

1984 Chapter 9 Discussion

***The Theory and Practice of
Oligarchical Collectivism***

Chapter 3: War is Peace

Summary

- Winston begins reading Goldstein's book with Julia while in their secret hideout
- All members of the Brotherhood must read the book to understand what they oppose
- The chapter explains the slogan "War is Peace"

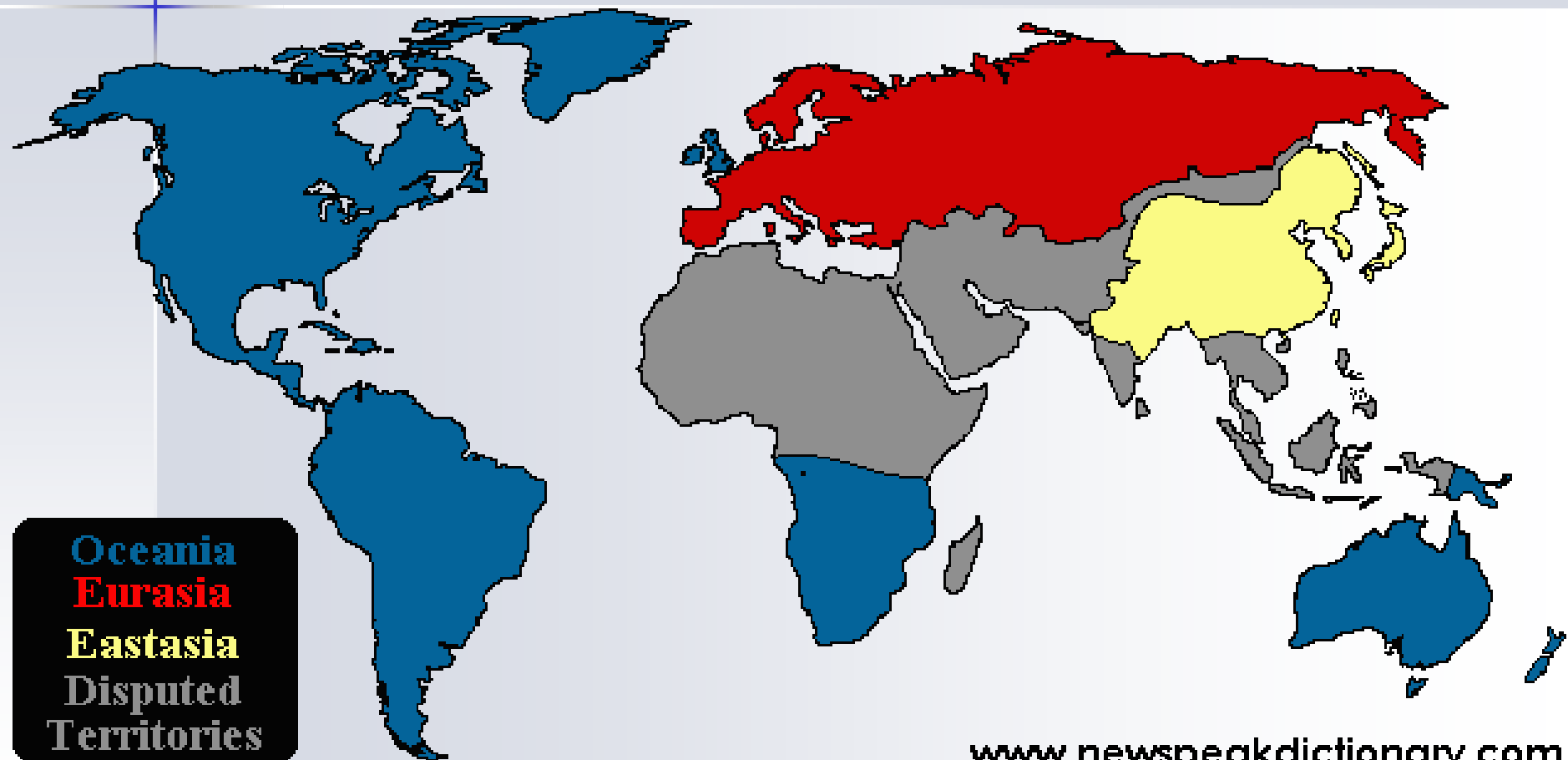
Chapter 3 – War is Peace

- In one combination or another, these three superstates are permanently at war, and have been so for the past 25 years
- 1. **It is a warfare of limited aims between combatants who are**
- 2. **Unable to destroy one another,**
- 3. **Have no material cause for fighting,**
- 4. **Are not divided by any genuine ideological difference**

Chapter 3 – War is Peace

- The war involves very small numbers of people, mostly highly trained specialists, and causes comparatively few casualties
- **None of the three super-states can be conquered even by the other two in combination**
 1. **they are too evenly matched**
 2. **their natural defenses are too formidable**

