authority is always very determined to stop any kind of uproar on the part of the masses and makes every possible effort regarding the impositions of its regulations. In certain cases any single incident inside a state may lead to a whole set of undemocratic ways of regime which is intentionally monopolized by the man in power to justify his impositions. In another case a foreign power may penetrate into a state and occupy the affairs of the state which in the long term lead to despotism and undemocratic norms. Consequently, in both the cases the state is occupied by the absolutist.

Any rational approach to these governments can clearly identify the dictatorial inclinations of these authorities in the states which treat their masses in an unfair way under the umbrella of totalitarian regimes. Secondly, one can very clearly identify the horrendous efforts of these regimes which become a source of horror for the masses and make their lives more than a burden for them. It is hard for the masses in such cases to perform their daily life affairs. Thus the social and political situation of such countries becomes unstable and totally opposite to the norms of any democratic political systems.

Context of the problem

Despite the geographical distances depicted in the selected narratives, both the fictions selected for this study belong to same category. Orwell's *1984* depicts central west as occupied by the totalitarian government while Aziz' *The Queue* highlights a Middle Eastern state which is oppressed by the presence of an absolute authority under the name, the *Gate*¹. The study is born out of the curiosity whether the existence of such a totalitarian authority can sustain itself in the long run and is there any possibility on the part of oppressed masses to show revolt. Both the narratives highlight similar experiences of the masses and the way they defy the authority, as depicted by the authors. The novels do not idealize or demonize the situation rather present a picture that reflects both the societies as they are with all their weaknesses and strengths. The rationale of this research is to fill the gap by analyzing the prevailing political situation and highlighting totalitarian absurdity in the selected fictions.

Statement of Problem

The current study highlights the desperate efforts of absolute authorities for establishing of an authoritarian regimes and how they are reduced to totalitarian absurdity by drawing parallels between the selected texts.

Research Objectives

This research is intended to achieve the following objectives

- 1) To compare the despotism of the totalitarian regimes depicted in selected works of fiction
- 2) To draw an analogy between the totalitarian regimes presented in the selected works
- 3) To expose the ineffectual efforts of the totalitarian authorities and to reduce them to absurdity

Research Questions

¹ Gate. The Gate is the unknown authority which directs the state's affairs

1. How do the selected texts of fiction portray the tyrannical exertions by the omnipotent authority for the accomplishment of its ends?
2. How are the despotic tendencies of totalitarian regimes reduced to totalitarian absurdity in the selected texts?

Delimitation

The study is delimited to the two fictional works, George Orwell's *1984* and Bisma Abdul Aziz's *The Queue*. The reason for selecting these narratives is the historical context of these works. Orwell's *1984* was published in the post-World War II era when the superpower in the east was striving for the establishment of an absolute government. Bisma's *The Queue* highlights the same struggle but there is the terrestrial change of the struggle from east to west. The authors have depicted in the selected text, the centralized authorities which work for the establishment of totalitarian regimes but on practical grounds they fail badly. This project has highlighted the tactics used by these authorities and reduce them to an absurdity.

Significance of study

The research in this area has vast potential. Totalitarian regimes have highly been appreciated by the despotic rulers and at the sometimes have been highly criticized as well by the suppressed citizens. The current devastations brought by the despotic activities are the outcomes of the ineffectual efforts of the totalitarian authorities. The significance of the research lies in the exploration of extensive global anarchy and chaos as a result of the despotic tendencies of the absurd absolute authorities. The research draws a conclusion that any effort to establish a totalitarian, despotic and omnipotent authority is a futile activity. Furthermore, it brings into light the devastation, anarchy and chaos caused by such futile efforts to establish such omnipotent authority in the world. So to make the world a uniform and peaceful piece of land, needs an end of such a meaningless struggle.

Structure of the Study

The study is divided into 6 chapters. Chapter 1 carries a brief introduction of the prevailing political conditions, depicted in the selected narratives and deals with research questions, research objectives, context and significance of the study.

Chapter 2 has two parts. Part 1 discusses totalitarianism and its application to the literary texts. Part two discusses absurdity as a theory and its application to the fictional texts.

Chapter 3 discusses the theoretical approach and the primary lens applied to this study. It also highlights the primary lens applied to this study which is totalitarian absurdity. Totalitarianism highlights, in detail, the efforts of the ruling class to rule the state without any political upheaval while absurdity reduces these efforts to ineffectuality.

Chapter 4 scrutinizes the oppressions of the masses and the various horrendous efforts of the despotic rulers, depicted in both the selected narratives.

Chapter 5 reduces these horrendous efforts of the ruling class to absurdity in the light of totalitarian absurdity.

Chapter 6 gives a comprehensive conclusion to sum up the arguments and discussion.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

A vast literature is available on totalitarian regimes and absurdity in literature. The current study tries to find out some common grounds for totalitarian absurdity as the key terms of this research lack a sound point of contact. The project tries to find out the research gaps in the already existing scholarships. The research under consideration is taking into account Orwell's *1984*. It deals with dictatorial government so I have tried to dig out some research scholarships from the post WWII era and simultaneously, some current researches from the area so that to contextualize the absurdity of the absolute authorities. On the other hand, the project takes into consideration Aziz's *The Queue*. Some factual contemporary works have also been taken into consideration so that to make a firm ground for the contextualization of the selected narratives. This literature review is qualitative in nature and based on the accumulation of the facts and fiction that enriches the focal point of the researcher.

The chapter is based on five parts. The first part introduces the theory and an explanation of the ideas of the theorists. The second part of the chapter explores the implications of the theory to other works. This helps that how existing literature is relevant to my scholarship. It also highlights the points of similarities between my work and the already existing literature. I have further divided this chapter into sub parts for the sake of clarity. This chapter includes reviews about the selected narratives. In the light of this discussion a sound rationale is developed for totalitarian absurdity which is used as the primary lens for this research. After an objective analysis of the existing literature, I have pin pointed the research gaps and have connected them to my research.

In the light of the broad rationale of the questions under consideration, it can likely be said that the research project is multilayered and is going to be predominately influenced by many factors. I have, therefore, carefully selected the secondary sources that, on the one hand, connect this study to the past and then to the current geopolitical situation. On the other hand, to find the gaps that may be filled partially by this research, if not completely. I have by and large investigated the above areas according to the best of my knowledge. I have selected only two writers for this research one each for the primary concept of

totalitarianism and absurdity respectively, as theorists. In the light of the ideas put forward by these theorists I have formulated my own operational definition of totalitarian absurdity as there is no significant scholarship available in the selected area of research.

This chapter is in number of ways significant for my research. It finds out the research gap. It helps to avoid the repetition of the already existing research. This chapter provides ground for making further suggestions.

Totalitarianism

The totalitarian regimes came into lime light in the mid twentieth century just at the end of World Wars. Hanna Arendt (1951) in the first part of her book *Origin of Totalitarianism* refers to a quotation by Roger Martin who says, “This is a remarkable century which opened with the Revolution and ended with the Affaire! Perhaps it will be called the century of rubbish”. Totalitarian regimes have always been appreciated as well as highly criticized. They have been equally depicted in the factual and fictional works. Historical figures like Stalin, Linin, Mussolini and Hitler all tried to establish totalitarian regimes. Arendt’s *Origin of Totalitarianism* gives a distinction between the totalitarian regimes in the past and even today. In the first part of her book the chapter on *Anti-Semitism*, she says, “A fundamental difference between modern dictatorships and all other tyrannies of the past is that terror is no longer used as a means to exterminate and frighten opponents, but as an instrument to rule masses of people who are perfectly obedient”(6). Thus, once the totalitarian regimes were based on the complete extermination of one particular race while today they are based on the complete subservience of masses. They are completely devoid of their basic human rights. The totalitarian acts accordingly to his logic freely submitting to his function as she further says, “the totalitarian ruler feels that only one man is required and that all other persons, all other minds as well as wills, are strictly superfluous”(346). Such kind of government does not provide any space for the acceptance of any other thought, idea and mind as the authority is absolute. Thus, the transformation of any ideology into full-fledged totalitarian ideology is a crucial prerequisite of totalitarian ruler.

Rulers who adopted such kind of policies are like Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini. Stalinism was an ideology adopted by Stalin in Russia. Sheila Fitzpatrick in her book *Everyday Stalinism* (2000) says, “For Homo Sovieticus, the state was a central and

ubiquitous presence” (Fitzpatrick 3). She is of the opinion that life under Stalinism was not a normal life as she says, “But the life these ordinary people lived was not, in their own understanding and probably ours, a normal life” (1). This clearly indicates that the state’s ideology was concentrated in one hand and hence, a common man was not in a position to understand the situation prevailed in the country. The case of Nazism is also not much different. Bendersky in his book *A concise History of Nazi Germany* (2014) says that the Nazi’s desire was to transform Germany into a homogeneous racial community and he further says, “A society in which the party and its ideology would permeate every aspect of public and private life” (99). Similarly, the epicenter of fascism was also the exercise of omnipotent authority. Paxton, in his book, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (2004) has written a chapter on *Exercise of Power* and he refers to Bracher “National Socialism came into being and into power under conditions that permitted an alliance between conservative authoritarian and technicistic, nationalistic, and revolutionary-dictatorial forces.”

German Philosopher Immanuel Kant was of the opinion that there were two essential things in human life, the stars above him and the morality inside him. Later, Nietzsche proposed in his collection *The Gay Science* (1882) that god (morality) is dead. This idea of the death of god brought havoc to the world. The figurative speech basically meant that enlightenment had evaporated all the set of belief in god. The greatest dictators of the world brought destruction because they considered themselves as super powers and tried to replace god and brought destruction to the world. In the current situation of the world the super power is repeating the same practice.

The above discussion gives the analysis of the policies adopted by the ever notorious dictators of the history. All these dictators were non-democratic in nature and proved to be highly despotic. They established a form of government which was one man show and the authority lied in one hand. The thought process of a common man was compromised for the ideology of the dictator. As the ideology which prevailed in the state, was in the control of one man so the common subjects were not in a position to understand even the whole machinery of the government. Furthermore, the historical documents show that they even tried to exterminate the whole races if they needed it for the sake of totalistic government. It can be concluded that the prime purpose of these dictators was to establish

a homogeneous society irrespective of the will of the subjects and to rule in an unimpeded way.

Totalitarianism in Fiction

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is considered to be the dystopian literature. Dystopian literature basically represents a state where everything is opposite to the Utopian state. The novella can be implied to the politics of the time of George Orwell and in fact to a universal utopian society which is drawn to the dystopian. Sana Nawaz wrote an article *Allegory and Satire in Animal Farm by George Orwell* (2005) and says that his novella is an allegory, representing human society. The novella also represents a satire on the Russian revolution. A dream of an Old Major is materialized by animal, pigs as their leaders. Slowly the problems of leaderships arise and the commandments are broken one by one. The article emphasizes that fear, a typical mechanism for the establishment of totalitarianism is practiced throughout the novella in order to stop any kind of revolt. Marcelo Pelissioli (2008) in his research *From Allegory into Symbol: Revisiting George Orwell's Animal Farm* says that the novel is an allegory and symbolic in nature. Marcelo Pelissioli is of the opinion that the novel is based on totalitarianism and can be linked to the days of Orwell's life. Stella Zavera Monica says in her thesis *Tyrannical Control over the Proletariat in George Orwell's Animal Farm* that *Animal Farm* is inspired by Russian Revolution in 1917. The thesis aims at analyzing the different aspects of the novel. The main aspect is to see how Mr. Jones and Napoleon controls the farm.

English literature is rich in depiction of totalitarian regimes. Huxley wrote his *Brave New World* in order to represent the totalitarian society. Robert S. Baker *The Dark Historic Page: Social Satire and Historicism in the Novels of Aldous Huxley* says that they give a satirical look of a totalitarian society of the future, in which the trends of Huxley's day have been taken to extremes. When an outsider encounters this world, he cannot accept its values and chooses to die rather than try to conform to this *Brave New World*. Peter Edgerly is of the opinion that it is a kind of government where few elites have the freedom of choice while the rest are conditioned to follow them blindly since they are in their embryonic stage. There exists no room for free will, creativity, imagination, or diversity and these all lead to conflict, war, and destruction.

Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We* was published in 1921. The novel is set in urban nation constructed almost entirely formed of a glass which assesses mass surveillance. The structure is like a Panopticon. The value of freedom is taken from the citizens and given to the authorities. David Bell in his article *Fail Again. Fail Better* says that *We* works as a double satirical critique on Leninism and Capitalism alike as both were the periods of excessive totalitarianism.

The dictatorship is based on terror and fear. The whole machinery of the states is build up on the blocks of fear. The citizens are faced with the unidentified and uncertain situation. The current factual statistics show that the war waged by the super power in the east is based on such policies. Those who are punished do not know their crimes, still they become the victim of the totalitarian's ideology and coercion. Kafka's *Trial* (1925) narrates the similar story. The protagonist of the novel Joseph k is arrested by two unidentified persons for no reason. It takes years to prove his innocence. The narrator says, "You are under arrest, but not a way a thief would be" (Kafka Trial). The quote shows the constant watch of the masses. Thus, they are constantly under surveillance and hence it shows the imposition of the coercion on the part of the authority.

The novel emphasizes that the authority must be maintained irrespective of the legal proceedings. The current day's situation of the world on the part of Super Power shows that they are constantly struggling to sustain a kind of situation where they could easily marginalized the orients. After the decolonization, imperialism was being flourished so that to control the ideology of the weak countries. Said's *Orientalism* (1978) develops the same idea that Eurocentrism has paved the way for imperialism. The narrator of the *Trial* says, "Someone must have been telling lie about Joseph k because he done nothing wrong but one day he was arrested" (Kafka Trial). It is not only the case with only one character of the novel rather the same concept can be applied to the invaded states in the current days on the part of the great powers and the reason is; they were weak. Whether it is America in the current situation or USSR in the past days. They all invaded the foreign states just for one reason and that was to maintain an absolute authority across the boundaries. Interestingly, they all failed in the long run.

Some Factual Works in the Light of Totalitarian Absurdity

Totalitarian regimes have always been a hot debate. Historically, totalitarianism played a havoc. Destruction, devastation of infrastructure and mass murder are some of the examples caused by such kinds of absolute authorities. Statistics show that totalitarian regimes had never been successful. They are maintained for a short span of time but in the long run they fail badly. The greatest dictators of the world like Stalin and Hitler could not sustain their governments for long and faced defeat. Similarly, the greatest power, USSR which was notoriously known as Asian Monster even could not sustain her influence in the central Asian states and finally faced her disintegration. Finally, in today's world the super power (USA) seems to meet the same fate as she is failing badly on every ground. The following analysis of the factual narratives from various states of the world provides a very firm ground for totalitarian absurdity.

Dictators' use excessive power and force in order to accomplish their ideology. Bendersky in his book *A concise History of Nazi Germany* says that the Nazi's desire was to transform Germany into a homogeneous racial community and he further says, "A society in which the party and its ideology would permeate every aspect of public and private life"(Bandersky 99). His opinion is the evidence that the dictator of the time might have used coercion in order to make Germany a homogeneous community. Furthermore, the ideology of the state must be imposed on the individuals and hence, their own individual freedom must have to surrender before the authority.

