Totalitarianism For Dummies: Create Your Own Totalitarian State

Overview: You will be constructing a small "book" titled Totalitarianism For Dummies. In this book you will both detail the elements of a totalitarian society and apply these elements to a fictitious totalitarian regime that your group imagines.

Procedure/Steps

1. Form a group. You must have 2 to 3 members in your group.

2. Review your notes and discuss the elements of totalitarianism with your group. Collectively you will need to decide on the name of a fictitious nation ruled by a totalitarian government. Your group must brainstorm how the elements of totalitarianism would work inside of your nation. You are limited by both your imagination and taste levels deemed appropriate by Ms. Duprey. The goal is to have a fairly complete vision that you could express to others. You can go into the future or be in the present, but you may not go back in time.

3. Complete the "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet as a group that will act as the first chapter of the "book" that you will be assembling. These questions will help your group have a collective understanding of the basis of your nation. Keep in mind that while you can change this response later it must not contradict any ideas you claim later on. For example, if you say you are a small island country in the FAQ and later go on to talk about the two billion people living on large plots of arctic tundra we will have a problem.

4. As a group you must produce a book that has a cover and eight pages. Seven of the eight pages will detail how each of the seven elements of totalitarian government works and how it applies to your nation. The eight page will be a map of your nation that is consistent with your FAQ responses and your other pages. Each of the pages will be completed following the attached template.

5. EACH template page will be completed according to the following specifications:
   - A large clear heading stating your PIEFOIL element
   - A ~2 paragraph response (total) to the PIEFOIL element follow-up questions (see questions that follow these bullet points on the back side of this sheet
   - 2 image that relate to the summary of your PIEFOIL element follow-up questions
   - Captions that explain the connection between each image and the PIEFOIL element follow-up questions
   - The name of the author of the page written at the bottom
PIEFOIL Follow-Up Questions:

P- What forms of propaganda exist in your state? Who creates the propaganda and how is it distributed? Who/what is the subject matter of the propaganda and who is the intended audience?

I- What values and beliefs are promoted by your regime? What are the origins of these values and beliefs? How do these values and beliefs support your regime? How are these ideas communicated to the people ruled by your state?

E- What sort of education system would best serve your regime? (Mandatory, voluntary, open to everyone, open to elite?) Given the importance of education and its potential danger, who oversees the education system and makes sure it is working as intended?

F- What is the role of the police or military in your society? How are they monitored and who runs them? How are the people "kept in line", particularly artists, writers, teachers and other typical trouble makers?

O- Who are the people who are opposed to the regime? Why are they opposed? What methods are used by this opposition to subvert your authority? How do you ensure the opposition is suppressed?

I- What impact does the totalitarian rule have on the identity of individuals within the state? Think of different ethnic groups, religious groups and social deviants. To what extent does the totalitarian regime alter the individual's sense of self? What purpose does this serve?

L- How did the leadership of your state consolidate power? To what degree is there a cult of personality surrounding your leader?

6. You will be presenting your totalitarian regime to the class. Each group member is expected to explain his or her work loudly and clearly to the class. A small "question and answer" period will follow the presentations to answer clarifying questions from both the class and instructor.