1984 Map



Key Quote + Question

- “From the moment the machine made its first appearance it was clear to all thinking people that the need for human drudgery, and therefore to a great extent for human inequity had disappeared. **If the machine were deliberately used for that end, hunger, overwork, dirt, illiteracy, and disease could be eliminated within a few generations”** (Orwell 197).
- **WHAT IS THE MACHINE?**

Key Quote + Question

- **"If leisure and security were enjoyed by all alike, the great mass of human beings who are normally stupefied by poverty would become literate and would learn to think for themselves" (198).**
- **We seem to have leisure and security in North America. How are we using that leisure time? Are we learning to think for ourselves?**

Key Quotes + Question

- **“Being at war, and therefore in danger, makes the handing-over of all power to a small caste seem the natural, unavoidable condition of survival” (199-200).**
- **Where have we seen this happen in modern society? Why do people behave in such a way?**

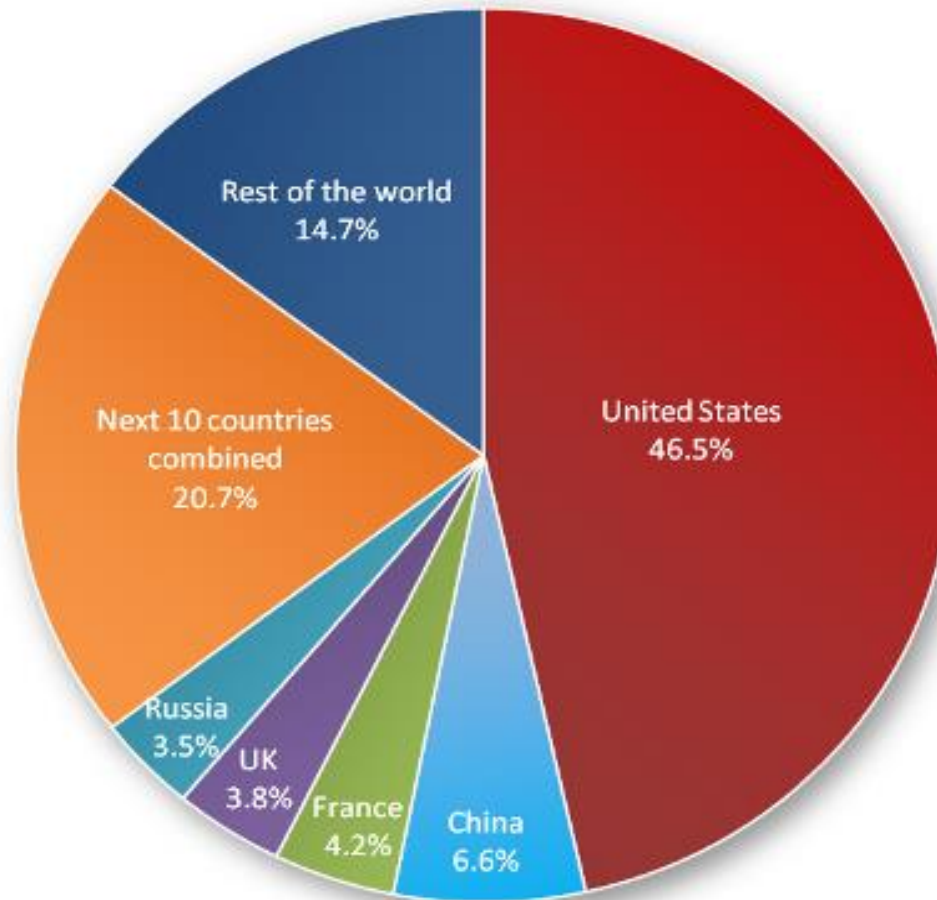
Key Quote and Real World Connection

- **What is more important to you, personal freedoms or security? Why?**

Key Quotes + Question

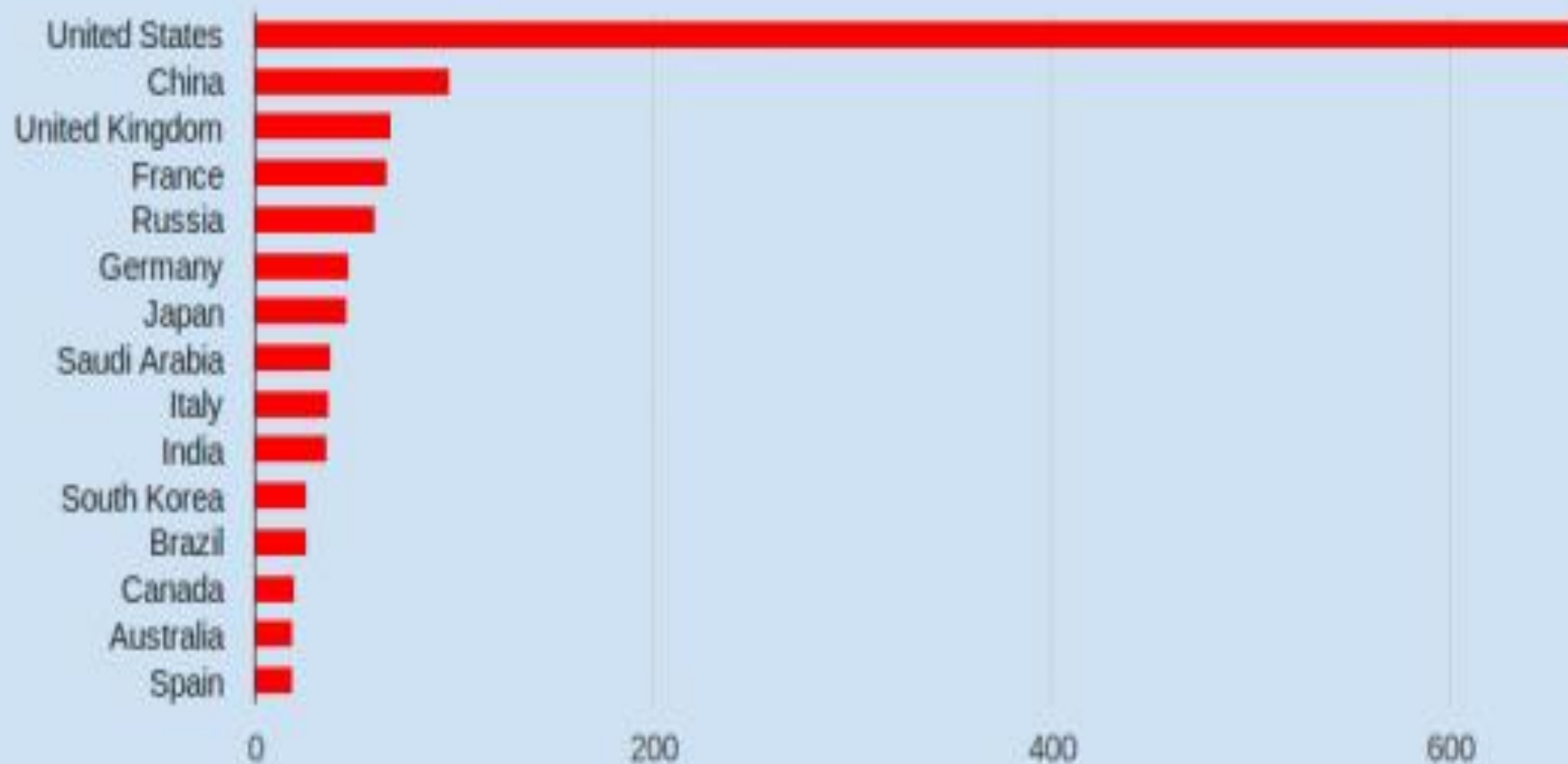
- **"Citizens have no contact with foreigners because they would realize that they are all similar and have been told lies" (204).**
- **Besides discovering they've been lied to, how else might this affect the citizens?**

Global Distribution of Military Expenditure in 2009



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook 2010,
(US figures from Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, May 2010)

2009 Defense Spending



Billions of Dollars

Key Quote and Text-to-world Connection