Totalitarian rulers had always been very despotic, the mass murder, casualties and atrocities had been the practice of these rulers. A rough estimate according to the statistics showed by Roberto Meuhlenkamp that almost forty two million people were killed during the war started by Hitler. Similarly, there had been a huge human casualties at the hands of Stalin. *New York Times* (1989) published that twenty million people were killed by Soviet Union under the supervision of Stalin. The unfortunate events have led to nothingness as in the long run these powers could not sustain themselves. Thus, these efforts on the part of the despotic rulers were absurd in the long run.

The very latest example of the failed totalitarian regime is the form of government which US is trying to establish in Afghanistan. US in the aftermath of 9/11 incident, attacked Afghanistan in order to protect America from terrorism. The issue here is twofold.

On the one hand, it is very evident that America actually wanted to penetrate into Middle Eastern countries to establish a totalitarian government in the region. On the other hand, in order to justify her presence in the land, they called it war against terror. America has been fighting the war for more than fifteen years but the result is null. Thrall and Goepner wrote a report *Step Back Lessons for U.S. Foreign Policy from the Failed War on Terror*, they say in this report, “The lessons from the War on Terror indicate that it is time for the United States to take a different approach. Policymakers need to acknowledge that although terrorism is a serious concern, it represents only a modest security threat to the American homeland. Further, the United States should abandon the use of military intervention and nation building in the War on Terror” (Thrall and Goepner 1). On page 13 of the report says, “By defining the threat in inflated, even existential, terms, the United States has expanded the War on Terror far beyond the necessary boundaries, creating new problems while failing to resolve the original ones, all at a cost that is far too high”. Thus, it is evident that US is not on the sound footing in Afghanistan. Moreover, US has been using coercion which is the distinct characteristic of totalitarian rulers.

The US war in Afghanistan has now become an endless war. As discussed in the above paragraph the war was waged for a specific purpose. In order to gain that purpose, US has delved into such situation that now there is no way to escape. Thrall and Goepner in the same report say that the cost of the war has really outweighed the benefits. Similarly, Crawford is of the opinion that US expenses of the war can be roughly estimated as much \$5 trillion. Even if one believes American efforts have made the nation marginally safer, the United States could have achieved far greater improvements in safety and security at far less cost through other means.” (2). It is evident from the analysis of the report that the efforts on the part of the super power to establish a government in a far off region seems to be absurd as US is spending much amount and the result is even futile.

Weston’s *Mirror Test: America at War in Iraq and Afghanistan* (2016) gives a firsthand death and casualties rate in the war stricken area. The writer of the book spent seven years with US army in the countries and upon his return he asked a question from himself, “Upon his return home, while traveling the country to pay respect to the dead and wounded, he asked himself: When will these wars end? How will they be remembered and memorialized? What lessons can we learn from them? The questions posed by the writer

clearly show that the war waged by the super power is completely fruitless. The book gives detailed analysis if the war stricken area in Iraq like Fallujah in Iraq and Khost, Helmand and even certain states of US like Texas and Iowa. Weston gives a very crucial analysis of the war and American diplomacy. The book explores the intricate stories and voices in the region.

The case of the war in Iraq is not much different. The whole strategy and purpose of the war has been highly criticized. Rick's *Fiasco* (2006) explores the social condition in Iraq. He is of the opinion that the whole management and planning of the war was poorly managed. He says, "Strategy. That is a grand-sounding word, and it is frequently misused by laymen as a synonym for tactics. In fact, strategy has a very different and quite simple meaning that flows from just one short set of questions. Who are we, and what are we ultimately trying to do here? How will we do it, and what resources and means will we employ in doing it? The four answers give rise to one's strategy. Ideally, one's tactics will then follow from them – that is, this is who we are, this is the outcome we wish to achieve, this is how we aim to do it, and this is what we will use to do it. But addressing the questions well can be surprisingly difficult, and if the answers are incorrect or incomplete, or the goals listed not reachable, then the consequences can be disastrous" (Rick Fiasco). The analysis shows that the war waged against the country is a meaningless war, even not, managed in a proper way.

The contextualization of both the wars shows that the super power did not do anything constructive in nature. It has destroyed the established norms, values, traditions, infrastructure and mass murder has been the daily practice. Rick's *Fiasco* (2016) quoted an interview of a citizen of Baghdad, he says in the interview, "They said they came to liberate us. Liberate us from what? They came and said they would free us. Free us from what? We have traditions, morals, and customs. We are Arabs. We're different from the West. Baghdad is the mother of Arab culture, and they want to wipe out our culture, absolutely" (Rick Fiasco). The opinion of the victim shows that life in Baghdad has been pathetic with the invasion of America and the war is ineffectual as it does not fulfill the purpose.

Discussion on Absurdity

Oxford Webster defines absurdity as, “The quality or state of being ridiculous or wildly unreasonable”. In Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), Alice experiences a world that is primarily nonsensical, meaning it is incongruous, absurd, or invites ridicule. The use of absurdity in literature is a vehicle for writers to explore those elements in the world that do not make sense. It questions the meanings in life, and writers often use absurd themes, characters, or situations to question whether meaning or structures exist at all. In order to understand absurdity, the historical context plays a very important role. The mid twentieth century was full of disillusionment, devastations, horrors of two World Wars, rationalism and modernism; they all led to the emergence of an approach towards life which was based on nothingness. There was no central point for man in order to attach himself with. Albert Camus in his book, *Myth of Sisyphus* says, “To accept to live is to accept the absurd” (Camus 1955). Thus, life is another name or alternative for absurd.

To understand better the concept of absurd it is better to reconsider the definition of absurd. The initial meaning of absurd is something “out of harmony”. Therefore, its dictionary’s definition: “out of harmony with reason or propriety; incongruous, unreasonable, illogical”. In an essay on Kafka, Ionesco defined his understanding of the term as follows: “Absurd is that which is devoid of purpose....Cut off from his religious, metaphysical, and transcendental roots, man is lost; all his actions become senseless, absurd, and useless”(Chang, 2006). Thus, the representation which absurdity got in the literature has some of the following salient features.

The characters in the theatre have grotesque and curious personalities. The language which is used is mostly out of order. The plot in the drama is not jointed and is always disconnected which is difficult to understand. The unrest and cruelty in the society is projected. There is dissimilation of the society which means that abnormal things are considered as normal. The meaninglessness in the human life is thus highly projected.

Absurdism and Albert Camus

Albert Camus was a French philosopher, journalist and author. He is best known for his philosophy of absurd. He devoted his life to reject the idea of nihilism while still exploring the individual freedom. He did not consider himself even an existentialist philosopher. He said once in an interview, “No I’m not an existentialist”. Thus, he was surprised by the fact

that his name was being associated with Sartre. By and large he believed in the same ideology and wrote a full book length essay in 1951 under the title *Rebel* which gives a complete manuscript of revolution and rebel in the society. The essay sheds light on the motivation for revolution and rebel in the society.

Camus is predominantly apprehensive of the implication of justice. He is of the opinion that the lack of justice leads to rebellion and revolution. The lack of justice leads to the meaninglessness of the world which he called “Absurd”. This meaninglessness is inevitable and logical and makes a sense of departure from the real life, hence, revolution comes. Terry Hoy wrote an essay on Camus *Albert Camus: The Nature of Political Rebellion* and is of the opinion that, “The modern age is characterized by the decline of belief in supernatural authority and or higher law as well as growing disillusionment with scientific reason” (573). The current age is the age of disillusionment and relativism. There is no absolute truth. Particularly, the postmodern man has lost the gravity and centrality. In the light of the lack of such common grounds and illusion the evaporation of faith is inevitable.

Hoy, in the above mentioned article, says further that the modern man is in the fix of lack of objective truth. The reason is that he is not in a position to provide sufficient logic for an absolute objective truth and rational logic to his existence. He says in the article, “Thus a basic problem of modern man is whether or not it is possible to give rational meaning and value to his existence” (573). Thus the modern man does not find any sound reason for his existence in the modern world. On the one hand, he has lost the faith in the supernatural and on the other hand, he does not find any stability in the political system of the world, especially; in the post-World war era and later the struggle to change the unipolar world into bipolar. The efforts are still going on but the difference lies only in the fact that the driving force is in the west instead of east. Thus, the main focus of Camus is how to give meaning to life in the absurd universe.

The philosophy of absurd has been the hot debate for Camus. He wrote an article *The Myth of Sisyphus* and emphasized the same ideology of meaninglessness in life. He throws a question if the absurdity in life leads to invocation for suicide? He says, “There is but one truly serious philosophical problem, and that is suicide. Judging whether life is or is not worth living amounts to answering the fundamental question of philosophy” (1). He

then answers his question himself and compares life with the situation of Sisyphus showing how life becomes an unending effort. In the same article he says, “To tell the truth, it is a futile question. On the other hand, I see many people die because they judge that life is not worth living” (2). Thus the project put forward by Camus is quite clear. Twenty first century man does not find any meaning in life and he calls it absurdism.

One of the most renowned and most read work of Camus is *The Myth of Sisyphus*. He has always in this fix whether to live or to die. This was the question he was not in a position to answer. He would always question whether life is worth living? His fundamental point was that people commit suicide because they do not find any meaning in life; primarily in 21st century. He says in *The Rebel*, “the absurd is an experience that must be lived through, a point of departure, the equivalent, in existence, of Descartes’s methodical doubt” (4). *The Myth of Sisyphus* seeks to describe “the elusive feeling of absurdity” in our lives, rapidly pointing out themes that “run through all literatures and all philosophies” (12). Appealing to common experience, he tries to render the flavor of the absurd with images, metaphors, and anecdotes that capture the experiential level he regards as lying prior to philosophy.

The article can be compared to Camus’ other works like, *The Stranger* and *Misunderstanding*. *The Stranger* (1942) tells the story of Meursault who belongs to French and lives in North America. Meursault is involved in a murder and is sentenced to death. Camus in January 1955 said an interview that he summarized *The Stranger* long time ago, with a remark, “I In our society any man who does not weep at his mother’s funeral runs the risk of being sentenced to death’. I only meant that the hero of my book is condemned because he does not play the game”. The remark clearly shows the meaninglessness of the human values and customs which leads to absurdism.

Camus *Misunderstanding* (1943) replicates his philosophy of absurd. The play depicts the human condition in the war struck areas during the war times. It reflects the desperate condition of the time as well as some aspects of his own life. The story revolves around a man who comes from abroad after earning a lot of money and lodges in the hotel of his mother and sister who surprisingly kill him. The philosophy here again which is developed by Camus is the perpetual ineffectual effort on the part of man to bring meaning to life. Hence, finally it leads to the philosophy of absurd.

Reviews on the Selected Narratives

Reviews on *1984*

George Orwell's *1984* is a novel that gives the critique of an absolute authority. The story revolves around Mr. Smith who is frustrated by the omnipresent authority which is known as *Big Brother*². He has established various departments and thus keeps a constant eye on the citizens. He penetrates even to the thought process of the masses. The *Party* uses every possible way to stop any kind of revolt, rather there is no way to disobey the party. James Topham writes in his review that Orwell's *1984* is a classical dystopian novel and eerily prescient of the state of modern society written by the liberal socialist soon after the WWII. It highlights the future of the society where the action and thoughts are monitored and controlled all the times.

Michiki Kakutani writes his review of the novel in *New York Times* and describes that the 70 years old book suddenly seems to be familiar. A world in which the *Big Brother* may be the National Security Agency which listens everyone all the times and the high technology devices can be installed in the houses of the citizens. He describes that it is realized that reality is not something objective in nature rather, "whatever the Party holds to be truth is truth". Thus the novel depicts the situation where the state formulates its own reality.

Reviews on *The Queue*

Melville housing publishers says that the novel takes us to unnamed but familiar land where a failed coup power is determined to impose the authority under the pen name the *Gate*. People who required any kind of document must seek its permission. They must wait till they get the permission. It depicts a dystopian society though in the fiction but can be categorized as the factual world. There is a sense of Orwellian double think in the novel. His colleague Amani tries to convince him that the bullet in his body was a fake one but Aziz says that he was not convinced by the fact and his body was bleeding. The novel

² Big Brother. The Unknown figure in the state who constantly watches the masses

draws many common grounds with the other renowned works like Kafka's *The Trial*, Huxley's *Brave New world* and Orwell's *1984*.

Machado writes in his book review of the novel that *The Queue* is new in the totalitarian absurdity. The helpless and hopeless citizens struggle against the steadfast government. The novel also gives glimpses of the anxiety and unrest brought by Arab Springs in real life. Besides these, one of the ultimate aspects of the novel which makes it much critical is, authoritarianism. The presence of such absolute authorities leave a question for discussion.

I have reviewed the existing projects related to my research directly or indirectly. I have consciously selected the reviews of books, articles and essays and, have found the gap in the research that is filled by this research project. The theoretical framework, methodology and the detailed analysis of the primary texts are being explained in the next chapters.

Chapter 3

Theoretical Framework and Methodology

Introduction

The chapter on the review of the existing literature paves the way for the theoretical framework in order to analyze the selected texts. Moreover, it paves the way for the research methodology that can best suit the investigation and analysis of the narratives. I have investigated the historical background of the totalitarian governments and the atrocious efforts of the tyrannical rulers. Secondly, I have discussed the methodology that I want to use for the analysis of the selected narratives.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework which paves the way for this research is eclectic in nature. The history of totalitarian regimes, the tyrannical exertions of the despotic rulers, the tactics employed in order to rule in an unimpeded way all lead to the failure of these totalistic governments in the long run. Hence, they collectively, lead to totalitarian absurdity which is the primary focus of this project. This research looks into the despotism of the totalitarian regimes, relating it to the current global political situation and looking into the ineffectual efforts on the part of the totalitarian powers to draw it near to absurdism. Thus, the lens being implied is totalitarian absurdity; a reductionist approach. The reductionist approach can be defined as to understand any complex phenomenon. It is a concept which helps to describe everything in a language with a limited number of core concepts and combination of those concepts. I have tried to look into the history of the absolute governments in the past and linked it to the present geopolitical situation of the world. The idea in this project which appeals to me is to find a common ground for both, totalitarian governments and absurdity and at the same time drawing a parallel between them. In this regard the key concepts of the prominent totalitarian and absurd writers have been discussed.

Arendt's first major work, published in 1951, is clearly a response to the devastating events of her own time - the rise of Nazi Germany and the catastrophic fate of European Jewry at its hands, the rise of Soviet Stalinism and its annihilation of millions of peasants

(not to mention free-thinking intellectual, writers, artists, scientists and political activists). Arendt insisted that these manifestations of political evil could not be understood as mere extensions in scale or scope of already existing precedents, rather they represented a completely 'novel form of government', one built upon terror and ideological fiction. Where older tyrannies had used terror as an instrument for attaining or sustaining power, modern totalitarian regimes exhibited little strategic rationality in their use of terror. Rather, terror was no longer a means to a political end, but an end in itself. Its necessity was now justified by recourse to supposed laws of history (such as the inevitable triumph of the classless society) or nature (such as the inevitability of a war between "chosen" and other "degenerate" races).

