

# GEORGE ORWELL

(1903 - 1950)

## LIFE AND MAIN WORKS

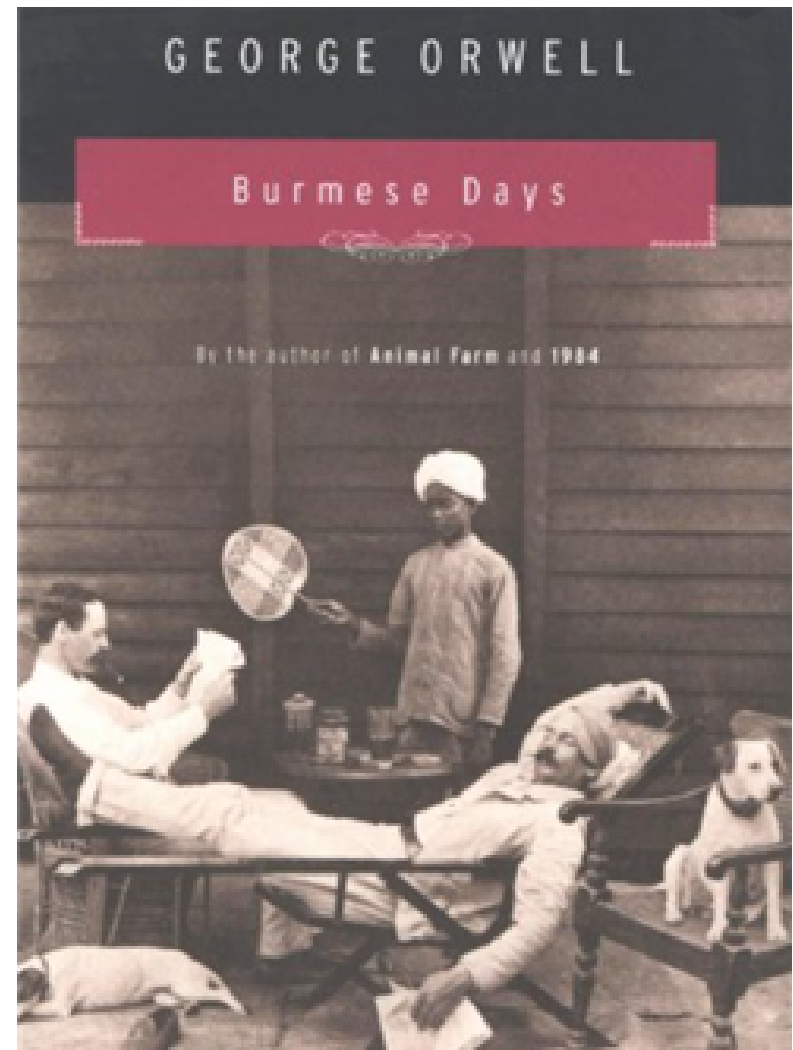
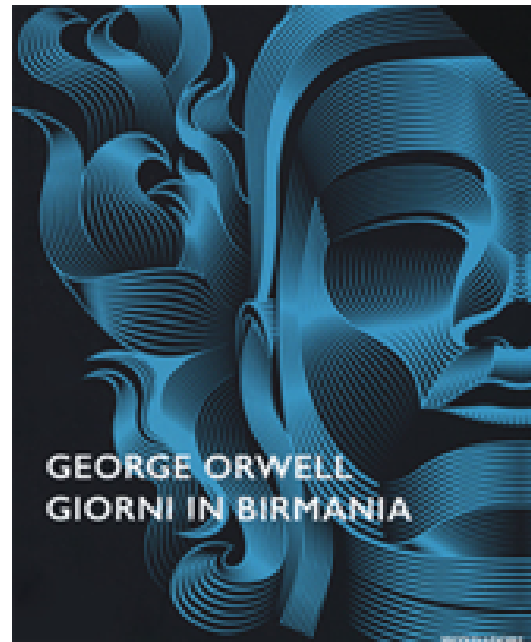
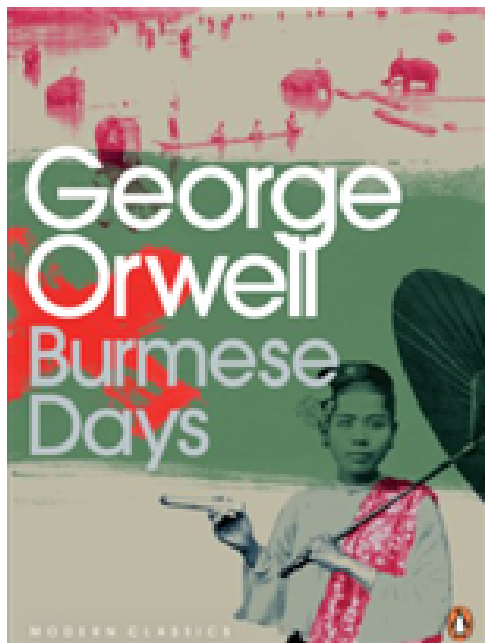


