

1984

Lesson #8

INFORMAL QUIZ

I. What is inside Winston's briefcase?

- a. His diary
- b. The book
- c. The paperweight
- d. A letter addressed to O'Brien

INFORMAL QUIZ

2. According to Goldstein's book, what are all of the three super-states ultimately fighting over?

- a. Control of the seas
- b. Natural resources
- c. A pocket of land where cheap labour is available
- d. To protect their way of life

INFORMAL QUIZ

3. What does Winston notice about the prole woman who is always singing while hanging out her laundry?

- a. That she must have many grandchildren
- b. That she has had a very hard life
- c. That she washes clothes for a living
- d. That she is beautiful

INFORMAL QUIZ

4. Without finishing the book, Winston realizes that Goldstein's final message must suggest that _____.

- a. Hope lies in the proles
- b. There is no hope
- c. All must rebel together
- d. Big Brother must be the first target

INFORMAL QUIZ

5. The iron voice heard in the room above Mr. Charrington's shop is coming from _____.

- a. Winston reading the book to Julia
- b. A hidden telescreen
- c. O'Brien
- d. The prole masses outside the window

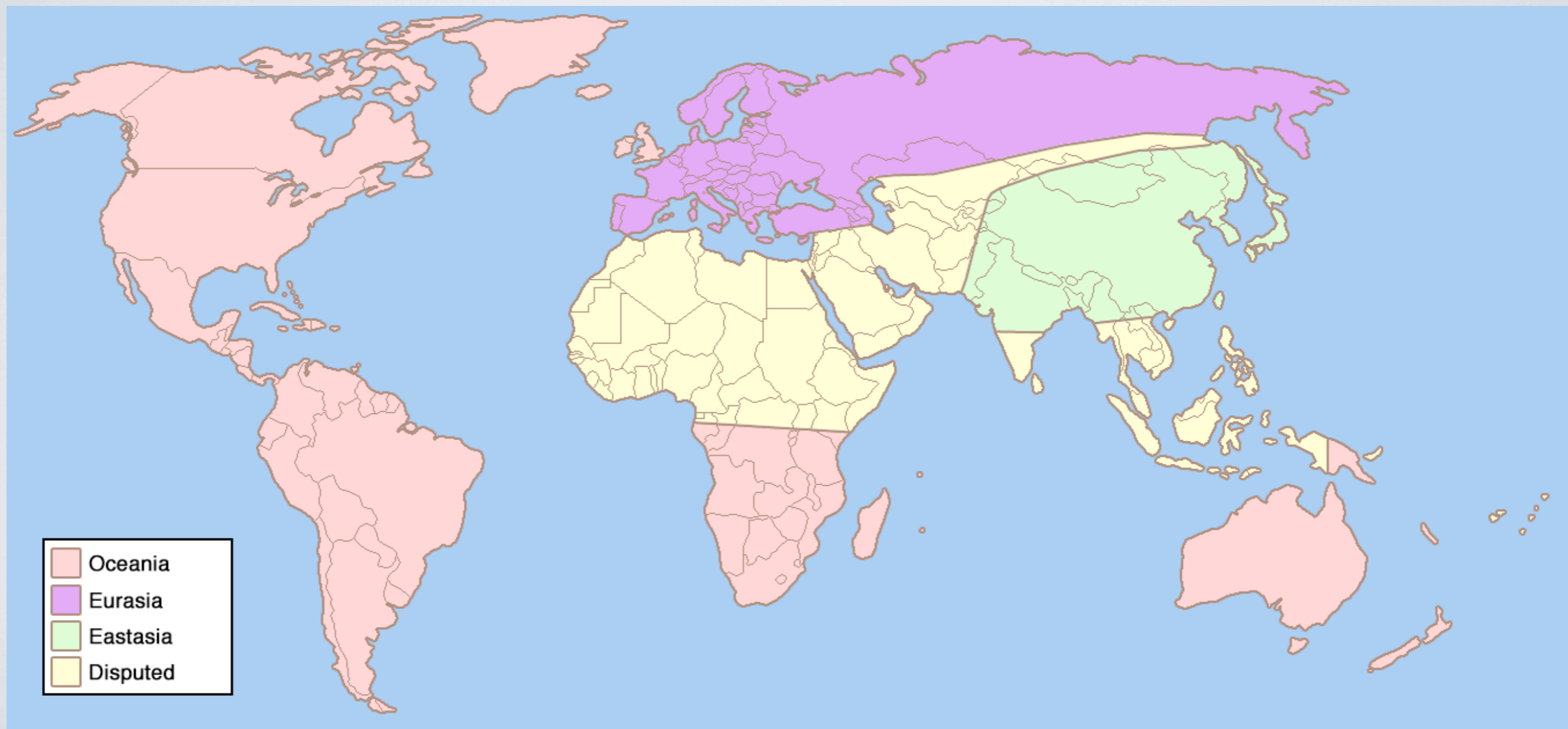
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do Winston and Julia's reactions to the content of Goldstein's book reflect their individual personalities?
- We previously discussed how the paperweight is a symbol of the "safe haven" that Winston and Julia have created in the room above Mr. Charrington's shop. What is the significance of the paperweight shattering at the end of Part II?