For Arendt, the popular appeal of totalitarian ideologies with their capacity to mobilize populations to do their bidding, rested upon the devastation of ordered and stable contexts in which people once lived. The impact of the First World War, and the Great Depression, and the spread of revolutionary unrest, left people open to the promulgation of a single, clear and unambiguous idea that would allocate responsibility for woes, and indicate a clear path that would secure the future against insecurity and danger. Totalitarian ideologies offered just such answers, purporting discovered a "key to history" with which events of the past and present could be explained, and the future secured by doing history's or nature's bidding. Accordingly the amenability of European populations to totalitarian ideas was the consequence of a series of pathologies that had eroded the public or political realm as a space of liberty and freedom. These pathologies included the expansionism of imperialist capital with its administrative management of colonial suppression, and the usurpation of the state by the bourgeoisie as an instrument by which to further its own sectional interests. This in turn led to the delegitimization of political institutions, and the atrophy of the principles of citizenship and deliberative consensus that had been the heart of the democratic political enterprise. The rise of totalitarianism was thus to be understood in light of the accumulation of pathologies that had undermined the conditions of possibility for a viable public life that could unite citizens, while simultaneously preserving their liberty and uniqueness (a condition that Arendt referred to as "plurality").

In this early work, it is possible to discern a number of the recurrent themes that would organize Arendt's political writings throughout her life. For example, the inquiry into the conditions of possibility for a humane and democratic public life, the historical, social and economic forces that had come to threaten it, the conflictual relationship between private interests and the public good, the impact of intensified cycles of production and consumption that destabilized the common world context of human life, and so on. These themes would not only surface again and again in Arendt's subsequent work, but would be conceptually elaborated through the development of key distinctions in order to delineate the nature of political existence and the faculties exercised in its production and preservation.

Totalitarianism

The term totalitarianism describes a government that takes total, centralized, state control over every aspect of public and private life. Totalitarian leaders appear to provide a sense of security and to give a direction for the future. To dominate an entire nation, totalitarian leaders devise methods of control and persuasion. These include the use of terror, indoctrination, propaganda, censorship, and religious or ethnic persecution. Thus, the line between government and society is evaporated. The fear of dictator is established in the heart and minds of the masses through various ways of despotism. Terror and violence is everyday practice in order to make dormant any kind of revolt.

The state is under constant struggle of indoctrination of the masses in order to glorify the despotic ruler. The key traits of totalitarianism are indoctrination, use of modern excessive technology, state control of ideology, state control of society and dictatorship of one ruling party. Thus a world is sustained in which the personal freedom and privacy is vanished. The regime believes in extreme level of denial of liberty. The concept is rooted in the horrors of modern war, revolutions and genocide and in the current situation the nuclear annihilation is a threat which is being implied. Its chief objective is to rule in an unimpeded way.

The term was coined in May 1923 by Giovanni Amendola. Totalitarianism began life as a condemnation of Fascist ambitions to monopolize power and to transform Italian

society through the creation of a new political religion. The mid nineteenth century is full of such kind of approaches and the names like Fascist, Nazis, Mussolini, and Adolf Hitler marked a new history of totalitarian regimes. With the defeat of the Fascist and Nazis, a new global conflict emerged and again prompted the role of totalitarianism. The emergence of the Russia created an unrest in United States. This rise on the part of Russia, propelled Churchill's ambition and he used the term twice in his "Iron Curtain" speech on March 5, 1946, at Fulton, Missouri. The global changes which came as result were the construction of Berlin Wall, Missile Crises, and initiation of Cold War. That was the time when Truman entrenched the American foreign policy with the term. Totalitarianism became the focus of major intellectual controversy from the late 1960s onwards.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world has changed into a unipolar world. On the part of the super power (presently), a state of dictatorship is being established which is again totalitarian in nature. The wars which are being waged across the globe and the penetration into the foreign states implies all the techniques which were being implied by the earlier totalitarian authorities. The use of modern technology like satellite systems, weapons, media, propagandas and indoctrination of the locals are the same old techniques.

To sum up the above discussion the current project has taken into consideration the prominent concepts of the totalitarian regimes like censorship of media, contrived insurgency, chaos in the state, use of force and terror, the evaporation of the masses and ideological manipulation. All these factors are highly regularized by the state and the only purpose is to maintain the undemocratic supremacy of the totalitarian rulers. Thus the ground map for this research is to identify those horrendous efforts of such rules which are depicted by the authors in the selected narratives.

Absurdism

The mid twentieth century was full of disillusionment, devastations, and the horrors of two World Wars, rationalism and modernism. They all led to the emergence of an approach towards life which was based on nothingness. There was no central point for man in order to attach himself with. Albert Camus in his essay, *Myth of Sisyphus* says, "To accept to live is to accept the absurd". Oxford Webster defines absurdity as, "The quality or state of being

ridiculous or wildly unreasonable”. In Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice experiences a world that is primarily nonsensical, meaning it is incongruous, absurd, or invites ridicule. The use of absurdity in literature is a vehicle for writers to explore those elements in the world that do not make sense. It examines questions of meaning and life, and writers often use absurd themes, characters, or situations to question whether meaning or structure exists at all. In order to understand absurdity, the historical context plays a very important role.

To understand better the concept of absurd, it is significant to reconsider the definition of absurd. The initial meaning of absurd is something “out of harmony”. Therefore, its dictionary definition: “out of harmony with reason or propriety; incongruous, unreasonable, illogical”. In an essay on Kafka, Ionesco defined his understanding of the term as follows: “Absurd is that which is devoid of purpose....Cut off from his religious, metaphysical, and transcendental roots, man is lost; all his actions become senseless, absurd, and useless”(Chang, 2006). Thus the representation which absurdity got in the literature has some of the following salient features.

The characters in the theatre have grotesque and curious personalities. The language which is used is mostly out of order. The plot in the drama is not jointed and is always disconnected which is difficult to understand. The unrest and cruelty in the society is projected. There is dissimulation of the society which means that abnormal things are considered as normal. The meaninglessness in the human life is thus highly projected.

The concept of absurdity which got its momentum in the twentieth century is primarily because of such uncertainty across the world which has come into existence because of the political absurdity. This research has also taken into consideration the concept of absurdity which looks for the application of the above mentioned elements of totalitarianism in the selected narratives. It draws all the above mentioned to absurdity in terms of their applications which is the primary lens of this project.

Totalitarianism and Absurdity

To analyze the idea of totalitarian regime, the ideology of Hannah Arendt paves the way. In her book *Origin of Totalitarianism* (1951), she is of the opinion that totalitarianism was established because of two reasons. Firstly, prejudice against one particular race and secondly, imperialism. Thus the despotic tendencies inside one particular state were always prejudiced against the citizens. Similarly, imperialism is very evident in today's world while using the techniques of totalitarian regimes. So, her ideas are employed here to highlight the tyrannical exertions of the state governments inside the state and beyond the boundaries.

On the other hand, the research also looks into the concepts of absurdity put forward by Albert Camus. His major ideas revolve around the meaninglessness and indifference of the universe. He considered absurd, the defining and important characteristic of modern world. His idea is based on the notion that life is meaningless and nonsensical. Hence, it draws the whole concept of world to the notion of absurdity. The approach which has been used to conduct this research is eclectic in nature due to the unavailability of a single focal point.

Rationale of Totalitarian Absurdity

Totalitarian regimes are the form of governments which theoretically control all the affairs of the citizens while in practice they fail badly. The absurd literature depicts life as an absurd, nonsense, dejected and disconnected phenomenon. Amalgam of these two concepts leads to a form of government which is apparently absolute in its imposition of ideologies but in practice it can be reduced to absurdity. Hence, Totalitarian absurdity ridicules the absolute authorities and their efforts to establish regimes where they can rule absolutely and unconditionally. The blend of these apparently different concepts make totalitarian absurdity which aims to unfold the absurdity of these regimes in the extended contexts.

Totalitarianism is a form of government which has always been a burning issue in politics and literature. Arendt in *Origin of Totalitarianism* (1951) is of the opinion that the current century is the century of revolution. The seeds of revolution lie in the political unrest of the post WWII era. She wrote a chapter in the first part of her book *Anti-Semitism*

which distinguishes between the totalitarian regimes in the past and in today's world. Historically, such kinds of authorities tried to impose their power through various horrendous efforts. In today's world the techniques which are being implied are like the warfare, bringing political unrest in other countries and the use of mass media.

Hannah Arendt's in the chapter *Ideology and Terror: a Novel Form of Government* projects that fear is the predominant element of totalitarian government and this terror is based on ideology. The fear then leads to the imposition of authority. Historically, such kind of authority was imposed by Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler. Such an ideology of terror and fear makes the life under the supreme authority complex and confused for the citizens. Fitzpatrick exemplifies life under the days of Stalinism that masses were in the fix and they could not understand life and the things used to happen around them. She says in her book, *Everyday Stalinism*, "But the life these ordinary people lived was not, in their own understanding and probably ours, a normal life" (1). Thus, it is evident that rational capacity of the masses evaporates as the ideology of the supreme authority is flourished across the state.

Totalitarian government is centralized in authority. The authority lies in one hand and hence, it is one man show. Arendt's *Origin of Totalitarianism* (1951) discusses the power politics under such kinds of governments as, "the totalitarian ruler feels that only one man is required and that all other persons, all other minds as well as wills, are strictly superfluous (346). The statement shows that such kind of government does not fulfill the democratic norms of the modern civilized world. There is gap between the authority and the masses. There are three basic pillars of a state, judiciary, executive and legislative. In case of totalitarian regime, the two basic pillars of a state named, judiciary and legislation are missing, hence the state cannot sustain itself for a long time. Power is not shared up to the grass root level. Hence, the basic purpose of the ruling authority evaporates as it does not fulfill the basic requirements of a state.

Soren Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher, poet and theologian. His idea of absurdism is quite relevant to the rationale of totalitarian absurdity. Absurdism normally refers to the meaninglessness as defined by Oxford dictionary. Absurdity also refers to find the inherent value and meaning in life and the inability of the human beings to materialize this effort. Kierkegaard's opinion is quite different, according to him, it is not logically

impossible but rather humanly impossible. The universe and the human mind do not each separately cause the Absurd, but rather, the Absurd arises by the contradictory nature of the two existing simultaneously. The concept given by the writer can be applied to totalitarian absurdity in the sense that there is contradiction in what the regime wants to get and what is achieved in light of the coercion, which is employed.

The current situation of the world shows that the weak countries which are being attacked by the great powers are left with no choice to prove their innocence. There might be only a fabricated story in order to justify the invasions. The reason behind this is that the strong countries like USA in the current unipolar world, make every possible technique in order to rule others. The world which has been depicted by Kafka presents a respectable bank clerk who is persecuted for no reason. The writer depicts a bleak world where even the persecuted is not given a chance for a fair trial. The story is much thought provoking as the masses are under constant watch of the police and they are arrested for no reason. The concept which has been developed by the writer almost a century ago can be rightly applied to the current war stricken countries. They are invaded by the supreme power and an uncertain situation is created in the state. Unfortunately, the situation is further deteriorated which finally leads to a meaningless and endless war and nothing is obtained then destruction and mass murder.

This research project is aimed to apply totalitarian absurdity as the primary lens. Earlier there has been an emphasis on the projection and the destruction brought by such absolute authorities. This scholarship applies a very different dimension as it focuses on two aspects of the selected text simultaneously. On the one hand, it highlights the imposition carried by totalitarian regime while on another hand it reduces them to absurdity in the long run.

Theorizing the Focal Point

As discussed earlier the project is taking into account the primary concepts of Hanna and Camus. Hanna has focused the post War era from the perspective of the unrest regarding the politics of the east and west. The two super powers of the world were in a head on collision. The chaos brought by the cold war, race for technological advancements, and penetration into other states have collectively led to the struggle for establishment of unimpeded governments. She calls the century as the century of uncertainty. The prominent

absolute rulers like Hitler and Mussolini have brought havoc to the world. The reason behind these efforts had always been to maintain a supreme authority which used to be based on excessive use of power. On the other hand, the mid twentieth century is flooded with the ideas of theatre of absurd. The absurdity in literature, the works produced in the era and the uncertain political situation of the world is the byproduct of the war. Historically, the wars proved to be futile. USSR is the best example which has failed badly. Such kind of provocative actions of the great powers in the world have led to the emergence of theatre of absurd.

Defining Totalitarian Absurdity

Totalitarian regimes are the form of government which theoretically control all the affairs of the citizens while in practice they fail badly. The absurd literature depicts life as an absurd, nonsense, dejected and disconnected phenomenon. Both of the terms lead to meaninglessness and chaos, hence, they are futile in terms of utility. So these two concepts lead to a form of government which is apparently absolute in its imposition of ideologies but in practice it can be reduced to an absurdity. Hence, Totalitarian absurdity ridicules the absolute authorities and their efforts to establish regimes where they can rule absolutely and unconditionally. A composite application of these apparently different concepts make totalitarian absurdity which aims to unfold the farcicality of these regimes in the extended contexts.

Research Method

This research is qualitative in approach. The primary technique which has been used is textual analysis.

Textual Analysis

The primary technique which has been used for this project is textual analysis. Textual analysis aims to describe the content, structure and the messages contained in the text. The analysis takes into consideration the life as depicted in the selected narrative as Evens says, “interpret the life [as presented in the text in hand], quite as much as to document it” (Evens

in Griffin 2005: 32). As textual analysis does not exclude the historical considerations, I have analyzed the situation in the text across time as depicted in the twentieth century and in the present times.

Belsey is of the opinion that textual analysis sets the agenda. Textual analysis gives direction by itself for the interpretation of the text. That is why the research also takes into consideration the explorations of the major incidents and their consequences in the works. The incidents and situation in the selected texts has been explored in the light of the description given by the authors in the form of fictions.

Textual analysis gives much opportunity to the readers to come up with the meanings they find in the text so my role as a researcher is bricoleur in this context. Norman Denzin and Yvonna Lincoln are of the opinion that bricoleur is one who takes into account a diverse tasks that ranges from interpreting personal and historical documents to intense self-reflection (qtd in Schwandt 1997:10). Thus the project is much eclectic in nature and it takes into account a range of debate for the analysis and takes into consideration various approaches so that to make a firm ground to draw the conclusion.

In order to get a better insight to the selected texts I have done the comparative analysis side by side. Comparative literature is often used to design a similar course of study. It is an interdisciplinary field whose practitioners study across the time, genres and boundaries between art and literature. The approach is quite relevant to my research as my findings are based on the similarities between the selected texts.

This research has taken into consideration the intertextual method since, without referring to intertextual the analysis of text is not considered an appealing approach. Fitzsimmons is of the opinion that without intertextual understanding the study is inadequate ((Fitzsimmons, 2013). The project is relying on this approach since the analysis of the selected texts has been done side by side. It draws a point of comparison on the basis of similarities in both the texts so that to formulate a strong conclusion.

Intertextuality provides a ground to any text in any particular context. Linguist Norman Fairclough states that “intertextuality is a matter of recontextualization.”(14). It

gives an opportunity to a reader to take any text from one context to another as mentioned by Peter Linell, “recontextualization can be defined as the “dynamic transfer-and-transformation of something from one discourse/text-in-context ... to another.”[15]. So it is the matter of changing the context of any narrative in order to bring it to some another one which enriches the meaning of the text and takes the text away from any particular social and political condition. I have tried to analyze the selected texts on the basis of their similarities.

Chapter 4

Tyrannical Exertions in the Selected Narratives

The analysis of the selected narratives is done collectively. Orwell's 1984 is set in a politically charged scenario. The state is Oceania. The central character of the novel is in a flux of political upheaval. The state is under packed surveillance and it fights a war which is not the war of the masses. It is fought as a technique in order to make the ruling of the state more appropriate.

Aziz' *The Queue* also highlights the same political turmoil. The central plot of the novel is set on an incident known as *Disgraceful Event*³. The situation in the state is highly disturbed. The basic needs of life have also become a scarce commodity. The masses are bound to take permission for everything from the authority which is called the *Gate*. Everyone has to go and wait in a queue in front of the *Gate*. The queue becomes worse with every passing day as the *Gate* never opens. Hence, the life becomes terrible in the state.