"The plan is, by a combination of fighting, bargaining, and well-timed strokes of treachery, to **acquire a ring of bases completely encircling** one or other of the rival states, and then to sign a pact of friendship with that rival and remain on peaceful terms for so many years as to lull suspicion to sleep. During this time rockets loaded with atomic bombs can be assembled at all the strategic spots; finally they will all be fired simultaneously, with effects so devastating as to make retaliation impossible." P. 195

Theme Connection

- Purpose of war
- “The Plan”
- General Wesley Clark reveals the US plan to invade and take over 7 countries



Each star indicates a US military base in the middle east

Summary

- The 3 super-states are continuously fighting a war that none can win
- They just want to use up their country's goods, rather than distribute the products of their labor to their citizens
- They are creating artificial scarcity through war to keep the masses on the brink of hardship

Summary

- “War is a way of shattering to pieces, or pouring into the stratosphere, or sinking in the depths of the sea, **materials which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable, and hence, in the long run, too intelligent**” (198-99).

Summary + Question

- Winston learns that the real war is being waged against the masses by their own government (oligarchy—the few who rule)
- **Why do you think this is? Why keep the people in fearful poverty?**

Chapter 3 – War is Peace

- *War* provides the **economic** and **psychological** basis for maintaining the system because
- The Party also needs members whose prevailing moods are **fear, hatred, adulation, and triumph**

Summary

Key Quote + Question

- **"The war is waged by each ruling group against its own subjects and the object of war is not to make or prevent conquests of territory, but to keep the structure of society in tact" (207).**
- This is the meaning of "War is Peace"
How does this equal "peace"?

**War is
"peace"
insomuch
as it creates
stability for
the
hierarchy.**

