Righteous Orthodoxy

from the FEE, Foundation for Economic Education, Be Wary of the Orwellian "Enlightened" Class by Robin Koerner

> *He understood that the morality of a political ideology in practice cannot be determined from its theoretical exposition – but only from the actual experiences of those who would be affected by its real-world application.*
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> *To make the point to the people he felt most needed to hear it, Orwell, a self-identified socialist, called out the arrogance of his friends on the Left who experienced themselves as so "enlightened," to use his word, that they did not need to consider the sentiments – let alone ideas – of those who were to them clearly politically ignorant.*
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> *Orwell had a name for this kind of self-righteous certainty – and it wasn't fascism, capitalism, or communism. It was "orthodoxy," which he explains in 1984, "means not thinking—not needing to think. Orthodoxy is unconsciousness." It is a state exhibited by people who already know they have the right answers – at least in the areas that matter.*
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> *There is no political system so perfect that it will not be deadly when imposed against the will of others by people sure of their own righteousness. Orwell saw that no political theory – even the egalitarian socialism that he believed to be the most moral – can prevent its adherents from being anything other than tyrants if they are committed to it in a way that is immune to the protests and experiences of other people.*
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> *In other words, tyranny is not the result of a belief in a bad political theory; it is the result of a bad belief in a political theory – and that is an entirely different thing.*