The things in both the narratives are highly entangled. The characters are unable to understand the situation. There is a huge gap between the masses and the ruling authority. The issue here is twofold. On the one hand the ruling authorities are making every possible effort to impose the laws and to rule in an unimpeded way. On the other hand, the masses strive hard to come out of the clutches of the despotic tendencies and lead their lives freely. A thorough analysis of the selected narratives shows that the characters are making every possible effort to make their existence possible in the state and to limit the establishments.

Oppressions by the State

The oppressions made by the totalitarian rulers vary in range. They apply every kind of possible technique that was used in the past decades or used in the present times. These techniques could be as horrible as one could think and varied from individual to

³ Disgraceful Event. Refers to the revolt in the state

individual, depending on the personal weakness of the characters or the crime he/she commits. The worst fact is that these oppressions are made by the state institutions and are legalized.

Winston, who is the central character of *1984*, is constantly under spying. He is not in a position to lead his daily life affairs as he wants. He is not in a position to have a love affair as the *Party*⁴ scrutinizes all his actions with an omnipresent *Big Brother*. *Big Brother* is watchful of everything and has defied ban on individuality. Winston overlooks the watch and pursues a relationship with Julia. He, at the same time, writes his thoughts in a diary. These activities make him an easy prey to be caught by the party's members.

His close friend O'Brien comes in the middle of the novel and charges him for the crimes that he has committed. He is surprised by his arrival as he has never expected such kind of uncertainty. What could be more dangerous than that he is caught by his close friend who has been spying on him? Winston is caught and this incident is not just limited to the fictional world rather the factual world is full of such incidents where the totalitarian regimes spied on their masses. For instance, Magaloni and Wallace in their research highlight some of the key traits of loyalty to the dictator. Among these one is spying on the fellow citizens (4). The incident of O'Brien's spying on Winston clearly indicates that the dictator in the state is successful as O'Brien shows unconditional faithfulness to *Big Brother*. The dictators demand unconditional faithfulness of the masses and simultaneously they want them to work for their impositions. This kind of faithfulness can be equally witnessed in the world of facts and fiction.

Winston has to pay for the crimes that he has committed. He has constantly been updating his diary about the thoughts that arise in his mind; though it was crime. He develops relationship with Julia. He meets her in the jungle. He is engaged in sexual intercourse with her; though it was forbidden by the *Ministry of Love*⁵. He develops rebellious thoughts. Consequently, he has to pay for these actions. Hence, he is caught by the *Party* members, tortured and brought in front with his phobia.

⁴ Party. Refers to the authority

⁵ Ministry of Love. The Ministry of Love serves as Oceania's interior ministry. It enforces loyalty to Big Brother

The Queue narrates the situation of a Middle Eastern state where the protagonist named Yahya is shot in a protest. A doctor is in face to face with a situation where he is needed either to take the risk of his job and operate on the bullet in Yahya's body or to let him die. The reason behind is the absolute authority named the *Gate*. Every citizen is supposed to take a permission from the *Gate* for any kind of activity.

Yahya's girlfriend Amani is afraid about his declining health. He bleeds every day. His health declines with every passing hour. He goes every day to the *Gate* to take permission for his operation but the *Gate* never opens. It is not only Yahya who waits in the queue rather a mother is also waiting to get medicines for her sick daughter and many more are there for one or the other reason. In fact the queue becomes long with every passing day. On the other hand the ever watching authority is not ever ready to take any practical step for the betterment of the masses.

Yahya himself even does not know who shot him. He has to suffer for a long time. The authority wants to make him even realize that he is not shot, though his body bleeds for a long time. The doctor is not in a position to receive Yahya's file as that is also under constant surveillance as soon someone interferes with the file, it is instantly updated by the snooping agency. His girlfriend Amani even tries her level best to make the situation possible for his operation but fails badly. Thus his days are highly deteriorated and has to suffer for a long.

Centrality of the Authority and Contrived Insurgency

The social, political and moral situation in both the novels is worst and highly deteriorated. The reason behind this worst situation is the ideology of the authorities. In both the novels the authorities want to have an absolute government so that to rule in unobstructed way. Hanna Arendt is of the opinion in her book *Origin of Totalitarianism* that the basic requirement of totalitarian state is that there is only one man required to rule the state as the rest of the people do not possess any mind nor they should have any will to be implied into the state's affairs. This clearly shows that the authority is highly centralized and any individual who comes up with any thought or will, must be tortured or demolished and this is what happens in both the fictions.

Larger political scenario of the societies in both the novels is not favorable. In *1984*, Oceania is in a constant war with her neighbors. The media service which is working in the state is nothing more than a propaganda. The personal lives of the citizens have been brought under the state's supremacy. Similarly, the situation in *The Queue* is not different. One morning there is the *Disgraceful Event*. The shops are closed instantly. The daily life is disturbed. Then everyone comes into the queue where they have to wait for the *Gate* to be opened. Hence, the routine life in both the narratives is highly disturbed and the state is no more secure for the citizens.

The totalitarian regimes are highly centralized regarding the authority. The authority gives a sense of security to the citizens but at the same times they are under constant watch. The authority is omnipresent. In the novel *1984* the authority is known as *Big Brother* who is all watching and omnipresent. The citizens do not know him except the description which is given in the portrait. The narrator says that the picture of the *Big Brother* is enormous in size and he appears to be like, "the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features" (1). The masses have just a guess about his age that he might be around 45 years and that with black moustaches and he seemed beautiful. That simply means, there is gap between the masses and the leader who is actually a despotic and cruel sovereign.

It is not only his presence that is the source of the fear for the masses rather he is actively watching them. There is no way to escape from his watch. He is described as "The blackmoustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner" (1). He spies on the masses every time and everywhere. His gaze is always down towards the earth. Whether in home or in the work place citizens have no way to come out of his gaze. The state is not run through democratic norms rather it is the use of terror which is employed by the regime. The reason behind this terror is to rule in an unrestrained way which is highly in line with basic definition of totalitarianism given by Arendt.

Aziz' *The Queue* also comes from the same school of thought. It also highlights the nature of dictatorship. In the annotation he describes the nature of his fiction as, "The Queue describes the sinister nature of authoritarianism" (1). In the very first line, he further elaborates this statement and is of the opinion that the totalitarian authority manipulates

the information, exploits others to be used for its own purpose and even it overviews the basic rights of the citizens. Thus the nature of both the fictions is to highlight the autocratic power.

The Emergence of Undemocratic Powers in the States

Big Brother just appears in a picture and his identity is not known to anyone in the whole state. He just appears in the picture that is hanging everywhere or can be seen on the screens which have been installed everywhere. The case of the *The Queue* is not different. People do not know the authority which comes over night under the title the *Gate*. When the state is politically unstable and the recent *Disgraceful Event* further deteriorates the situation there comes the authority in order to reign the situation. The narrator says that there was no authority under such name and suddenly one morning, "...the next day, people awoke and it was simply there" (20). The appearance of the authority over night clearly indicates that the regime is built on the blocks of dictatorship and terror as it does not involve any democratic norms to evolve.

It is not only the emergence of the *Gate* that appears with in no time but the role it plays is of a great significance. It now plays a very centralized role in the lives of the masses. Since the day of the emergence the private and political affairs of the masses are regularized by the *Gate*. The writer narrates that people in the beginning did not realize the significance of this mysterious authority but very soon they gauged the importance of the *Gate*. He elaborates that the system was very soon under the control of the *Gate* as he says, "Gate that increasingly began to regulate procedures, imposing rules and regulations necessary to set various affairs in motion" (20). So the *Gate* gradually increases its role in the affairs of the state. The authority imposes the rules only passed by the *Gate* without any democratic procedure and in fact the whole machinery of the state is run under non-democratic system which ultimately leads to totalitarianism.

The above references from the selected narratives highlight the emergence of the authority in the state totally in non-democratic ways. It is evident that the ruling class is not elected rather it is the use of power which makes it the supreme ruling authority. In this context, Gandhi in his book *Political Intuitions under Dictatorship* argues, "This form of

political regime reflects a situation in which rulers acquire power by means other than competitive elections” (Gandhi 7). It clearly indicates that the authority in power does not come through the process of election and hence it is never democratic in approach nor in the favor of the masses. Magaloni and Wallace put forward in the scholarship titled, *Citizen Loyalty, Mass Protest and Authoritarian Survival* that, “Citizen Loyalty is instrumental for dictatorial survival for various reasons” (Magaloni and Wallace 1). They elaborate those reasons and emphasize that there is a greater possibility of revolt in such regimes hence, loyalty is the primary requirement. The stance is materialized with reference to Wintrob’s *The Political Economy of Dictatorship*; who proposes that the dictator is always prone to revolt. Hence the use of power and coercion is the primary tool which is used by the dictator. These evidences prove that the selected narratives highlight the true essence of totalitarian regimes and there is no reason of denial.

The Authority in Power, a Means of Horror and Terror

Hanna Arendt’s highlights in her book *Origin of Totalitarianism* the major difference between the totalitarian governments in the past and in the current century. She is of the opinion that in the past, these kinds of regimes tried to exterminate their opponents. For instance, Hitler and Stalin established the foundations of their government on human skeletons. In the current century the agenda is; she says, “As an instrument to rule masses of people who are perfectly obedient” (6). So the major concern is not the extermination of the foes or rebellions rather to make them obedient.

The selected narratives highlight the same techniques on the part of the authorities depicted in both the texts. Orwell’s *1984* climaxes the fear carried by the *Big Brother*. Winston, the central characters turns his back to the telescreen when a speech is delivered on screen by *Big Brother* and feels a little bit safe, though it is not the case. Goldstein is thought to be the member of the *Party* by Winston and hence he is a source of trouble for him. The narrator says it was a source of terror for Winston even to think about him as he says, “the sight or even the thought of Goldstein produced fear and anger automatically” (8). It is evident that the terror enters to the flesh and blood of the masses under such totalistic regimes and it is the prime purpose of these despotic tendencies of the despotic rulers of this century.

Parson who is assigned a job in the *Ministry of Truth*⁶ is a Co-worker of Winston. He works in the sports committee which apparently does not need any spying agency or use of terror but even it is under the dark clouds of fear and terror. A constant sense of fear is following Parson like a shadow. The narrator discusses his sense of insecurity as, “An overpowering smell of sweat, a sort of unconscious testimony to the strenuousness of his life, followed him about wherever he went, and even remained behind him after he had gone” (10). It is not only the terror which puts him into trouble during his career rather even when he leaves the job he is still under constant fear. Thus it is evident that the sense of insecurity has penetrated into the blood of the masses and it is the prime practice of the current century’s totalitarian regimes.

Winston, while working with Parson, is suddenly almost paralyzed by the statement passed by a kid who is playing with him. The child, while playing with a toy gun, instantly calls Winston a traitor and warns to shot dead him. As the statement is passed by the child the whole body of Winston trembles. The game which is played by the child seems so much vicious as the child says, “You’re a traitor” (11), and he further says, “You’re a thought-criminal! You’re a Eurasian spy! I’ll shoot you, I’ll vaporize you, I’ll send you to the salt mines” (11). The game takes Winston into a real world from the world of fantasy.

The incident proves to be very drastic and horrific for Winston as he is engaged in thought crime in the real life. The incident makes him perceive the consequences of the crime under the authority of *Big Brother*. As soon as he is caught by the *Thought Police*⁷ he will be vaporized. He will be torn down into pieces. The incident actually shows the general atmosphere of fear constructed by the authority. The fear is so strong that one trembles at the very thought if in case one were caught and brought into the cell. Thus the building of modern totalitarian regime is constructed on the blocks of fear.

Aziz describes the situation in the state in the days of political uproar. The things are beyond the understanding of the common man. No one has the courage to raise question

⁶ Ministry of Truth. dealing with history, art, news, and education and a propaganda machine

⁷ Thought Police. secret police of the superstate, Oceania, who are charged with uncovering and punishing "thoughtcrime"

as the doctor named, Tarek says, “No questions, no problems” (8). The masses are so terrified that even to ask a question was like to invite the trouble. This was primarily because of the harsh and despotic inclinations of the *Gate*. People are suppressed to such an extent that they prefer to be silent than to ask questions so that to avoid any kind of disastrous consequences.

The terror was founded because of the severe treatment of the citizens. The authority punishes the masses severely in case of any kind of rebellious act. These actions are carried out in order to impose the authority in all the spheres of life. The one despotic treatment is to pick the people even prior to any notice like the narrator says, “In recent months the question “Who did you pick?” had spread like the plague” (11). The statement clearly indicates that picking up people without prior notice was a routine practice and it aimed to treat them harshly so that to spread the fright to such an extent so that no one ever could gather courage to revolt or show any resistance to the authority.

Fright and Trepidation, the Leading Practice

The authorities in power depicted by the writer signify the momentum of power they used in order to impose their orders and impositions. Orwell in his another fictional work *Animal Farm* compares Napoleon with Boar on the basis of the shared characteristics and says, “a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm, not much of a talker but with a reputation for getting his own way” (Orwell 10). This shows that the dictator is not less than a boar which is of highly cruel nature. Similarly, the autocrats prove to be very despotic in nature as depicted in the selected works in the form of *Big Brother* and the *Gate*.

The above discussion clearly shows that fright and trepidation has been the leading practice of the totalitarian regimes as discussed by Hanna Arendt in her book. This is but just an element of despotism employed by these despotic rulers in order to get an unquestionable obedience from the masses. Besides, they tried to prevail such kind of situation in the state so that no one was in a position to understand what was happening around. Sheila Fitzpatrick in her book *Everyday Stalinism* (2000) says, “But the life these ordinary people lived was not, in their own understanding and probably ours, a normal life”

(1). This clearly indicates that under the totalitarian regimes the prevailing political conditions and the governmental affairs are beyond the understanding of the common man of the state.

Effectiveness/Ineffectiveness of the State's Laws and Manipulation of the Facts

Any state is run under a set of laws which works as the foundation stone for the state. These laws pave the way for the governmental affairs as well as for the citizens. Orwell's *1984* questions the very law of the state. There is no law until and unless one is out of the reach of the authority but as soon one is caught he/she is punished severely so that a lesson is taught to the rest. Winston who is involved in the *Thought Crime*⁸ once says, "This was not illegal (nothing was illegal, since there were no longer any laws), but if detected it was reasonably certain that it would be punished by death" (3). It simply means that the state is being run under no law. Winston who is a kind of rebellious character tries to understand the situation but he says, "I understand HOW: I do not understand WHY" (36). Hence, it is not possible for the man like Winston to understand what to do and what to avoid as he is not in a position what is happening around him. Similarly, the law is not an action rather it is employed if in case one were caught.

The *Party* is working on the development of a new language. It has introduced a term *Doublethink*⁹. The concept signifies to accept two contradictory opinion simultaneously. It simply means that one has to accept two stances at the same times. This further, puts the masses into a fix as they are not able to understand the things. For instance, the authority in the state of Oceania is of the opinion that the government is striving for the betterment of the common man while in reality they are being encircled so that to make the hold of the authority strong. Thus the common man never understands the affairs of the state as Fitzpatrick has mentioned in her book.

