

Concepts and Thought Control

ONE HELD VIEW

Without concepts there can be no reasoned thought, so our ability to think is intimately related to our language vocabulary. Those with a good vocabulary will have a greater ability think generally and, more importantly, they can better think politically. Reducing a person's vocabulary though time diminishes this ability.

"Newspeak," from George Orwell's 1949 novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a good example. The language manual for the novel's fictional totalitarian government, Oceania, aims to gradually eliminate all politically charged words from the vocabulary of its "citizens." They are forbidden by law to utter, read, or print them; they are forbidden to commit "thoughtcrime". Over time and generations, more and more will be those who have never heard or read them, and their political thinking, as a result, will have been significantly diminished if not eliminated. Oceania has convinced its citizens that "war is peace" and "slavery is freedom" and "hate is love" and "2+2=5". Government leaders and officials can exercise any tyranny they want.

What about our present real world? "Gaslighting" is a politicized word. It originates from the 1946 film of the same name where a husband manipulates his wife into doubting and sometimes denying the truth of her life. What better word to name what politicians, government leaders, and government officials now regularly practice. By reducing and eliminating the ability to reason, current real governments can convince citizens that, for example, intolerance is tolerance or inequity is fairness or math is racist.

Our current world is being "reset."

