

Trials of Humiliation and Depression in George Orwell's Life and Novel *1984*

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George Orwell's famous novel *1984* (1949) has led to the coining of the word, "Orwellian" for anything gothic, repressive, or plain evil, especially governmental actions. Throughout much of his prolific and memorable work, just as throughout Orwell's personal history, feelings of utter despair and humiliation predominate. In terms of his biography, Orwell (his real name being Eric Blair) thought himself an outsider, unappreciated at home, in school, and later in politics. A contracting of tuberculosis plunged him further into himself, as that disease induces considerable depressive strain. This paper will illustrate the points in *1984* where Orwell ingeniously drew upon personal experiences, some that happened to him, others that did not, though he claimed that they did. By these means he created a disturbing distopia in which massive thought control and collective humiliation made all subjects the slaves of a master class.