*1984*, Book II, Chapter 9 – Goldstein’s Book

Based on Leon Trotsky’s 1936 book, The Revolution Betrayed.

**Defines the Three Superpowers – Oceania, Eastasia, Eurasia**

Oceania – philosophy is Ingsoc

Eastasia – philosophy is Death Worship or Obliteration of Self

Eurasia – philosophy is Neo-Bolshevism

* essentially equal as nations in size, strength, ideology, and social systems
* citizens are taught to hate the other superpowers although they are very similar
* permanently at war – no one nation is strong enough to win
* fighting over a region that has abundant cheap labor
* warfare is technical – involving very few people

**Purpose of War**

* + Emotional: Gives citizens (party members) an outlet for their energy, a source of unity
  + Economic: to use up surplus consumer goods, therefore, keeping the standard of living low

**Why use up consumer goods?**

* + With the industrial revolution, goods could be produced without human drudgery
  + The classes would begin to equalize and people would have time to become more educated
  + This was seen as dangerous by the upper echelon, therefore, war keeps everyone in their place

**Atomic Weapons**

- “All three powers merely continue to produce atomic bombs and store them

up against the decisive opportunity which they all believe will come sooner

or later. And meanwhile the art of war has remained almost stationary for

thirty or forty years” (195).

- Brilliant, Orwell anticipated the Cold War. He also anticipated the

strategy used by the U.S. and the USSR to contain/destroy one

another. See middle of page 195.

**Re-cap on p. 199**

- War “eats up the surplus of consumable goods, and it helps to preserve the special mental

atmosphere that a hierarchical society needs . . . The war is waged by each ruling group against its

own subjects, and the object of the war is not to make or prevent conquests of territory, but to keep the structure of society intact . . . WAR IS PEACE.”

**Orwell’s purpose for including this section in the book**

- Orwell was a socialist. In this section he criticizes the actions of Totalitarian / Communist

governments like the USSR and China and Capitalists systems like the U.S. and Great Britain.