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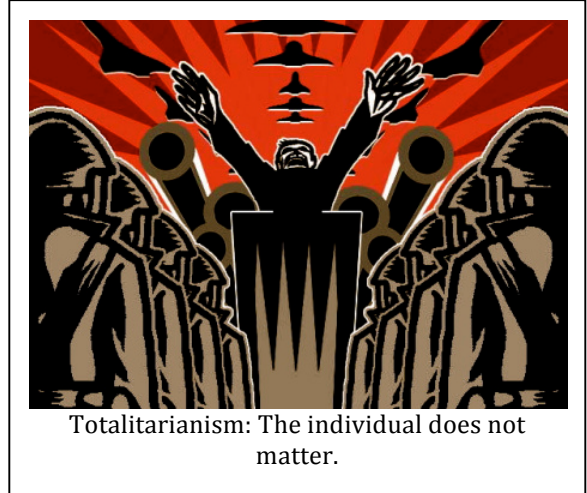
Twilight Zone Introduction to the Cold War

Twilight Zone – “The Obsolete Man”

<https://vimeo.com/227574480>

Synopsis

In a future totalitarian state, Romney Wordsworth is a man put on trial for the crime of being "obsolete." His occupation as a librarian is a crime punishable by death, as the State has eliminated literacy. He also believes in God, also punishable by death, as the State has declared that there are no Gods. He is prosecuted by the Chancellor, who announces in front of the assembled court that Wordsworth, in not being an asset to the State, shall be executed.



Part I: DURING THE VIDEO: As you watch the episode, take note of the following:

- Totalitarianism (a government that has total control over its citizens)
- Euthanasia (the act of killing someone in a relatively painless way)
- Limiting Free Will (thought, speech)
- Religion
- Careers

Part II: AFTER THE VIDEO

After the video, compare the totalitarian state as seen in “The Obsolete Man” to what you previously learned about Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime, 1933-1945. Consider the following:

- What do you remember about our discussions about the rise of totalitarian states such as Nazi Germany and Communist Russia during World War II (and North Korea after WWII)?
- Can you recall what it would have been like to live in this type of totalitarian society?
- How are religion, free speech limitations, and valued careers depicted in this episode? And how does this pertain to life in Nazi Germany?

What a response to these questions in your notebook.