⁸ Thought Crime. describes an illegal thought

⁹ Double Think. is the ability to hold two completely contradictory thoughts simultaneously while believing both of them to be true

The very existence of the masses is under threat in such situation. There is nothing else than insecurity. When Winston thinks about his life in the state of Oceania, he is of the opinion, “The past was dead, the future was unimaginable” (12). The past has been snatched by the party and the future is not imaginable as the whole state is being run by only one man. There is no strategic structure to bring some system into action. The will and wit of the rest does not matter.

In the very beginning of the novel the ground for such kind of uncertainty is paved. *Big Brother* is watching everything and no one is out of his sight. On the other hand the citizens are in the fix of chaos and insecurity as the narrator says, “there seemed to be no colour in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere” (1). The only thing that is projected in the state is the presence of the *Big Brother*. Besides this everything is blur and foggy. Hence, there is no silver line for the citizens.

The Queue sheds light on the same situation of the uncertainty in the affair of the state. One morning as they woke up the *Gate* has come into existence. Now everyone is supposed to stand and wait in the queue which grows with every passing day. There are people who wait for the certificate of true citizenship. There is the lady named Ummabruk who has to get medicines for her sick daughter and Yahya who seeks the permit for the operation on the bullet in his body. Everyone is in the fix about when and how the *Gate* will open but no one knows.

The queue seems to grow with every passing day. People leave their job places and stand in the line as the narrator says, “many people had chosen to abandon their work completely and camp out at the Gate” (20). They wait but the wait goes in vain. Amani even does not understand the physical structure of the *Gate*. Once, she thinks about Yahya, she partially imagines the building of the *Gate* as, “She’d seen the Northern Building often, but only ever from a distance” (22). It is evident that perhaps the masses even had never been inside the *Gate*. At the same occasion, she perceives the building as, “It had no visible windows or balconies, only barren walls of cast iron” (22). Thus she is not in a position to understand even the physical structure of the *Gate*. In fact in such case it is far beyond the possibility to understand the rules and laws formulated by the sitting authority in the building.

The queue in the front of the *Gate* is made by people from every field of life. They all have gathered there for some purpose. It has been made mandatory by the authority to stay there but the situation becomes worst as it never opens. In the beginning as soon the *Gate* gets hold of the state a young man who stands behind Yahya asks, "...what time the Gate opened, and Yehya shrugged. He had no idea when it would finally happen" (10). The ruling class is not visible nor is the prevailing condition in the state understandable for the masses.

Unquestionable Obedience to State's Ideology

Totalitarian regimes compromise the private and individual lives of the masses. The ideology of the state is superior to everything. Every aspect of private life is overshadowed by the authority. Bendersky in his book *A concise History of Nazi Germany* (2014) is of the opinion that to convert a heterogeneous authority into a homogenous one has been the practice of Nazi's in Germany as she says, "A society in which the party and its ideology would permeate every aspect of public and private life" (99). The observation of Bendersky shows that the totalitarian regimes always tried to penetrate into every aspect of the lives of citizens. The selected narratives provide a heap of arguments in this context.

Orwell's *1984* gives an account of the state of Oceania. There are various departments working under the supremacy of *Big Brother* like Ministry of Love, Ministry of Truth, Ministry of Peace¹⁰ and *Ministry of Plenty*¹¹. All these departments aim to impose the ideology of the state and keep a constant eye on the affairs of the citizens. They make the state completely glass packed as surveillance is always there. The very slogan of the state is terrifying as it says, "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU" (1). This is the slogan which prevails over every aspect of individual and collective lives of the masses.

Winston, who is the central character of the novel, is under constant surveillance. His friend, O'Brien, turns out to be spying on him in the end. Winston is caught by the thought police for the thought crime as he makes the note for every thought that comes into his mind. It is not only Winston who is being spied on rather, "It was even conceivable that

¹⁰ Ministry of Peace. deals with matters relating to war

¹¹ Ministry of Plenty. Responsible for "economic affairs."

they watched everybody all the time” (2). This is a kind of mass surveillance as everyone is being watched and no one could escape from its watch.

Ministry of Love has forbidden the love and sexual relationship among the people. Winston falls in love with a girl named, Julia. The very building of this ministry is very horrific as there is no window at all in the building. With the arrival of the Party everything has changed. Love, romance, friendship and relations are no more the practice of the day as Winston says, “Tragedy, he perceived, belonged to the ancient time, to a time when there was still privacy, love, and friendship” (14). These are the things that no more exist in Oceania and he longs for the evaporation of these values from the life in the state of Oceania, “No there is only, “fear, hatred, and pain” (14). These are the fruits of the Ministry of Love.

It has been the matter of life and death to develop any love relationship. Winston falls in love with girl although both are afraid and they would be caught very soon. They meet in a far off deserted jungle and when Winston embraces her the narrator says, “He had the feeling that she was simultaneously pushing him away” (31). She pushes him away instantly as she is afraid of being caught. The fear and terror of the party has entered into the veins of the masses.

This lock on the private lives of the citizens of Oceania is justified by the *Party* under a strange argument. The *Party* does not want any marriage among the masses except those who are bonded by authority. In case of any concern on the part of the members to be married was soon refused by the *Party*. The *Party* encourages refrainment from sexual relations and only those marriages will be accepted which aimed to beget children for the services of the party. The personal desires to marry was of no significance as the purpose of marriage was to “beget children for the service of the Party” (30). In other case “All children were to be begotten by artificial insemination” (30). So the sole purpose of marriage is either to beget children for the sake of Party or not to marry at all as they have refrained sexual pleasures. This can be the highest interference in the lives of the masses.

The state needs an unquestionable obedience from the masses. The state calls it loyalty to refrain from sexual sensations and love affairs. Chastity is the scale of loyalty with state. The narrator says, “But a real love affair was an almost unthinkable event” (31).

One could not think to have a relation based on love with someone. The loyalty has been ingrained to the women by the *Party*, “Chastity was as deep ingrained in them as Party loyalty” (31). The women of the *Party* feel like refraining from sexual pleasures acquires a level of Chastity. They have been indoctrinated with the concept that to be loyal to the Party is to be chaste.

Winston has developed such a sentimental relation with Julia that he could never resist to see at her face whenever he saw her. Both of them are afraid to get caught that is why during the first meeting Julia asks him, “Don't come up to me until you see me among a lot of people. And don't look at me. Just keep somewhere near me” (52). They try to avoid seeing each other in front of people, “To turn his head and look at her would have been inconceivable folly” (54). They are in love but they cannot meet publically as it is a threat to their lives under the rules of the *Ministry of Love*. Thus, it is evident that the regime had a great control over the masses.

The Queue gives the same glimpses of the penetration of the state's authority into private lives. It is not only the matter of political affairs which are being run by the state rather the individual lives are also under great surveillance. After the *Disgraceful Event* when the uproar is controlled by the *Gate* Amani recalls her past with Yahya. He is shot but he does not know who fires him. Now everything is under the control of the *Gate* and Yahya has to wait in the Queue for the operation of the bullet in his pelvis. Amani is afraid of the very presence of the building of the *Gate* and thinks as, “It had no visible windows or balconies” (22). The physical gulf between them is brought by the totalitarian exertions of the *Gate*.

It is not only the matter of penetration into the private lives of the masses which is strictly carried by the authorities in both the fictions. The state's authorities in the novels also strive to implement their ideologies. The prime effort of these authorities is to introduce their ideologies in to the governmental affairs as well as into the social lives and the states struggle hard to implement as discussed by Bendersky. The state takes every possible step in the materialism of these ideologies.

The strictness regarding the implementation of the ideology is very evident in Orwell's *1984*. Since the emergence of the *Big Brother* in the state, there are various

ministries and forces which work constantly in order to impose the set of laws that come from the state. For instance, there is the omnipresent *Big Brother* who watches everyone as the narrator says, “Big Brother is watching you” (1). There is the thought police and spying agencies which constantly watch the citizens so that they may not deviate from the laws passed by the ruler.

The *Party* is very much strict regarding the imposition of the laws. It demands an unquestioning and unconditional obedience from the masses. Those who ever try to violate the laws is evaporated as the writer says, “People simply disappeared, always during the night” (9). This disappearance of the people is because of the strong surveillance. Those who ever tried to show any resistance were used to be disappeared and in fact it was not only disappearance rather, “You were abolished, annihilated: vaporized” (9). The *Party* did not bear any resistance regarding the imposition of the laws and in case of revolt the rebellions would be demolished.

The *Big Brother* follows everyone everywhere. There is a picture of *Big Brother* on the coins and it seems as he looks at you from the coin. One cannot escape his watch. The writer says that he watches you while eating, drinking, sleeping or awake. He penetrates to everything and the only thing which survives his watch are the minds of the characters as the writer says, “Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimeters inside your skull” (13). The authority needs everyone to follow *Big Brother* as god, to obey commander was like to obey the god. Thus, the ideology of the state is applied either by hook or by crook.

The Queue depicts the strictness of the state regarding the ideology of the state. The *Gate* comes over night and takes the complete hold of the state. After the *Disgraceful Event* in the morning as soon people awoke, there is the presence of the *Gate*. There is an uproar regarding the strictness of the *Gate*, “being forced to follow the strict order the Gate had imposed” (8). People could not bear the strict imposition of the law and they wanted, “less authoritarian system”(8). Totalitarian regimes bring havoc and devastation to the state hence people look for, “lenient regime, one perhaps more tolerant” (9). It is evident that the masses are under the severe burden of unjustified regulation of the despotic ruler which is unbearable and they want a government with less tyrannical exertions.

Coercion of the State to Sustain Totalitarianism

The emergence of the *Gate* is in the result of the small protest. The consequences are very devastating as the *Gate* is much harsh regarding the state's affairs. It has produced its own force under the name, *Quell Force*¹² which aims to stop any kind of possible revolt. It is tyrannical and unjust and people condemn it severely. The *Quell Force* beats and punishes the people in order to, "return people to their senses," by "beating them brutally" (9). The *Gate* is of the opinion that anyone who rejects the party's policy is insane and hence shows brutality. The narrator says, "In the end, the Gate and its guardians had prevailed" (9). Thus it encircles everything and proves to be a dictatorial administration as it does not provide any space to the individual's will and wit.

Critics most of the time highlight the issue that how the autocratic rulers stay in power and they pinpoint certain key traits. Among these critics Sheena Greitens adopts a very different approach in her book *Dictators and Their Secret Police: Coercive Institutions and State Violence*. Her prime focal point is the use of coercion. She discusses that besides the legislation, ruling party and elections; one of the major elements which is used by such rulers in order to cope with the rivals is the excessive use of power. She elaborates that the coercion is much systematic when the organizations of the state are highly centralized as the decentralization of the organizations may lead to the lack of coherence. She signifies that a coercive apparatus is intentionally created by the authority to be united and socially inclusive. She materializes her stance through the data she collected in the form of private dairies of various autocrats like Saddam Hussain's regime in Iraq, Taiwan under Chiang Kai-shek and Ferdinand Marcos's rule in Philippines.

The use of power by Saddam Husain in Iraq has been discussed by Bradley who wrote his thesis under the title *Saddam Hussain: Portrait of an Arab Leader* in 1977. Bradley says, "...his domestic use of the armed forces against the Kurds provides insights into the military's role in domestic stability" (Bradley 41). The case of Ferdinand Marcos's rule in Philippines is not much different as put forward by Nicole Elizabeth in her dissertation *Ferdinand Marcos: Apotheosis of the Philippine Historical Political Tradition*

¹² Quell Force. Maintains Law and order

that Ferdinand fabricated an ideology as propaganda and implemented it by revolution to dilute the opposition and legitimize his authority. The proposed cases strengthen the point of the selected fictional writers that it is not only the world of fiction which is full of such autocratic regimes rather the real picture of these regimes can be easily identified also in the factual world. One can draw a very clear analogy among the steps taken by the dictators in the real world as well as in the fictional world like using ideology as propaganda and use of excessive force which ultimately leads to the absolutist governments.

The use of force and coercion as highlighted by Greitens can also be linked very easily to the depiction of fictional world in the selected narratives. State's authority in both the works is determined to keep the order in the countries and suppress the masses. *Big Brother* and the *Gate* seems to be very brutal and despotic. Their despotism ranges from the imprisonment to the death penalty where a character might be vaporized because of the denial of the ruling class. On the other hand, the state is not a worth living place as the masses do wish for a less authoritarian regime.

The *Gate* permeates into private, social and political affairs of the state. Everyone is supposed to get the certificate of true citizenship. The loyalty of the masses is questionable until and unless they get the certificate. Galabaya is in the queue with card in his hand, "Certificate of True Citizenship" (10). This simply means that without the certificate one is not considered to be loyal to the state.

The protagonist of the novel is in the hospital who is shot in the *Disgraceful Event* but he is not being operated because it needs permission of the *Gate*. It is said that his body was drenched with blood and the floor was colored with his blood, "Yehya's blood had drenched the floor and the bedsheets" (18) but he was not being helped. Had it been in any democratic state the nursing staff would have helped him as their profession demands it but here the case is quite different. He must not be operated till he gets the permit.

The laws are being updated with every passing day. The new law passed under the article 4(A), says that to remove the bullet from the body of any patient or any firearm projectile in any private clinic or government hospital was a criminal act, prior to the permission of the *Gate*. The reason is that the bullet or the projectile might be the property

of the state. It is not mere the issue that the bullet belongs to the state rather it is the question of the authority of the state.

The formulation and implementation of laws in the states is highly regularized in both the states. Linz' *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes* highlights the distinction between democratic and non-democratic regimes; he is of the opinion that in case of authoritarian regime the power is based on monistic center. He further elaborates his stance and defines such regime as, "political systems with limited, not responsible, political pluralism, without elaborate and guiding ideology" (Linz 159). The approach of the writer can be linked to the selected narratives. The authorities in the states are non-democratic and at the same times there is no guideline nor policy for their betterment of the masses and hence can be rightly called authoritarian regimes.

Orwell's *1984* and Aziz' *The Queue* pinpoints the emergence of the ruling authority overnight. They come into existence without the prior means of election and at the same times prove to be highly devastating as there is no decentralization of power to the gross root level. Such kind of centralization of authority has been highly criticized by Linz as he says, "...without extensive nor intensive political mobilization, except at some point in their development, and in which a leader or occasionally a small group exercises power within formally ill-defined limits..." (Linz 159). This means that the totalitarian regime violates the very essence of political system and there is greater possibility for the violation of human rights as the system is ill-formed. This kind of ill-formed system is working in the case of the selected works where the masses are deprived of their basic human rights. Furthermore, the authority in power comes into existence in ill ways.

Use of Technology and Constant War on Purpose of the State

Totalitarian regimes also take into consideration the excessive use of technology, altering the facts and war so that to divert the attention of the masses from the prime concerns of the state. These techniques give strength and enlarge the time space of the government. Technology is mostly used for propaganda's purpose. War is carried out so that to keep the masses engaged and to give them the sense of security. The facts are altered so that to make the reality foggy and not ununderstandsatable for the people. These techniques pave the way

for a smooth run of the governmental affairs. The selected narratives are full of such elements and hence prove to be the ideal critique of the totalitarian authorities.

Orwell's *1984* depicts a constant war. The war in this case is beyond the boundaries. The war may aim either to expand the circle of regime or it might be to keep the masses in a fix so that they may not show any revolt as it always happens in the case of totalitarian regimes. "War is peace" (2) is the magnificent slogan of the state. The narrator shares the experience of Winston in these words, "Winston could not definitely remember a time when his country had not been at war" (15). Hence, the days of peace can be called mere an interval between two wars.

