

## Newspeak and Doublethink from *1984* by George Orwell

How did the Party begin doublethink and thoughtcrime? Even the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages was tolerant by modern standards. Part of the reason for this was that in the past no government had the power to keep its citizens under constant surveillance. ... With the development of television, and the technical advance which made it possible to receive and transmit simultaneously on the same instrument, private life came to an end." When we went to war, the Party saw that, in the consciousness of being at war, and therefore in danger, makes the handing-over of all power to a small caste seem the natural, unavoidable condition of survival."

"They knew that if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed-if all records told the same tale-then the lie passed into history and became truth. 'Who controls the past' ran the Party slogan, 'controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.'"

"...you see, the whole aim of Newspeak and Doublethink is to narrow the range of thought.... Has it ever occurred to you, Winston, that by the year 2050, at the very latest, not a single human being will be alive who could understand such a conversation as we are having now?... The whole climate of thought will be different. In fact, there will be no thought, as we understand it now. Orthodoxy means not thinking-not needing to think. Orthodoxy is unconsciousness."