

SYMBOLIC MEANINGS OF ANIMAL FARM

WHAT IS THE NOVEL BASED ON

- One of Orwell's goals in writing *Animal Farm* was to portray the Russian Revolution of 1917 as one that resulted in a government more totalitarian than the one it overthrew.
- Orwell formulated his ideas into *Animal Farm*, when he happened to see a village boy whipping a cart horse. He thought that if such animals became aware of their strength, men would have no power over them. Men exploit animals as the government in a totalitarian state exploits the common people.

CHARACTERS & EVENTS PARALLELLING THOSE OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

- Mr Jones = Tsar Nicholas II, the last Russian emperor, an autocratic ruler of the nation. During his reign, the Russians experienced terrible poverty.
- the animals' uprising = a series of strikes which led to the Bolshevik (Russian) Revolution, when Nicholas, like Jones, was removed from his place.

- Old Major = Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Revolution
- Old Major's principles of Animalism = Karl Marx's theory of Communism by which Lenin was inspired
- Animalism → all animals are equal and must revolt against their oppressors
- Communism → the “workers of the world” must unite against their economic oppressors
- Both Lenin and Major die before the end of the revolution.

- Major is responsible for transforming Manor Farm into Animal Farm → Lenin was responsible for changing Russia into the USSR (The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).
- the USSR's flag (a hammer & a sickle)
- = the flag of Animal Farm (a horn & hoof)



- Snowball = Leon Trotsky, one of Lenin's allies → They both felt a worldwide series of rebellions was necessary to achieve the revolution's aims. They were both intellectual characters who wanted to transform ideas into practice.
- Snowball is chased off of the farm by Napoleon. = Trotsky was exiled from the USSR and killed by the agents of Stalin.

- **Napoleon = Stalin**, who assumed complete control of the Communist Party through acts of terror. → They were both unconcerned with debates and ideas, but just valued power for their own sake.
- **Napoleon's dogs = Stalin's KGB**, secret police that he used to eliminate all opposition
- **Squealer** → a lot of **propaganda used by Stalin** to present himself as an idealist working for change.