**Slide 1:**

In this presentation we will be looking at the similarities between 1984 and Brave New World and totalitarian governments from 1910-1950, primarily Stalin’s Russia.

**Slide 2:**

So absolute was the oppression in Stalin’s Russia that he damaged many people not only physically, but mentally too. Here is a quote from esteemed Soviet poet Yevgenny Yevtushenko “I realize now that Stalin’s greatest crime was not the arrests and the shootings he ordered. His greatest crime was the destruction of the human spirit.”

This is very familiar when you look at the aim of the party when concerned with someone in Room 101. This was to break down the spirit of the supposed thought criminal and ultimately make them love Big Brother. When describing the horrors that will ensue, O’Brien says this of what will happen to Winston: “We shall crush you down to the point from which there is no coming back . Things will happen to you from which you could not recover, if you lived a thousand years. Never again will you be capable of ordinary human feeling. Everything will be dead inside you. Never again will you be capable of love, or friendship, or joy of living, or laughter, or curiosity, or courage, or integrity. You will be hollow. We shall squeeze new empty, and then we shall fill you with ourselves…"

**Slide 3:**

In Stalin’s reign, he implemented national economic development schemes that he called “5 year plans”. Just like most policies Stalin put into practise, he accompanied it’s introduction with an extensive propaganda campaign all across the country, that was centred in Moscow.

On just the second page of the novel, Orwell makes a clear nod to Stalin’s Five Year Plans when he writes “Behind Winston's back the voice from the telescreen was still babbling away about pig-iron and the overfulfilment of the Ninth Three-Year Plan.” This gives the reader an early indication of what Orwell has based his idea for “INGSOC” on.

**Slide 4:**

When in power, as part of the extensive propaganda for his aforementioned five year economic plans, Stalin used “2+2=5” as a slogan to accompany propaganda for the plans. This meant despite the plan obviously being advertised as one for completion in five years, that he believed it could be completed in four.

In 1984, 2+2=5 is a phrase initially used by Winston, when he ponders whether the Party might even state 2+2=5 as a fact as an example of their rule causing consensus reality. Consensus reality is where regardless of the reality or plausibility of the statement, if everyone perceives it to be correct, it is just accepted as the truth. O’Brien, the Inner Party interrogator of thought-criminals, says of the statement that control over physical reality is unimportant; so long as one controls their own perceptions to what the Party wills, then any corporeal act is possible.”

**Slide 5:**

Winston Smith's job in the Ministry of Truth is "revising history“. Here he creates “unpersons” by altering historical documents and images to remove all trace of their existence. This is based on the Stalinist habit of airbrushing images of 'fallen' people from group photographs and removing references to them in books and newspapers.

TOP PICTURE - The background of the original image includes a store that says in Russian, "Watches, gold and silver". The image was then changed to read, "Struggle for your rights", and a flag that was a solid colour before was changed to read, "Down with the monarchy - long live the Republic!“

BOTTOM PICTURE – This picture is a meeting of the St. Petersburg chapter of the Union of Struggle for the Liberation of the Working Class taken in February 1897. Shortly after the picture was taken the whole group was arrested. On the left Alexander Malchenko. After his arrest and execution he was airbrushed out of all reproductions of this image. In 1958 he was posthumously rehabilitated and was allowed to reappear in reproductions of the image.

**Slide 6:**

In Soviet Russia, Stalin employed the use of the NKVD, government law enforcers charged with directly executing the rule of power of the All Union Communist Party. The NKVD arrested people for random “anti-communist” remarks. Belarusian journalist Eugene Lyons writes this of his experiences of the NKVD: "One need not be guilty of an overt act to have his house searched; himself stuck away in a foul cell, his family terrorized. An anonymous denunciation by someone who coveted his room or his job might do it, or the fact that he had been seen playing chess with someone else who was denounced.”

The NKVD is what Orwell based 1984’s “Thought-Police” on, whose job it was to punish perpetrators of “Thought Crime” (which is the criminal act of holding unspoken beliefs or doubts that oppose or question the party.) The omniscient oppression of this organisation is summarized in this quotation from the book "There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized."

**Slide 7:**

All of the character’s names in Brave New World are tributes to real world figures, and many of these are figures integral to the history of 20th century totalitarianism.

Bernard Marx – Karl Marx, co-author of communist manifesto.

Sarojini Engels - Friedrich Engels, co-author of communist manifesto.

Lenina Crowne - Vladimir Lenin, Bolshevik leader during the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Polly Trotsky - Leon Trotsky, another leader during the Russian Revolution.

Benito Hoover - Benito Mussolini, Italian fascist dictator.

Primo Mellon -  Miguel Primo de Rivera, Spanish dictator.

**Slide 8:**

Due to the severity of the oppression and the powers possessed by the leaders of the World State, there are no real world instances of anything nearly as extreme as the society from Brave New World actually happening as Brave New World imagined a fictional future in which free will and individuality have been sacrificed in deference to complete social stability. So instead we’ve looked at comparisons between 1984 and Brave New World.

The roles of the police are subverted from 1984 to Brave New World, in Brave New World they seem to genuinely care and (albeit through the use of gas) encourage peace! This is a stark contrast when you compare this to the brutality of the raid on Winston’s love nest in 1984, where at one point “”One of the men had smashed his fist into Julia’s solar plexus”

1984 presents the rather more conventional vision of a totalitarian state, in which the government maintains power through surveillance, information control, and torture. Brave New World, in contrast, argues that the most powerful totalitarian state would be one that doesn't overwhelm and frighten its citizens, but instead manages to convince its citizens to love their slavery.

In Brave New World sex is encouraged from a very early age and is treated as the norm. People have no shame speaking publically about their sexual experiences and those who aren’t very sexually active are thought of as social outcasts. This is another contrast to 1984, as in a society where everything is highly regulated by the Inner Party, an organization called the Anti-Sex League is allowed. This pushes for complete celibacy, envisioning a day when all children are the result of artificial insemination (which is what is reality in 1984). The Party's neurologists work on abolishing the orgasm, allowing Party member's minds to be free to focus solely on their loyalty to The Party. Once more this contrasts to Orwell’s work, where Soma fuelled mass orgasms are encouraged and are seen as the norm.