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **Winston is reading Goldstein's book** entitled *The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism*
 - Oligarchy: A small group of people having control of a country, organization or institution OR a state governed by such a group
 - Collectivism: The practice or principle of giving a group priority over each individual in it
- Then moves on to describe **how the three superstates came to be**

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW



CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- Three **superstates are permanently at war** and have been for the past 25 years:
 - Unable to destroy one another
 - No material cause for fighting
 - Not divided by any ideological difference (193)
- **Eurasia** is protected by its vast land spaces
- **Oceania** is protected by the width of the Atlantic and Pacific
- **Eastasia** is protected by the fecundity (quick reproduction rates) and industriousness of its inhabitants (194)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- Each state is so vast that it can **obtain all of the materials it needs within its own boundaries** (194)
- War over **cheap labour power** from the “disputed” territory, where a fifth of earth’s population can be found (194-5)
- **Even this labour is not necessary to the world’s economy** - everything they produce is used for purposes of war (196)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- The **progress of science & technology has halted** (because of war and the government controlling thoughts) - the world of 1984 actually more primitive (197)
- **War is intended to be destructive** - destroy those materials that would allow the masses to become too comfortable and thus too intelligent (198-9)
- Being constantly at war **“makes the handing-over of all power to a small caste seem the natural, unavoidable condition of survival”** (199-200)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **Two aims of the Party** (201):
 - To conquer the whole surface of the earth
 - To extinguish the possibility of independent thought
- Scientific research is based on studying in great detail “*the meaning of facial expressions, gestures and tones of voice, and testing the truth-producing effects of drugs, shock therapy, hypnosis and physical torture*” or building chemical weapons (201-2)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **Atomic bombs:** Hundreds had been dropped on industrial centres (Europe, Russia and North America). Ruling powers came to realize that dropping any more “*would mean the end of organized society, and hence of their own power*”. No formal agreement was made, but no more bombs were dropped. All three superstates continue to produce atomic bombs and store them, believing that a decisive opportunity to use them will come (202-3)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- None of the superstates “*ever attempts a manoeuvre which involves the risk of serious defeat*” (203)
- Some potential invasions do not occur because **all superstates want to preserve cultural integrity:**
 - E.g.: “*If Oceania were to conquer the areas that used once to be known as France and Germany, it would be necessary to either exterminate the inhabitants, a task of great physical difficulty, or to assimilate a population of about a hundred million people*” (204)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **The conditions of life in all three superstates are the same:**
 - Oceania = INGSOC (English Socialism)
 - Eurasia = Neo-Bolshevism
 - Eastasia = Death-Worship (205)
- **The three philosophies are largely the same and “the social systems that they support are not distinguishable at all”:**
 - Pyramidal structure
 - Worship of a semi-divine leader (like Big Brother)
 - Economy existing by and for continuous warfare

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **“Three kinds of people” throughout all of history** - the High (Big Brother & Inner Party), the Middle (Outer Party) and the Low (proles) (192, 209-10):
 - High want to remain where they are
 - Middle wants to change places with the High
 - Low (largely unaware) want to abolish distinctions of class
- Identified the cyclical pattern of upheaval and ideologies formed with the purpose of **arresting progress and freezing history at a chosen moment** (212)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- With progress in technology, **human equality** (removal of all class distinctions) **had become a possibility**, and those groups who were at the point of seizing power **realized that achieving human equality was no longer an ideal, but a danger to be averted** (212)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- Claims that all **totalitarian governments of the past failed because they could control action but not thought** (214):
 - Print and news media began to be used to manipulate the masses
 - Constant supervision was added

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- *“Big Brother is infallible and all-powerful. Every success, every achievement, every victory, every scientific discovery, all knowledge, all wisdom, all happiness, all virtue, are held to issue directly from his leadership and inspiration. Nobody has ever seen Big Brother. He is a face on the hoardings, a voice on the telescreen. We may be reasonably sure that he will never die, and there is already considerable uncertainty as to when he was born. Big Brother is the guise in which the Party chooses to exhibit itself to the world. His function is to act as a focusing point for love, fear and reverence, emotions which are more easily felt towards an individual than towards an organization.” (216-7)*

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- ***“Physical rebellion, or any preliminary move towards rebellion, is at present not possible”:***
 - The proles will continue to work, breed, and die without any impulse to rebel or the power to grasp that the world could be other than it is (219)
 - Party members have been (because of a constant fear of being accused of thoughtcrime) taught to behave as the Party expects them to almost instinctually (220)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **The alteration of past records is necessary for two reasons** (221-2):
 - So that Party members tolerate present-day conditions because they have no standards of comparison
 - To safeguard the infallibility of the Party (i.e.: in order for the masses to allow the Party to maintain all power, they must be certain that the Party is never wrong)
- Because the Party controls all records of the past and the minds of all of its members, it follows that **the past is whatever the Party chooses to make it** (222)

CHAPTER NINE REVIEW

- **Doublethink is at the centre of all of this.** It is what makes any of the Party's transgressions possible.