

Communism is a good form of government. After all, does it not make sense to expect more from the strong, and to provide more to the weak? Does not the Declaration of Independence stipulate “that all men are created equal?” Shouldn’t a country thus try to make this equality happen? And yet, as shown in George Orwell’s novel *Animal Farm*, Communism fails miserably as a form of government. In the novel a group of animals overthrow their master, Mr. Jones, and under the banner of a belief system called “Animalism” (which is obviously “Communism”) the animals attempt to create a Utopia where their lives will be very much improved over the way they were under Mr. Jones. Almost from the start things grow corrupt, and in the end life for all animals except the pigs is decidedly worse than under Mr. Jones. There are several key causes of the failure of Animalism, some having to do with the corruptive nature of power and some having to do with the weaknesses of human nature.

In the end, Animalism is an utter failure. Partly this is due to the fact that the pigs turn out to be greedy and selfish leaders. Also, the relative differences in intelligence give the pigs a massive advantage over the other animals in power. Furthermore, the non-pig animals possess no true leader to lead them against the forces of evil arrayed against them. Finally, it is simply human nature to accept suffering rather than put oneself at risk to cause change. Orwell's vision is a cautionary tale. Yes, it is true that he wrote his book to warn the world of the dangers of Communism, a political system very much on the rise in the middle of the 20th century. It would be a mistake, however, to discard the book as irrelevant in contemporary times simply because Communist governments are on the decline. Ultimately, Orwell is discussing power and its abuse. He is discussing the frailties of human nature that can lead to the acceptance of abuse. Who is to say that this sort of horrific vision of Utopia-gone-wrong could not happen in a country like the United States? Are not the leaders of any country susceptible to the corruptions of power? Are not all people everywhere the possessors of the same weaknesses of human nature that allow the

animals to be taken advantage of? People under any form of government must be on constant guard. All must possess a healthy skepticism about the actions of government. All must educate themselves about the world around them and be willing to take a risk to battle injustice. Those with special knowledge and insight cannot apathetically allow the injustice to snowball out of control. Otherwise, we could all end up like Boxer, hapless victims on the way to the glue factory.