George Orwell (the pen name of Eric Arthur Blair) was born in Bengal in 1903, the son of a customs official.

He was brought to England and educated at Eton.

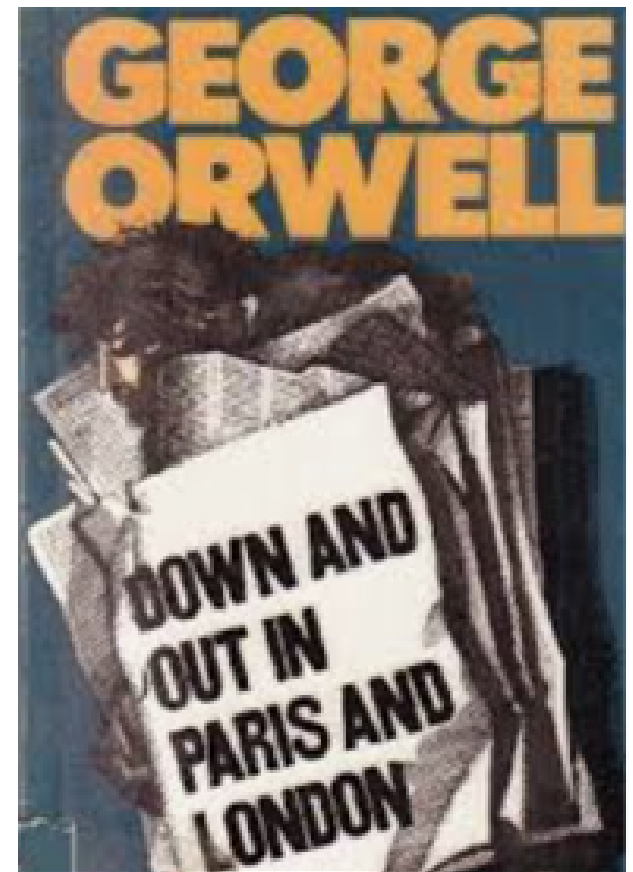
From 1922 to 1927 he served in Britain's imperial police force in India: he resigned on January 1st 1928 because of his hostility to imperialism.

This experience is reflected in his first novel, "*Burmese Days*" (1934), in which Orwell expresses his negative opinions about imperialism and colonialism.



He wanted to become a writer and returned to Europe. He took up a series of jobs to support himself while his work continued to be rejected by publishers.