On one occasion Oceania is at war with Eurasia while at another moment it has an alliance with the same state. It is narrated by Winston that one evening some prisoner were to be hanged in the park. These were the people who were considered guilty of war crimes. It is noteworthy here that these are citizens of the Oceania and they are hanged as they have shown some revolt against the state of Eurasia. It was a routine practice as Winston tells that it used to happen, "This happened about once a month" (11). It had become a kind of celebration and people used to come along with their children to see the persecutions.

These kind of wars have been the practice of the day during the days of Hitler and other dictators. Shirer in his book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* refers to the war diary of General Franz Halder who writes that; when Hitler attacked Poland; that time, "the enemy is practically beaten." (Shirer 625). Hitler proved to be the real despotic. Romaniuk's *Becoming Hitler's Army: Nazi Killers and the Making of Genocidal warfare* refers to the speech delivered by Hitler to his generals during the same attack who said, "Our strength lies in our speed and our brutality..." (Romaniuk 478). The references show the brutality and despotism employed by the ever notorious autocrat which is not very different from the brutalities depicted by the selected fictional writers.

In the very next page the continuation and absurdity of war is narrated by writer that at present moment that is 1984 Oceania is at war with Eurasia and it has an alliance with Eastasia. On the other hand Winston can very clearly recall that almost four years ago the scenario was upside down. It means that Oceania was in war with Eastasia in alliance with Eurasia. So the state is in a constant flux of war. Sometimes it is against Eurasia while

at another moment it fights against Eastasia. This continuation of the war is mere to create uncertainty and chaos in the state so that people may feel insecure. In such kind of situation the state has a greater chance to divert the attention of the masses from the internal affairs of the state to the affairs of the boundary.

The Queue highlights the same chaotic situation. Here again the state is constantly in war like situation but the difference is that here the war like situation is inside the boundaries. One morning, there is the *Disgraceful Event* and the next day there is the announcement of the *Gate*. The presence of the *Gate* is justified through this incident and then the masses are brought in to the queue which never opens. There is an uproar in the state which results the shot of Yahya and the very next moment the whole affairs of the state are under the control of the state. The *Quell Force* and *Deterrence force*¹³ are made. In the end the *Gate* prevails over everything.

The continuity of the war is not broken. The first *Disgraceful Event* is followed by another. The second event occurs exactly in the main square. Interesting thing regarding this event is, “no one could tell exactly who the people involved were” (47). As it happened during the first Event the people who were involved in the fight neither wore any uniform nor bore any symbol as it is narrated by the writer. Those who were involved neither asked question nor answered to someone else’ query. The Event proved to be disastrous but no one knew how many were killed or injured.

The situation highlighted by the selected fictional writers is not much different from the world of facts. A thorough analysis shows that such kind of despotic inclinations aimed either to maintain the order inside the state or to expand the boundaries. Historically, there are instances, where the great powers like Saddam Hussain and Morocco’s Ferdinand, Hitler, Napoleon, Mussolini and many others used strong military force in order to maintain the domestic stability. Similarly, the great powers also invaded the foreign countries for the sake of expansion. For instance, the expansionist aim has been highlighted by Colonel Gregory in his report *Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan: Causes and Future Options* who says that USSR’s invasion primarily aimed to expand its boundaries.

¹³ Deterrence Force. Serves to stop revolt

The case of US attack on Afghanistan is not much different. Afghanistan has a great significance in terms of its geography. US attacked Afghanistan so that to get an access to the central Asian states which are rich in resources. On the other hand, to get hold in Afghanistan would give an opportunity to get an access to the gulf countries which are rich in oil. Thus besides its expansionist policy United States wants an easy approach to the world's greatest oil reservoirs so that to control the rest of the world. This whole schema is materialized with the help of wars. The facts show that US is engaged in wars in those countries which may prove to be helpful regarding its expansion and greater control of the resources. As America penetrates into any of the states of the world hence, it can be rightly said that it is working on the true essence of totalitarianism.

The above examples from both the novels clearly indicate that the authorities have been engaged with the fabrication of the war either inside the state or beyond the boundaries. In both the cases the sole aim is to bring chaos into the state, to divert the attention of the masses from the core issues of the state and to stop any kind of revolt in the country. When the state is engaged in a war the masses might not have a chance to fight against the authority and this gives a greater chance to the totalitarian regimes to work in a comfortable environment.

Totalitarian regimes have been fiercely engaged with the alteration of the facts. The selected narratives highlight the significance of this technique which finally leads to the imposition of state's laws. Orwell's *1984* contains the element like introduction of the new language, only one state's run newspaper and the mutilation of the history. Aziz' *The Queue* highlights that there is only one newspaper which shares the information of the state.

The *Party* in *1984* is busy with mutilation of the history. The writer narrates that everything is foggy and misty as no one knows the real situation prevailing in the state. The narrator on the page 15 discusses that in the late fifties everything was changed. Nothing was in its original form, "Beyond the late fifties everything faded" (15). There was no record so that one could refer to and even one was not in a position to know about his/her own life. This was because of the mutilation of the records of the past.

The propaganda of the state is so much strong that one can hardly differentiate between the reality and the fabricated stories. The *Party's* slogan and agenda is permeated

into the minds of the citizens to such an extent that they even consider a lie as a fact, “then the lie passed into history and became truth” (16). The reality is a constructed phenomenon as it is narrated by state’s sources of information. On the same very page Orwell says that it is not only the matter of alteration of the past rather it is completely destroyed. In such scenario one has no other option then to accept that, what is told and hence, it paves the way for the totalitarian rulers.

The state is constantly engaged with alteration of past events and history. Newspaper is not the only source which is used for the mutilation rather the writer says on page 18 that every source of information was being run under the control of the state. The narrator discusses it as, “not only to newspapers, but to books, periodicals, pamphlets, posters, leaflets, films, sound-tracks, cartoons, photographs to every kind of literature or documentation” (18). It is evident that every kind of literature was flooded with such approaches and ideologies that would prefer the Party and to erase all the literature that may prove to be harmful for the authority or prove to be threatening.

Censorship of Media and other Means of Communication

Everything is upside down as soon as the *Party* prevails. The statistics are of no significance as the writer says, “Statistics were just as much a fantasy” (19). It means that to collect any data for any purpose was of no use as the result would be same as the party wanted to, because it was already under the control of the state. On the same page the writer says that even the date of year had also become uncertain. So the facts and figure were of no use.

The Queue shows that very soon the *Gate* prevailed over everything. The security forces have tightened their grip throughout the state. On page 58 it is narrated by the writer that there is only one news channel which works in the state. All the information is shared with the citizens through this channel and the viewers do not have access to any other channel. The boy who works in the cafe where most of the people gather to watch news says, “Stuck on one channel. It couldn’t get any other signal” (58). It is evident that the broadcasting is under the surveillance of the *Gate* and those information will be shared which are in harmony with the ideology of the state.

The *Gate* is very strict regarding the broadcasting rules. As with the passage of time the *Gate* strengthens its control over the affairs of the state it makes it hold more strong. Initially, it only did not allow other channels to be broadcasted while later, “Later, the Gate issued a decree that forbade other channels from screening any announcements other than its own” (59). Thus, the electronic media is highly monopolized by the state’s authority.

It is not only electronic media which is highly regularized by the state rather same is the case with the print media. There is only one newspaper which is published across the state, “the only paper he was selling was The Truth¹⁴” (60). The regulation of the print and electronic media shows that the *Gate* believes in a highly centralized authority. The truth is always kept away out of the reach of the common man. The concentration of the power and the strictness of media provides enough space to the authority to manipulate the facts and figure. Hence, the prime purpose of the totalitarian regime is fulfilled which is to rule in an unimpeded way.

Media censorship has been shown by the writer of the novel. It is not the case with the world of fiction only rather the factual world reflects such incidents where all the means of information like newspaper, magazines, articles, books and news channels are highly censored. It has become a global issue to scrutinize the information of the state. This censorship aims to suppress any kind of potential expression that may jeopardize the order of the state. Press plays an imminent role in conflicted areas. Day’s *Censorship or Freedom of Expression?*, discusses the espionage act of 1917, during the days of WWI and says “The Espionage Act of 1917 prohibited the publication of information concerning the national defense” (Day, 2001). This kind of censorship which works in the name of state’s defense actually aims to make glass packed situation to keep an eye on the masses and regularize the sharing of facts and figures.

Such kind of censorship of the media has been the practice of the totalitarian regimes. During the days of Hitler there were certain writers who were banned. Those writers were either of the Jewish descent or had communist sympathies. In 1933 there was an open burning of the books in Austria. These books contained the content based on the

¹⁴ The Truth. The only newspaper which is published

anarchy or revolutionary thoughts. This kind of censorship chokes the media and the authors and the only purpose behind such scrutiny is to bring order into the affairs of the state which is worst for the masses in the case of the totalitarian regime as it brings havoc to the public life.

Language is one of the most influential element of any culture. Those who have no language cannot transmit their culture. Perhaps the most significant difference between animals and human is the language. History tells that whenever the colonial power went to any foreign country the first step that they used to take was to learn the language of that area and finally detached the locals from their own language and introduced their own language. This detached the colonized from their language and culture.

Orwell's *1984* shows that the authority even tried to interfere with language of the state. It developed new language named, *Newspeak*¹⁵. It primarily aimed to get hold of the minds of the citizens as language directly interprets the minds. In the final stage, the writer says, “we're getting the language into its final shape the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else” (23). It clearly indicates that once the language is shaped no one will be allowed to use any other language then the language of the state. On the same page the narrator tells about the real intension of the state that the real intension of the state is not to invent new words rather to destroy the old words (23). Hence the real intension of the state is not the shaping of language rather to destroy the old language and all it's meaning to destroy the facts and mutilate the very essence of the statistics.

The issue has also been highlighted by Orwell as it is not a negligible matter. The state is working on the development of new language as the authority is aware of its significance. Once the masses are delineated from their language they will not be in a position to transmit the culture nor will they be able to communicate easily. Language is the prime source of expression of thoughts, feelings and queries. Once any race is deprived of its language a huge gulf is created among them. Hence, this communication gap may give an opportunity to suppress them easily as the masses cannot be on the same page.

¹⁵ Newspeak. the official language of Oceania

The discussion above sheds light on the techniques applied by the totalitarian rulers so that to rule in the state in an unimpeded way. Both the narratives highlight the ways of terror, use of technology, mass media, strict security agencies, physical and mental torture of the masses and the severe surveillance on the part of the state. The strict rules of the state make a kind of glass packed scenario in which the life of a common man is brought under trouble. Problems are created for the masses so that to paved the way for the smooth running of the affairs of the state. As the authority aims only to rule that is why it utilizes every possible effort to strengthen the government. The selected narrative are enriched with such tactics which were being practiced by totalitarian regimes.

Chapter 5

Reducing the Elements of Totalitarianism to an Absurdity

In the last chapter I have traced the elements of totalitarianism. Both of the novels are enriched with the elements of despotism and the authorities are constantly making their horrendous efforts to get a strong hold of the state's affairs. The chapter reduces these horrific efforts to absurdity. The mid twentieth century is full of disillusionment, horror and terror, devastations and there are World Wars which ultimately lead to chaos. This chaos, uncertainty and insecurities have led to absurdism in general. This absurdity can be seen in the world of fiction as well as in the real world. The concept of meaninglessness of the fictional world can be rightly applied to real world as absurdity by Oxford Webster dictionary in simple terms is described as something ridiculous and same is the case with the implications of the totalitarian regimes in real life. Totalitarian regimes aim to rule in an unimpeded way. The essential aim of this research is to use totalitarian absurdity as the primary lens. The primary texts are being analyzed to unfold the absurdity of the ineffectual efforts of the despotic tendencies of these rulers regarding its practical implications and utility of these regimes.

Camus in his essay *Myth of Sisyphus* refers to a Greek myth which highlights the futile effort of a condemned man to repeat the same act of pushing a heavy boulder to a top of the mountain only to see that it rolls down. The situation has been made very dramatic by Camus. The boulder is too heavy for the man who makes a futile effort constantly to push it upward and to see it rolling down and hence, in the end the action is fruitless. He has applied the same scenario to the life of twentieth century. There is chaos and life does not make any sense. People like Camus would prefer to commit suicide than to lead such a purposeless life. (Camus, *Myth of Sisyphus*).

The situation in the essay and the life in the selected narratives is not different. In both the fictions, the regimes try to establish glass packed situation so that to rule in an unconstrained way. In terms of the real implications the regimes fail badly. All the atrocious efforts which are made, prove to be as meaningless in the long run as the effort of the man who strives to push the heavy boulder to the top of the mountain.

Disharmony in the States and Revolt of Masses

Orwell's *1984* depicts the social and political atmosphere of the state as out of harmony. The *Party* strives hard to bring some harmony into the affairs of the state but fails badly. The narrator says, "The past was dead, the future was unimaginable" (12). It is evident that the authority is not in a position to bring order into the affairs of the state. It has changed the old order as past no more exists and the new order is not practically applicable. The development of the *Newspeak*, use of technology, installation of the telescreen, thought police and establishment of spying agencies though work but in the long run they fail badly and can be reduced to an absurdity.

Aziz' *The Queue* depicts the politically charged days of uncertainty in the state. The *Gate* comes into existence overnight and imposes its authority in the state. There is the *Disgraceful Event* in which Yahya is shot. The state is stubborn regarding the resistance of the citizens as the narrator says, "he would produce an opinion about how certain people—who were angry about being forced to follow the strict order the *Gate* had imposed soon after it appeared" (8). The citizens prove to be stubborn as the *Gate* is much strict.

It is not only the revolt which is shown by the masses rather there is complete denial of the *Gate* on the part of them. They want a lenient and less rigid authority which may work for the welfare of the citizens and which may treat them as the children of the country. The narrator says, "They'd rejected its new rules, and wanted to create a different, less authoritarian system," (8). It is clear from the statement that the rules and impositions of the state are being rejected completely by the citizens. Thus the authority is making an absurd effort so that to rule in an unobstructed way and rightly comes under the phrase totalitarian absurdity.

The uproar in the state also shows that the absolute imposition of the ruling class is not materialized. The *Quell Force* gives severe punishment to the masses and there are instances in which they are even shot. There is such a huge mass murder that in certain cases even it is not known that how many people were killed and injured (47). The repetition of the second revolt shows that such revolts used to arise after some specific period of time. The time period of the peace can be just called as an interval between two

events. Secondly, even the state is not completely in a position to resist to these revolts as the narrator says, "...Others continued the fight against the regime, leaving a path of destruction in their wake..." (9). It is evident that the resistance of the masses is repetitive and at the same times the harsh treatment of the Gate is not able to stop the revolt completely.

The Myth of Sisyphus highlights the ineffectual efforts of the man of Greek mythology who struggles to push the heavy boulder to the top of the mountain. The condition of the *Gate* is the same. It handles the first *Disgraceful Event* and there is the excessive use of power on the part of the state. The interesting thing here is that there is another *Disgraceful Event*. It shows that there is the continuous flux of such kind of uproars which never stops. It is said, "People who witnessed the Second Events¹⁶ described a battle that raged at the edge of the main square, but no one could tell exactly who the people involved were" (47). Just like the first event in the second event even no one knew that who were engaged in the war and how many people were injured or killed. The significant thing here is the utility of these events. In the long run they ascertain to be vain and hence it is an irrational exertion on the part of the state because with in sometimes there will be another flux of uproar.

