

Animal pigs were
vastly superior to the
rest



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Animal Farm by George Orwell is about how those who possess power crave to amass even greater power. This is because power results in corruption, power is possessed by those who have something of crucial value to their society's social order, and power within any dictatorship cannot be divided without detrimental consequences in the long term.

It is evident that this is applicable to the character of 'Comrade' Napoleon the pig in the book Animal Farm. The book tells a story of farm animals rebelling against a lazy, drunken farmer named Mr. Jones. The animals felt that they would receive more food and lead happier lives if they were themselves running the farm. They establish a democracy, run by the pigs. Napoleon, one of the main pigs, becomes power hungry and takes control of the farm. He converts it into a pig-run dictatorship. Power results in the corruption of those who possess it.

At the beginning of Animal Farm, Napoleon wants to "Increase food production" (Orwell 20) (instead of focusing on building the windmill) to keep the animals from starving to death. This is more to benefit the animals than Napoleon, so it is a benevolent act. But, by the very next page, he lusts to possess all the authority for himself. So he runs Snowball off the farm (even though Snowball had vastly more popularity and intelligence) and the Sunday meetings (Which until that point, had been where the animals democratically voted on the changes proposed by the pigs) were ended. Napoleon got most of this power for himself, but the rest of the pigs were powerful as well. Napoleon even bans the singing of Beasts of England; the song of the Rebellion (most likely to prevent the animals from realizing that they were still being oppressed and starting another rebellion). Later,

Napoleon bends the seven commandments, the core principles of Animal Farm, to his desires, as on page twenty five when he initiates negotiations of commerce with the humans. By the tenth chapter of Animal Farm, he gets rid of all of the commandments except the seventh commandment ("All animals are equal"), which he modified ("All animals are equal, but some animals are equal") (51-52).

He even changed the traditional maxim ("four legs good, two legs bad") to show that the pigs were vastly superior to the rest of the animals ("four legs good, two legs better"). Also, he instigated this maxim by torturing the sheep (with a whip) until they were bleating only the newer maxim. This shows how corrupt Napoleon becomes once he has no competition for power. Those who possess something of value are also those who possess the power. This is shown on page fourteen when Squealer, a younger pig, is convincing the animals that, if the pigs weren't there to lead them, "Jones would come back.

"The animals believe this argument because, if Mr. Jones came back, the society of Animal Farm would collapse. This is the pigs' explanation as to why they receive more of the rations (specifically the apples, the milk, and the alcohol), the power, and better sleeping quarters (the pigs lived inside the farm house and slept in Carter's beds), and also why the rest of the animals are receiving lower rations than when Mr. Jones was running the farm. The thing they possess that no other animal on the farm has is a vastly superior intelligence, as shown on page nine when they are the first of the animals to learn to read and write (from some old textbooks previously owned by the Jones children). This is important to the survival of the farm because they are the ones who are the military leaders as well. In any

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dictatorship, the splitting of the power never produces positive results. This is revealed in the book, starting when Napoleon can't agree with Snowball on even the simplest of matters (19).

He later urinates all over Snowball's windmill design (that Snowball had spent days methodically drawing and planning out) in an envious act of jealousy. When the time comes for the animals to decide on whether or not to begin construction of the windmill, Napoleon orders all nine of his dogs (whom he had brainwashed and trained since they were puppies into being his loyal bodyguards and enforcers) to run Snowball off the farm. He then tarnishes Snowball's noble reputation as a leader and as a war hero in the Battle of the Cowshed.

He declares that, either Snowball is a traitorous coward who had formed an alliance with the humans from the very beginning or, he was being forced to work for the humans from the very beginning to recapture the farm from the animals. This makes farm life miserable for the animals. Those who possess power will go to extravagant lengths to obtain even greater sums of power; even becoming extremely corrupt, using something as political leverage to maintain their power, or eliminating another individual who possesses power as well. This is what leads Animal Farm to turn into an absolute monarchy under the drunken, tyrannical dictatorship of 'Comrade Napoleon' (or, as he insists on calling it, Manor Farm; which is its 'proper' name).

And so, the farm came full circle, once again being ruled by a drunken ruler who fed his workers very little and treated them as slaves. The oppressed had become the oppressors