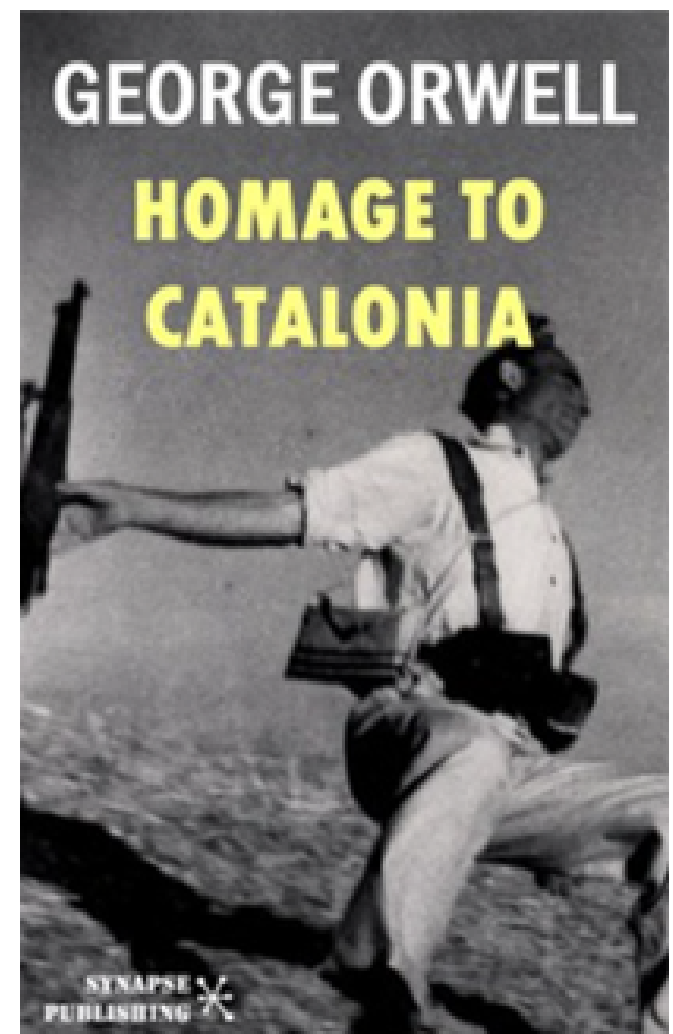
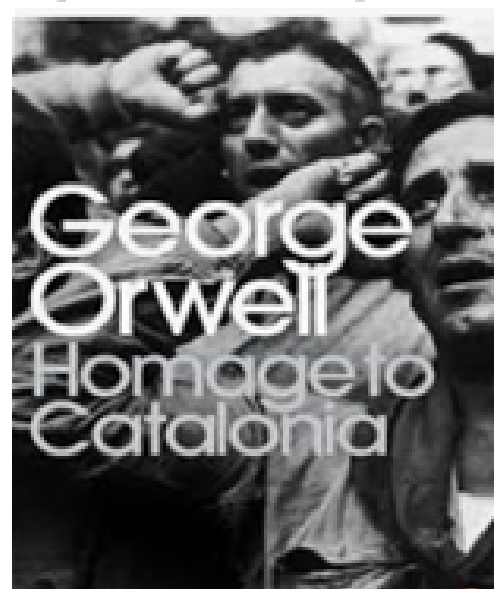
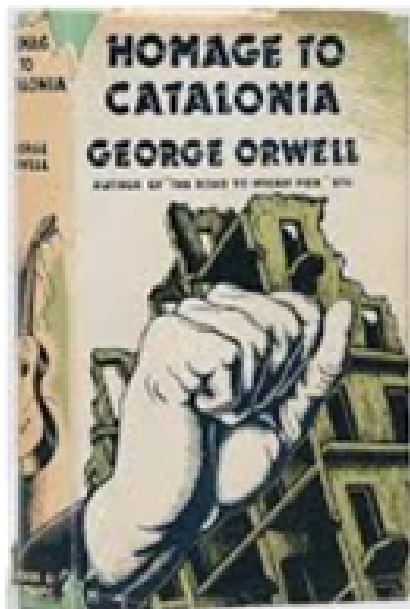
*"Down and Out in Paris and London"* (1933) describes the conditions of poverty Orwell lived in at this time.



In the following years he published both fiction and journalism.

Novels such as "*A Clergyman's Daughter*" (1935) and "*Keep the Aspidistra Flying*" (1936) reflected his socialist beliefs.

During the **Spanish Civil War** he fought for the Republicans against the Fascists led by General Franco: an experience which produced "*Homage to Catalonia*" (1937).



Even if Orwell continued to hold **socialist views**, during the war years he became disillusioned with Soviet communism under Stalin.