Failure of the Different Ministries

Orwell's *1984* depicts that the *Party* has made *Ministry of Love*. The ministry aims to refrain the inhabitants from any kind of sexual and love relations. Marriage only means to deliver children for the good will of the *Party*. The said Ministry seems to be the most horrible as discussed by the writer. He says that there are no windows in the whole building. The streets of the Ministry were used to be guarded by the gorilla-faced guards wearing black uniform (2). Analysis of the fiction shows that though the Ministry is very rigid regarding the implications of its laws but there are evidences which show that it fails badly and can be drawn to absurdity.

A deep love relation is developed by Winston and Julia. On the other hand, the *Party's* approach to sex instinct is very clear. The narrator says, "The Party was trying to

¹⁶ Second Event. The second uproar in the state

kill the sex instinct, or, if it could not be killed, then to distort it and dirty it” (30). *Party* strives to either kill this natural instinct or to completely distort it but the protagonist is not willing to accept this dream like world which is being constructed by *Big Brother* and his men. Besides his love affair he is reluctant to touch his wife, Kathrine but at the same times, the writer says, “And what he wanted, more even than to be loved, was to break down that wall of virtue, even if it were only once in his whole life” (31). Later on, he proves to be the villain who breaks this wall of virtue as he develops his relation with Julia.

The *Party* struggles to vaporize the natural emotions of the masses for the strong establishment of the *Big Brother* as he forbids every kind of love affair but it fails. Winston falls in love with Julia and the narrator says, “The relief of seeing her was so great that he could not resist staring directly at her for several seconds” (51). It is evident that he overlooks the rigidity and torture of the party for the sake of his love. It is not only that he falls in love rather he asks her to meet him. Winston ask her, ““where can we meet?”” (52) And she instantly replies, ““Victory Square, near the monument”” (52). The narrator earlier has discussed that especially women’s chastity was considered to be the loyalty to the party. (30). Thus it is not only Winston who overlooks the Party’s rules for his love rather Julia, who’s chastity is the symbol of her loyalty even shows a revolt for the sake of her love. This strong bond of love between the two symbolizes the failure of the *Big Brother* as the ever watching authority.

It is not only that they compromise the rules of the party rather they engage in physical relation for so many times. Though *Party* is very firm regarding the sexual intercourse but Winston and Julia knows the hiding places. The party hopes that the telescreen have been installed everywhere and spies move around but they do not know the hiding places. Julia tells Winston, ““Not here,' she whispered back. ‘Come back to the hide-out. It's safer”” (58). Winston is not doing this for the first time rather according to him he has done it for so many times. Thus the supremacy of the *Party* and its impositions regarding the *Ministry of Love* seems to be vain as Winston and Julia are successful in their motives.

The *Party* has been very resolute regarding the supremacy of the *Big Brother*. The evaporation and to unperson an individual is the practice of the day. Winston who stands

against the *Party* is brought into the horrible room 101. Instantly, when he is told about the room, the writer says, “The expression on O’Brien’s face did not change” (125). The confidence of the man is because of his firmness as he is not ready to accept the supremacy of the *Party*.

When Winston is brought into the room 101. He is tortured and he is faced with his phobia and then Goldstein makes him perceive the future of the *Party*. A kind of government based on the excessive use of power, oppression and despotism. This will bring success to the party, “A world of victory after victory” (129). This glorified and romantic version of the near future of the *Party* is denied by Winston.

Winston has counter argument with Goldstein. Winston, at one point, cannot identify the power which will bring destruction to the *Party* as he says, “I don’t know I don’t care. Somehow you will fail. Something will defeat you” (129). The discussion shows that he is not ready to accept *Big Brother* by heart. On the other hand, the *Party* and its members consider themselves as the survivors as Goldstein says, “Your kind is extinct; we are the inheritors” (130). Though Goldstein is quite narcissistic in his point of view but at the same he says, “If you are a man, Winston, you are the last man” (130). On the other hand Winston says, “Yes, I consider myself superior” (130). It shows clearly that Winston is not bearable for Goldstein and his *Party* but at the same times he is the last hurdle regarding the complete control of the masses as he is determined to deny the supremacy of the *Big Brother*. The attitude and response of Winston can be considered is the archetype of his class. Hence, he is not the last person rather there is whole class which stands against this kind of despotic inclinations.

The conversation going on between Winston and Goldstein aims to degrade each other. Goldstein tries to negate the very physical existence of Winston and to project the authority of *Big Brother*. But Winston is not ready to accept the evidences given by *Party* member. He asks Goldstein whether *Big Brother* existed at all and he replies, “Of course he exists” (124). Thus Goldstein is very practical regarding the existence of *Big Brother* but on practical grounds his approach is very nonsensical in nature.

On the other hand, Winston is very scientific in nature. He justifies his existence in scientific ways as he says, “... 'You do not exist,' said O'Brien” (124). The next reply that

comes from Winston totally evaporates the authority of “Big Brother” and demonstrates his own physical body, “‘I think I exist,’ he said wearily. ‘I am conscious of my own identity. I was born and I shall die. I have arms and legs. I occupy a particular point in space. No other solid object can occupy the same point simultaneously’” (124). The arguments put forward by him are very practical in nature. Winston was born and will die and he occupies a space as far as he is alive. On the other hand *Big Brother* comes with in no span of time and he occupies no space except his portraits which are hinging everywhere. Thus the personality of *Big Brother* can be reduced to absurdity while the protagonist prevails over everything. In a nut shell *Big Brother* is a myth while Winston is a tangible reality.

The *Party* strives to bring those people into the fold of the state who ever show any kind of revolt or to go against the norms of the *Party*. The installation of telescreen aims to catch those who are engaged in any kind of activity against the *Big Brother*. The telescreen seems to turn towards every direction a man turns to; but in the long run it fails. The torturing of the masses is daily practice and spying and surveillance is very hard. These all efforts of the *Party* aim to make them according to the desires of the *Party* but in reality they prove to be ineffectual.

One such example is Winston. He is caught and punished severely. He is faced with his phobia. The reason behind this trouble is his engagement with all those activities which have been forbidden by *Party* like, *Thought Crime*, sexual intercourse and resistance to the impositions of the *Party*. The question which is of the significance is, though he is caught, punished and tortured but whether he comes into the fold of the state? The answer to this question is, absolutely no.

Even during the days of his imprisonment Winston is not ready to accept the supremacy of Big Brother. He is reluctant to accept that even *Big Brother* existed and he considers himself superior to him. When he is released from the room 101 and goes to the chestnut tree; there he meets Julia and she is quite optimistic regarding the future days of their love relation as she says, “‘They can't get inside you,’ she had said” (140). It means that though they can torture him but the few cubic centimeter of his mind is himself and he can design any kind of plan that he wants.

Professor Kamen quotes in Spanish Inquisitor, “We must remember that main purpose of the trial and execution is not to save the soul of the accused but to achieve the public good and put fear into others” (quoted in Kamen 1998, P. L74). It is very evident in the light of the reference that any autocrat would not work for the betterment of the state rather every kind of coercion levels the revolts in the state to rule in unobstructed way. The selected narratives as well as the factual world both highlight such kind scenario where the rulers proved to be very despotic but the statistics show that they fail in the long run. In case of the selected works the *Big Brother* and *The Gate* proved to be ineffectual in the long run as they cannot sustain themselves.

The efforts of the state prove to be ineffective. Winston has not come into the folds of the states up till now. He can very easily engage himself again with any kind of thought crime. He is determined to continue his love relation as he says to Julia, “‘We must meet again,’ he said” (141) and she replies to his question, “‘Yes,’ she said, ‘we must meet again.’” (141). The conversation between the two signifies that the efforts of the Party and the torture in the horrible room 101 is absurd. The state fails to bring him into the fold of the state and he is determined more than ever to be engaged in such kind of activities which have been forbidden by *Big Brother* so that to rule in an unhindered way.

The Queue also clearly narrates that the *Gate* fails to implement its rules. It tries hard to impose the authority and to bring the masses in to the fold of the state. One such example where the state fails is the operation of Yahya. In order to carry the operation, he is supposed to complete all the required steps of the hospital and he must be operated on in the government hospital under the supervision of the *Gate*. The situation however, is different as he is operated in a friend’s house prior to the official permission of the *Gate*. This is a reference to the failure of the impositions of the state.

Another reference to the failure of the *Gate* is *Second Disgraceful Event*. The state has been very hard on the occasion of the first *Disgraceful Event*. Many people got injured in the incident. Such step is taken by the state primarily to stop the revolts in the state. The ground realities refer that there is a greater possibility that the masses shall not show any other revolt but the repetition of the event clearly indicates that the state has failed to implement its totalitarian authority which leads to totalitarian absurdity.

The States Fail to Stop the Revolts and Materialize the Policies despite the Wars

Totalitarian regimes are constantly in war either within the state or beyond the boundaries of the state. These wars aim to resist to any revolt in the state or to stop any possible aggression of the foreign states or the war may aim to expand the boundaries of the state. Eflien wrote a report in 1992 under the title *A Case Study: Afghanistan -A Soviet Failure* which refers to the Amir of Afghanistan who said, “(t)he friendship of Afghanistan is of no service to Russia whatsoever, beyond allowing her to pass through the country to India, which means placing Afghanistan under the foot of Russia”. This refers to the fact that Russian’s penetration to Afghanistan aimed nothing else than expansion. However, the effort of the USSR led to fruitfulness as after a decade it turned back in the disintegrated form. Hence, these efforts can be reduced to illogicality.

Orwell’s *1984* depicts the war like situation. It is beyond the understanding of the common man that why the wars are being waged and against whom. The protagonist says that he does not recall any period of time that Oceania has not been in war against any one state. The situation is further made confused by the fact when a common man like Winston cannot identify the state’s enemy. At one occasion it is in war with Eurasia while at another moment it has an alliance with Eurasia to fight against Eastasia and vice versa. Thus it is evident that the wars are not being waged for any specific purpose nor they have any long term agenda.

It is not only the matter that the mechanism of the wars is not understandable rather the benefits and utilization of the war in the favor of the state is also of no significance. One can rightly gauge the fruitlessness of these skirmishes as Winston says, “If they could get control of the whole of Africa, if they had airfields and submarine bases at the Cape, it would cut Oceania in two. It might mean anything: defeat, breakdown, the redivision of the world” (140). The description and analysis given by Winston is so horrible.

Clausewitz’s *On War* highlights the real success of any ruler in terms of the stability and prosperity of the country. He is of the opinion that the original means of strategy is victory while victory can be analyzed in terms of the peace which is sustained in the state.

Marx looks at history as a continuous flux of war which is fought between the have's and the have's not. The current study also investigates this controversial issue in the selected narratives. The authorities in the states try to bring harmony and peace into the state which is in reality a scarce commodity. As there is no peace in the states so one can rightly say that they fail badly. Hence, it can be rightly said that they are not victorious in the long run.

Oceania is striving for the expansion of the state to Africa. In such case Oceania needs high preparation for the war like submarine and huge army but even it would divide the state in two parts as both are not on the same plate of the earth. In another case he is of the opinion that the war may result the defeat and breakdown of Oceania. In either of the case Oceania is in loss. Thus the hard struggle of the state of Oceania in order to expand its boundaries to Africa is nothing else than an absurd activity.

In this context the wars which have been waged by America can be exemplified. US attacks Afghanistan in the post 9/11 era in order to end the Taliban's rule in the country. It has taken more than a decade. *Washington Post* published a report in August, 2017 which highlighted that the basic purpose of Afghan was to train the local army to fight against the terrorist. The report says, "After 16 years, it's not surprising that many people think that strategy has failed". The information shared by the newspaper clearly indicates that the penetration to foreign countries never bears any fruit.

The Queue shows that there is greater possibility that the *Gate* may not be in a position to resist to the possible uproar. It is because that there are certain tangible facts which the state cannot deny. One such example is the bullet in the body of Yahya. The authority tries to make him realize that he has not been in fact shot and there is no bullet in his body. On the other hand, they cannot deny as the narrator says, "Yehya was clearly injured, and that was impossible to hide" (36). The *Gate* cannot deny such tangible facts hence it has to surrender before him as there is no way of escape from such a fact. Thus the efforts of the *Gate* to deny such tangible facts prove to be futile.

Secondly, the *Gate* is obstinate not to operate on him. It needs a prior permission from the *Gate*. On the other hand, the *Gate* never opens. The number of people in the queue grows with every passing day. Here again the *Gate* is overlooked by the staff of Zephyr hospital as Tarek comes up with an idea, that they should operate him at the house of some

friend as the rules are applied only to the private clinics and government hospitals. (107). Tarek says, "...If he could operate on Yehya at one of his friends' houses..." (107). Thus, they operate Yahya without the permission of the *Gate* and it symbolizes that the absolute manifestation of the *Gate* fails and can be reduced to absurdity.

The Failed States

Any state aims to bring security, prosperity and harmony into the state. Orwell's *1984* depicts the state of Oceania which utterly fails regarding the availability of the basic necessities of the life and requirements of the state. The whole state of Oceania is insecure. The narrator says, "People disappeared everyday" (page no?). It means that the state was no more a safe place for its own citizens. Furthermore, it is told by the writer that the most of the disappearances were suicide. People in Oceania would prefer to die than to live a life of such torture and suffocation. Hence, the whole essence of the state is nonsensical.

There is no symmetry and harmony in the state. The *Party* interferes with the facts and figures of the state. The narrator says, "This process of continuous alteration was applied not only to newspapers, but to books, periodicals, pamphlets, posters, leaflets, films, sound-tracks, cartoons, photographs to every kind of literature or documentation which might conceivably hold any political or ideological significance" (18). The *Party* and its member would alter every fact which may go against the ideology of the *Big Brother*.

This alteration leads to a kind of disharmony in the affairs of the state. The facts and figures which are being shared are according to the writer's own making and nothing more than a fantasy, "Statistics were just as much a fantasy in their original version as in their rectified version" (19). This fantasized version of the statistics leads to the uncertainty as the narrator says, "Everything melted into mist" (17). The discussion elaborates that though the state is striving hard to bring a harmony into the affairs of the state so that to rule in an unimpeded way but in the long run it brings more uncertainty into the affairs of the state. Hence, it can be rightly said that the state is making an absurd effort to bring such a hostile mechanism into the affairs of the state.

The alteration of the facts and figures is the practice of the day in Aziz' *The Queue* as it exactly happened in the case of 1984. The leading issue which is going on in the novel is the operation of Yahya who is shot during the uproar. Tarek is determined to operate him but it needs prior permission of the *Gate*. There are two very important issues which need consideration here; firstly, the *Gate* have a constant watch on Yahya's documents and secondly, there is only one newspaper across the country which shares information of the state with the citizens. An analysis of both the documents show that the authority interferes with these documents.

Yahya is brought into the hospital and his body is drenched with blood. The narrator says, "If a doctor or nurse had been with him when he'd been injured, she would have made the others carry him more carefully" (18). The statement signifies that the authority is more conscious about the rules than the souls. The staff does not care about his body as he has not completed his documentation. On the other hand, someone alters the documents. There is phone call for the head nurse Sabah and the caller asks him, "He told her not to ask questions, but to go to the filing department, remove Yehya Gadel-Rab Saeed's medical file, read it to him, and then alter some of the language to match what he had personally observed in the patient" (33). Thus it is evident that his medical record is being tracked by someone who is not known.

