1984

1984 is a book published in 1949. Funnily enough it has it has its own movie, which came out in 1984. I've read the book and in this essay I will tell you what I think about it.

The book starts with the sentence: “It was a cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen”. This immediately shows that wherever the story takes place is a strange place because normally clocks don't strike more than twelve times. The society in the story entails more weird things, like how people must love their leader although nobody has ever seen him.

The book gives a lot of details about the society, therefore it is very long which, for me, made it boring to read a lot of the time. Nothing interesting happens for most of the book, and when it finally could get interesting, the protagonist gets arrested and it doesn't take long from there on for the story to end. I think this is because the story wasn't written for amusement but as a warning for future societies.

But still, it is very clear that the society being outlined in the book is a reference to the USSR. And since it's 300 words and most of those pages are just for explaining how terrible the society is, it's just a 300 pages long rant on the USSR. I think this book does a very poor job at criticizing the USSR because it makes assumptions on how it would grow over time. The book states that the USSR will never be anything than Stalinism regarding politics since it told that “Big Brother” (Stalin) was never seen and even could be dead without anyone knowing. Assumptions don't belong in a criticizing pamphlet. And as a warning what purpose does it have? It was obvious from the start that people in the USSR couldn't even read it so it's just a cynical hate speech which helped burying the possibility of seriously discussing communist ideas.

My point is that if you'd wish to read 1984, I recommend reading biographies of Stalin and other books about the USSR. You could also watch the movies The Death of Stalin and Trotsky (mini-series from 2017). You can also read the book Animal Farm but that book too is more a rant than actual informative.