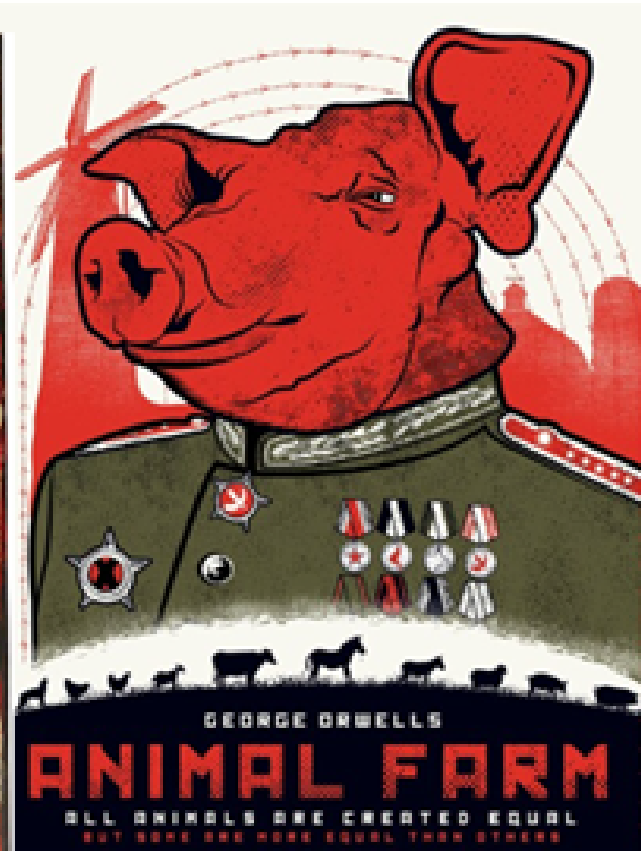
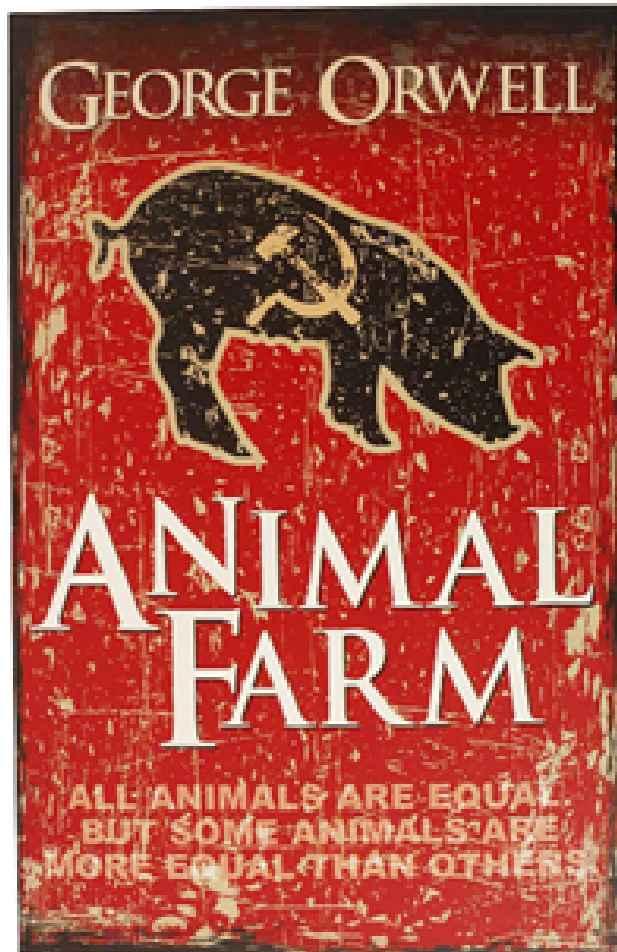


Orwell thought that Stalin had betrayed the aims of the Russian Revolution by transforming Russia into a totalitarian state.

In his opinion, Stalin was a dictator.



This was to form the subject of the satirical fable "*Animal Farm*" (1945).



*"Animal Farm"* tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy. Ultimately, however, the rebellion is betrayed and the farm ends up in a state as bad as it was before, under the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon.

According to Orwell, the fable reflects the events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.

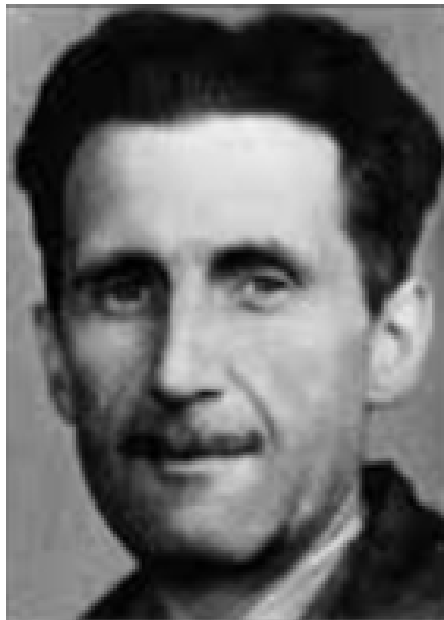


"*Animal Farm*" was followed in 1948 by the prophetic dystopian\* vision of "*Nineteen Eighty-Four*".



\***Dystopia:** an imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic.

George Orwell died in January 1950 of tuberculosis, at the age of 46.



During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.

(George Orwell)