A state is highly concerned with its masses. Here, in case of this novel, the state is more concerned with the impositions made by the *Gate* and is less concerned with the injured like Yahya. Amani is much pessimistic regarding his operation as the writer says, "Yehya would undergo the operation: that it would succeed, he would recover, and this ridiculous nightmare" (21). It is no more than a fantasy that the authority would come and help the needy as it is concerned more with the implications of the rules than favoring its citizens. Thus the basic aim of the state here in this context is totally absurd as in such kind of scenario there is greater possibility of the revolt.

The Queue highlights the same days of disharmony in the aftermath of *Disgraceful Event*. The queue in front of the *Gate* aims to bring some harmony and to systematize the affairs of the state. The implications of the queue seems to be absurd in the practical terms. The *Gate* gathers the masses in the queue so that to resolve their problems. On the other

hand the situation is upside down. Yahya stands in the queue for the whole day but the narrator says, “A whole hour and he’d moved no more than two steps forward” (10). The queue makes no progress as the *Gate* is ineffectual and can be called as an absurd authority.

The queue grows with every passing day. It does not benefit the common man. There are people who wait for medicines and others for the certificate of true citizenship. The deteriorated situation can be gauged from the line where a man who is standing behind Yahya asks him, “The young man standing behind him asked what time the Gate opened, and Yehya shrugged. He had no idea when it would finally happen” (10). It is evident that the struggle of the *Gate* to bring some harmony in the state results as nothingness and futile. Thus, it also fails badly in this particular context.

One morning the *Gate* is very determined to facilitate its masses. It announces, “Beloved fellow citizens, in order to fully cater to your needs, the *Gate* shall soon extend its exceptional services to you every day of the week, from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon each day...” (59). The announcement seems to be very optimistic regarding the solutions of the issue of a common man but as soon Naggy hears it, the narrator says, “Nagy looked away and smiled. Despite how often the Gate released these promising updates, it still had never reopened, and nothing ever really changed” (59). It means that the *Gate* has never been true to its promises so one can rightly say that it is an absurd authority and revolt is conditional on the part of the masses.

The selected narratives highlight the concerns of the states’ authorities. Apparently they seem to be honest and devoted to the state but in reality they cannot meet the very essence of the state. Maurice Ayodele Coker refers to Owoye and Bissessar’s *Bad Governance and Corruption in Africa: Symptoms of Leadership and Institutional Failures* which describes, “It consists of the traditions and institutions by which authority is exercised. This includes the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced, the capacity of government to effectively formulate and implement policies; and the respect of citizens and the state institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them” (Owoye & Bissessar, 1992:1). The opinion of these writers clearly indicates that the authorities in both the states do not fulfill the very basic criteria of the states. The thorough process of the government since the selection till the implications of the state’s

laws, all seem to be an illusion and non-democratic in approach. Hence, we can conclude it very safely that they fail badly.

1984 highlights the despotic tendencies of the state so that to overlook the will and wit of the masses. The installation of the telescreen, establishment of thought police, spying agencies and the terror of the black-moustached man all aim to impose the authority of the *Party*. All these efforts prove to be futile in the long run. One such example is Winston who stands firm against them.

State's Coercion and Optimism of the Masses

It is not only Winston who shows resistance to the authority. He seems very optimistic regarding the whole middle class. At one occasion he says, "If there is hope, wrote Winston, it lies in the proles" (32). The statement shows that though the *Party* has been adamant, stubborn and firm regarding the impositions of the ideology but Winston like himself is much optimistic regarding the possible revolt on the part of the proles. One day, they may show severe response besides the hard treatment of *Big Brother* and this revolt may prove devastating to the party. This devastation will reduce all the struggles of the party into absurdity.

The Queue shows that though the state is very rigid regarding its impositions and the evaporation of the general will of the masses but it cannot sustain itself for a longer time. There are instances like, the operation of Yahya needs prior permission of the *Gate* but he is operated even prior to the permission. Similarly, there is an open fire on the masses in the square to stop the revolt but there is another event very soon which indicates its failure.

It is evident in the light of the analysis of the selected narratives that there are instances that the authority may not cope with the revolts on the part of the masses. They always find a way to sneak of the state's folds. Lichbach's *Rationality and Society* develops an argument that, "...it is also true that history has indeed seen incidents in which a mass of individuals at least seems to have swept away regimes..." (Lichbach 6(1), 8–39). Thus the case of Winston and Yahya's operation can be exemplified in this context as they are successful in their designed plans and the absolute governments fail in both the cases.

The discussion above highlights the ineffectual tendencies of the totalitarian regimes in the states. These authorities are always rigid in the imposition of their ideologies and employ every possible technique to suppress the masses but there is always a silver line in the clouds. The middle class men try to redefine themselves and try to shatter the blocks of fear of these regimes into pieces which aim to dominate the state. Both the narratives depicts such tyrannical exertions of the totalistic regimes but a reading in between the lines shows that to rule in an unimpeded way is mere a fantasy. The rulers struggle hard to suppress the masses but in the long run the whole drama can be reduced into absurdity.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The selected narratives highlight the oppressions of the ruling class and in the long run their failure. The geographical locations of the both the novels are different but they share sufficient similarities. The form of oppression entails discrimination, domination, marginalization, exploitation, torture and inequality on the part of the rulers. They exploit and treat the masses in harsh way and justify their actions which lead to inequality. There is a huge gulf between the masses and the authority which ideally negates the very essence of the requirements of any organized society or state. Some of the major characters in both the novels suffer the explicit form of oppressions such as, physical torture and damage. Orwell's *1984* and Aziz' *The Queue* brings into surface these horrendous efforts of the regimes. The critical analysis of these texts highlights the absurdity of these regimes as they come to nothingness in the long run.

The first question of this research addresses the attitude of the despotic rulers which leads to the discussion of the totalitarianism as a form of government and its impositions in the state. It is a kind of government in which the will and intellect of a single person is privileged and he/she is empowered. On the other hand, the discussion also highlights the disempowerment, marginalization and horrific lives of the commoners. In such kind of situation an organized society becomes polar. This polarity in the society finally leads to the falling apart of the things in any organized society or state.

Numerous kinds of punishments and torture can be easily scrutinized in both the novels. It becomes difficult sometimes even to identify whether any authority is working at all in the country as the whole mechanism of the state is based on unfair and unjustified treatment of the citizens. This is predominantly because of the very wrong definition of the state's affairs by these despotic rulers who consider the exploitation of the commoner in the favor of the masses and ultimately in the favor of the stability of the country.

Most of the times the ideologies are employed to grab the tools of repressions. The whole structure of the ideology of the state is designed in such a way so that no one could revolt or show any resistance. This issue is twofold; firstly, the ideology is designed in such

a way that it is in the favor of the ruling class and not in the favor of the commoners. Secondly, the state is very stubborn to employ it irrespective of, either by hook or by crook. Thus, the state's institutions enjoy an unquestionable authority.

The masses are confronted with the institutions. These institutions work for the exploitation of the common man. Every kind of physical or mental torture has a legal justification. People of the central west and Middle East have been equally subjugated by such kinds of nominal authorities. Further, these efforts aim that characters like Winston and Yahya must resign their lives. The people of mid twentieth century and of the present decade are equally vulnerable to such kinds of oppressions.

The central characters in both the fictions are not only vulnerable to various oppressions rather the magnitude of the torture also varies regarding its level, intensity and degree. Sometimes, they are just warned that the authority is alert regarding any kind of revolt. For instance, *1984* depicts the thought crime of Winston and the emergence of thought police in the novel. Similarly, *The Gate* is very vigilant regarding any kind of action done by any citizen prior to the permission of the authority. On the other hand, sometimes the authority proves to be very much horrible as Winston is confronted with his phobia in room 101. Aziz' *The Queue* also shows the same intensity of horror on the part of the authority like there is an open fire in the square on the commoners to stop the uproar. Hence, according to the scenario, the authorities define the intensity of oppressions depending on the necessity and magnitude of crime done by someone.

The significant point about these oppressions is its organization. These horrible incidents are carried in an organized way. In both the narratives the writers have highlighted that in order to rule in an unimpeded way, they have an ideal schema like there are spying agencies, the evaporation of the private will, imposition of the singular intellect and excessive use of technology. This organized violence of the authority keeps the masses in such a net that they cannot come out of its clutches.

The polarity of the society is sustained through the working ideology of the authority. When the ideology is designed by a totalitarian ruler it automatically leads to the disenfranchisement of a particular group and the centrality of the power in the society. The whole discourse becomes biased and prejudiced as it only propagates the will of a single

person, the rest are considered as “others” and not more than a commodity. In case of these fictions the marginalized group is the commoners while the concentration of power lies in the hands of the ruling class.

This manipulation of the ideology and the use of various techniques employed by the authoritarian administration leads to the hegemony of one omnipresent authority in the state. This single authority is centralized, despotic and evaporates any kind of hindrance which may prove to be a hindrance. Such imbalance of power, inequality and superiority of one single person and inferiority of the rest of the people paves the way for every kind of unjust treatment. In 1984 the *Big Brother* is the symbol of such horror who looks at the masses from his portraits everywhere and anytime. Aziz' *The Queue* projects the *Gate* which comes into existence overnight and prevails over everything. In both the novels, there is glass packed situation where there is no way of escape for the suppressed people. Both the authorities are unchallengeable and unfallable as no one can question their legitimacy and it demands an unconditional obedience from the grassroots.

This representation of the masses in both the fictions has a great significance. It is not mere a fictional representation rather it can be applied to the real life situation. The torture in the novels, glass packed situation and imposition of a single ideology in the state has always been a practice of the totalitarian regimes. Historically, such kind of rulers employed all these techniques in real life situation which have been depicted by the writers in their fictional world. Same is the case with the current geopolitical scenario of the world.

All the practices of totalitarian regimes like, murder, assassination, and physical torture, formation of the spying agencies and the imposition of a single ideology have been employed by the ever notorious dictators like, Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin. They all practiced such kinds of accomplishments that the masses under their regimes could not understand that what was happening around them. Life for them was nothing more than a fluid concept. Everything was evaporated into a mist where the masses were left with no reason to think as the state used to work under a single totalitarian thought.

All these authorities were centralized and to obey these authorities was like to obey God. This unconditional obedience aimed to create homogeneous society. This homogeneity did not aim to bring peace to the state rather they just wanted to rule and to

expand the boundaries of the state and to occupy a huge geography. This expansion of the geography would give greater chance to them to get the optimum level of material gains.

The second question of this project deals with absurdity. The discussion above revolves around the implications of the totalitarian regime and the way it is sustained. On the other hand, the second question reduces all these atrocious efforts to an absurdity. It is never possible on the natural grounds for these rulers to apply this mechanism of the government in the real sense. When it is measured on the real ground in terms of applications, it fails badly. In fact the real essence of the whole concept evaporates. Chapter 5 finds the gaps in the applications of these governments in the larger context and hence, proves that all the struggles of these rulers are ineffectual. Orwell's *1984* and Aziz' *The Queue* addresses a new genre under the name "Totalitarian Absurdity" which negates the existence of such nominal authorities founded on the blocks of fear.

The discussion in this chapter signifies that though the authority is always horrible in nature but there is a continuous flux of reworking on the part of the masses. The flux of uproar may become dormant for sometimes but that may be just called a re-energizing period for the masses who in between this period of peace take rest and soon reappear with more energy. There is always a specific revolt which does not accept the authority in its real essence. Whatever that is prohibited by the ruling class does not prove to be necessarily a forbidden fruit for the masses.

The central characters in the novels are going against the tide. They are engaged in various kinds of activities prohibited by the state to augment their existence. They challenge, rebel and discard the false ideologies being planted by the rulers. They aspire and work hard to materialize their dreams and strive hard to move against the conventions set by the despotic rulers. They fight for their individual will and prove to be rebellious souls.

The authority strives to put them into a traditional set of life while they always find a way to come out of it. Sometimes, they can be seen to accept the superiority of the state like at one occasion, Winston accepts the ideology of the *Big Brother* but that is only for a short span of time. Similarly, Tarek is reluctant to operate on Yahya; prior to the permission of the *Gate* but later on the situation in both the cases is upside down. Winston rejects the

ideology of the *Big Brother*. At the end of the novel when he goes to the chestnut tree he sees that there are certain people who have already gone through this harsh treatment of the *Big Brother* and once had accepted the authority but later on, deviated and same is the case with Winston. This shows that it is an ongoing process and no one is ready to accept this authority for an immortal span of time. Similarly, Tarek also agrees later to operate on Yahya at the house of a friend. Thus, it is evident that as soon as the characters gather some amount of energy they come up with a severer revolt.

Hence, it is safe to conclude that the citizens in both the novels have strength and weaknesses. It depends on the level of their energy to show a revolt. They grow with the passage of time. The more the authorities are hard to them the more they are energetic to resist their supremacy. Sometimes they are suppressed but soon they gather their energies and start resistance. Fear and horror are used as the tools to inculcate the supremacy and the will of a single totalitarian authority in the minds of the masses but in reality this fear and horror multiply their potential. This is primarily because of the complex relation of power. It is not only the competition of the powerful to impose themselves rather the resistance of the masses is also the part of this equation. The more the powerful tries to suppress the powerless the more they revolt strongly. At the same times, the powerless tries to bring transparency to the emergence and utility of power. Thus, one can rightly assume that these powerless masses struggle against the institutions of the state and prove their existence against their tyrannical exertions.

A thorough analysis of the selected narratives gives a chance to the characters to show their visibility. The state strives to evaporate those who show any resistance as Orwell narrates that it was the practice of the day that people disappeared on daily basis. In the long run it proves to be futile activity as hope always resides in the hearts of the middle class masses. It means that this class faces the torture with courage and their disappearance least matters. If they disappeared it would be like to bury a seed in the soil which shows its presence as the environment becomes suitable.

The selected novels give a very vivid picture of the totalitarian regime and their failure in the long run. These rulers make horrendous efforts to make a glass packed situation. These governments aim to rule in an unimpeded way. They use all the possible

ways so that to stop any kind of uproar or revolt. Among these the most significant are the use of power and imposition of single ideology of the state on the masses. The upside down analysis of these governments show that that these efforts are nothing else than the effort of the man of *Myth of Sisyphus*. They can be reduced to an absurdity as in the long run the state neither can impose its ideology the way it wants nor can it suppress its masses to obey them like a god. Thus it can be rightly called as totalitarian absurdity which is the primary lens of this scholarship.

Contribution of the Study

This study applies totalitarian absurdity as the primary lens for the analysis of the selected narratives. This research is eclectic in nature as it takes into consideration the comparative analysis of the texts which depict different lands and space of time and no single approach can be used to unfold the multiplicity of the nature of the topic. This research deals with despotic inclinations of the totalitarian rulers who aim to suppress the masses, to stop any kind of revolt to the possible level and in the long run the absurdity of these efforts as they prove to be ineffectual on practical grounds. The study contributes to the deeper understanding of the totalitarian governments which have played significant role in the history and their failure. Thus the contribution of the study is twofold; to highlight the horrific role of the totalistic government and secondly, its nothingness in the long run. Furthermore, it is a step towards the practical implications of totalitarian absurdity in real world. Orwell's *1984* and Aziz' *The Queue* both highlights the prime issue of totalitarian absurdity which has been pin pointed by this project.

Recommendation

This research has taken into consideration the similarities between the selected text keeping in view the similar political context of the states and texts. Hence, it is recommended for the future researchers to experiment with new social and political atmosphere from different perspective.

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