In Chapter 9, Winston receives a copy of Goldstein’s book from O’Brien. This book explains how the world became as it is in 1984, the meaning and need of three basic Newspeak ideas as well as the meaning of the three party slogans. This handout offers a summary and explanation of the information presented in this “Book within the Book.”

**Oligarchy** means a government run entirely by a selective few.

**Collectivism** is the idea that the government is run collectively, meaning everyone has a role they must play in the system in order to make all equal and continue working properly.

**Oligarchical Collectivism** basically means a society where everyone is an essential part, though it is run by a very select few.

Winston begins re-reading Chapter 1, IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.

This section exams the basis of society as it is and has always been. There are three classes of people: the **High**, the **Middle** and the **Low**. In all areas of the world at all times, this has been true, BUT there is a problem therein. Invariably, each class has a goal.

- The High have a goal to continually stay as the high class and keep others below them.
- The Middle have a goal to eventually overrun the High and then take their place as the elite.
- The Low, if they ever have a goal above basic survival, is to create equality between classes.

The problem is always the same: The High want to stay high, the Middle want to eliminate the High and then become them (though they must use the masses of the Low to do this), and the Low always want people to be equal. It becomes an ongoing problem; the Middle revolt and achieve their goal, but the Low never truly rise and the new Middle feels the need to revolt. Despite wars and rebellions, nothing has ever happened to improve life for the Lower classes. The only thing that changes for them is the name of their masters. Thus, equality will never truly happen.

This knowledge of the impossibility of equality leads to the Low be led by religion or other ideas that explain suffering now for something perfect after death. This way, the Middle and High can control through the churches and never have to risk the Low becoming entirely discontent.

When humanity had finally reached the possibility of paradise through the use of technology, (easier workloads, improved health, more wealth, well fed, secure homes, etc.) to a point where everyone could actually be equal, it does not happen; because it eliminates the High and Middle privileges, something had to be done to ensure that this equality would not happen.

So, it took one final revolt of the Middle class who knew that they must then create a totalitarian world in order to make certain no one could ever rise against them. Who figured it out? Scientists, Politicians, Teachers, Journalists and Publicists. Why? Because they saw the previous downfalls and knew how to use thought and emotion to control people, and thus established the permanent government.
The advantage these people had over previous attempts at this sort of world was the addition of constant surveillance of all subjects and the ability to manipulate what people think. With these two advantages, they were able to break the cycle of power struggle.

To keep this position, the new elite also had to destroy individual aspiration. So, they adopted Oligarchical Collectivism. Keep all in control by small group, and destroy all possibility of individuals owning anything on their own. No one owns anything of importance, yet Oceania, as a whole, owns everything.

Furthermore, there are four ways a government can fail, yet the party has ensured that this will never happen. The only ways it can fail are: 1. Conquered from outside country. 2. The masses within are stirred to revolt. 3. The Middle class is allowed to rise and overthrow them. 4. The Government quits caring and loses faith in itself to control.

#1 can never happen, because the world is too equally divided for anyone to overrun another. Plus, there is no need to take over someone else, because it just creates more management problems.

#2 and 3 can never happen because the Middle and Low have nothing to compare their situations with. No record exists to say what life once was like, they can never see the Inner Party and they are kept ignorant and busy, so, they never see a point of rebelling.

#4 can never happen because the Inner Party does not let people be born into it. You must earn your way in. Even then, only one in a million is let in and that only at the age of 16. This way, no one becomes too lazy or too powerful to ever consider relinquishing control.

Thus, the party is eternal.

Sometimes, however, there is someone with the intellect that could possibly start a rebellion. In this case, they are vaporized. This, however, brings up an important idea. In order to make sure people can’t rebel, you must keep them under constant surveillance, and somehow be able to read their thoughts. So they must be watched, examined, and scrutinized to ensure that a thought criminal never rises.

Three essential Newspeak ideas: **Blackwhite, Crimestop, and Doublethink.**

**Crimestop** is the ability of cease thinking as soon as one’s mind takes a dangerous path. By dangerous here, we mean a thought that is against the Party’s teachings (thoughtcrime.)

**Blackwhite** is one of those Newspeak words that has contradictory meanings. When applied to foreigners, it is how they lie saying that black is white. When applied to comrades, it is the necessary ability to think (or to know) that black is white because the Party is always right despite the facts.

**Doublethink** means that a person automatically rewrites their memory, completely erasing what was previously known and remembering the new information in its place. They must even use doublethink when dealing with doublethink. Constant knowledge of contrary facts that make absolute sense. A continuous rewriting of knowledge without acknowledging that one is doing this.

All of this adds up to clarify the idea of IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH. If those in the party and the proles are unaware of the truth, they remain strong. If they stay strong and never waver, never try to revolt or rise, then the party is immortal and invincible.
Chapter 3 WAR IS PEACE

This chapter begins by describing how the world is divided into the Three Superstates: Eurasia, Eastasia, and Oceania. These three Superstates are constantly in conflict, though the enemy is always changing.

War is not as we know it. War is actually constantly ongoing for a new purpose. The focus of war is on constantly creating and destroying supplies and goods rather than completely destroying the lives of the enemy.

Why? Simple. The only real reason to keep war going is to keep society at an absolute standstill. There is no need to actually fight the other Superstates. They are all equally matched. They have all they need to survive, and taking over each other would create new problems. So, instead they keep up the belief that they are in war for several reasons.

1. It is important to keep the entire society in a mindset of war. If everybody has someone to hate, (such as Emmanuel Goldstein or the enemy army) then there are fewer internal struggles.

2. War ensures that the classes can never rise. This goes back to Ignorance is Strength. If all inhabitants are working on making artillery, food, and boots, which all go to the war effort, no one will ever accumulate more than anyone else, thus everyone is always in a state of poverty. If everyone is poor, there is nothing to rise to. So what happens to all the products made? They are burned, sunk into the ocean or otherwise destroyed. With constant work to be done and no possible gain for those in Oceania, life is constant and war is constant.

3. War is enacted upon the self. Each Superstate bombs itself in areas where it will not lose support or vital members of the party, and can therefore keep up the image of war.

Although war is nothing like war as we know it, there are still some purposes. Not only does war keep life at a standstill, but it also gives reason for science to exist. Science has two main purposes: figure out new weapons to kill several hundred thousand people in a few seconds, and, of course, how to find out what a person is thinking against their will. This helps the Party ensure eternal war, and moreover, pure loyalty to the party by sheer force.

Essentially, the world is the same throughout. All three Superstates have the same government, the same beliefs, and the same strategy of demonizing each other only to continue life as it is. Whether they use Ingsoc, Neo-Bolshivism, or Death Worship, the point is to work for the whole and sacrifice individual gain, thus creating harmony and essentially, peace through war.