

The Evolution of Dystopian Literature

How does Dystopian Literature relate to our society and how has it changed over the years?

The Rise of Dystopian Literature:

- Began early 20th century
- Countered “utopias” written in centuries prior- Thomas More
- Breakouts of WWI and II led to a less idealistic society
- *1984*, *Brave New World*, and *We*
- Emergence of Alternative Histories- *The Man in the High Castle*, *Bring the Jubilee*

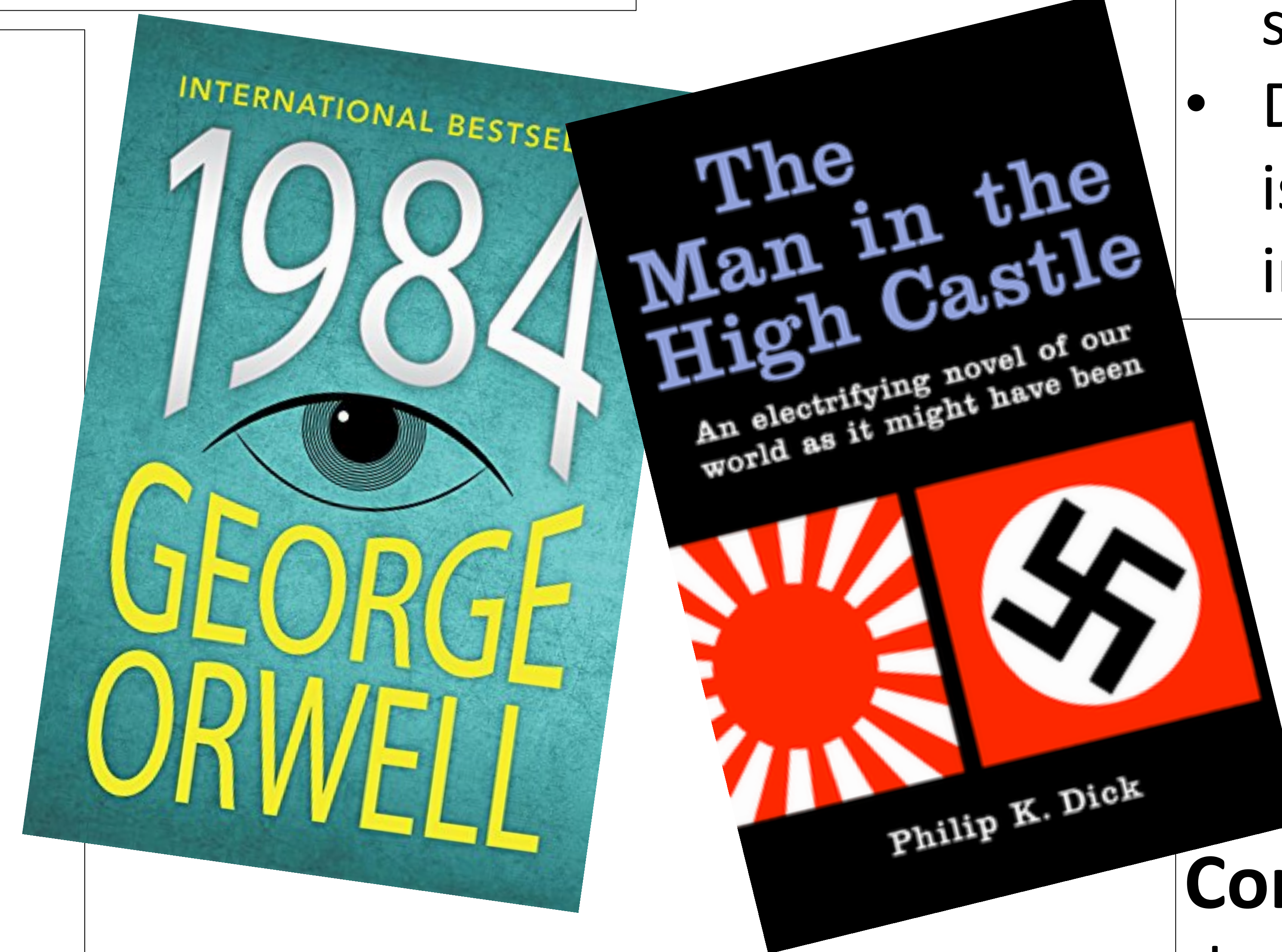


Modern Dystopian Literature:

- Post 9/11 society- emergence of Young Adult Dystopian fiction
- *The Hunger Games*
- *Uglies*
- Feature young adult protagonists who are able to outsmart political regimes that suppress them
- Dystopian novels are “reflections of the issues that were important to the period in which their authors lived” (Sargent 21).

The Classics:

- *1984*
- Infiltrative Technologies (telescreens, microphones etc.)
- Edward Snowden
- Thoughtcrime
- Newspeak
- Rise of social media platforms use limited word counts
- *The Man in the High Castle*
- *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*
- banned books
- Moral ambiguity- Tagomi and Baynes
- Question of “right” and “wrong”
- Tension between Reich and Japanese Empire
- parallel Cold War



Conclusion: Dystopian fiction represents the fears and issues of a society during a specific time period. Many works, such as *1984* and *The Man in the High Castle* still relate to current political and social issues today. In recent years, Young Adult dystopian fiction has become increasingly popular, but may not have the same lasting effects on society that other dystopian works have.