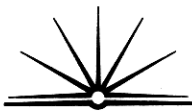




When I used to think Adolf Hitler, World War II and the Jewish holocaust I always felt sad but somehow vaguely hollow. There was always a suppressed emptiness like I was forcing myself to care. How can one feel for a number of ~~do~~ bodies on a page in a book. The film *Life is Beautiful* severely changed my perspective and ~~a~~ opinions on this unique, grotesque and inhumane chapter of our planet's history.

In this piece of writing I will attempt to explain why my own perspective of this tragedy which to casual observer would appear I don't care about or have a callous, chilling indifference towards. Also I will describe two other such instances that I feel make my point. firstly ~~a~~ I will discuss George Orwell's political satire masterpiece *Animal Farm* which gives a unique and unbiased view of the Russian revolution and its leaders. ~~and~~ secondly I will make reference too the Beatles



anthology and their experience with drugs and the queen.

Firstly in Roberto Benigni's masterpiece "Life is Beautiful"<sup>91</sup> the responder is given a light hearted and unrealistic picture of the holocaust, which although unrealistic has showed clearer than any other text on the subject a heartfelt and compassionate ~~and~~ ode to the victims of the holocaust. To the casual observer it is clear that the holocaust was a cruel and inhumane act of attrition that could never again be brought into action. Whereas "Life is Beautiful" in a sense glosses over the attritions of war to present to the viewer a clearer more adequate picture of the suffering of the Jewish prisoners. In my personal opinion Benigni's character ~~guid~~ Guido, who's never tiring attempts at creating an innocent masquerade for the benefit of his young son Joshua convey the desperation and utter hopelessness far more accurately and personally than any pile of rotting

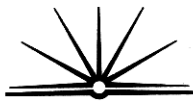
corpses found in history books across the world. One scene in particular, Dora going through the clothes of ~~dead~~ children in desperate search of Joshua's garments. This scene displays the desperation and disregard for personal safety undertaken by all the Jewish prisoner but it still attains an element of compassion that is unrivaled throughout the rest of the movie.

In George Orwell's "Animal Farm" we are left with a satirical look at the heated political climate of the newly formed communist state of the USSR. This book like no other has influenced and shaped my own personal opinions of the Russian revolution. In particular the comparisons between actual people and farmyard animals is astoundingly accurate and humorous. Stalin, Lenin, Marx and Trotsky are all represented as fat, boisterous and greedy pigs whom are consumed by their own greed. Another comparison I appreciate is that the KGB are



represented by dogs. These humorous political satires have single handedly aided my understanding of the motives and actions of the Russian revolution as well as the hypocrisy and faults of communism.

The Beatles in their hey day were asked in 1963 to meet with the queen at Buckingham palace. This incident is described in full in the Beatles anthology and through the personal opinions of the Beatles, my own are formed on both the incident and the motives and actions behind the Beatles career. In an interview on the queen incident the accounts of the members vary. The rumour states that the Beatles smoked a joint in the Buckingham palace toilets before meeting the queen to calm their nervousness. On this incident Paul McCartney states he does not remember a thing about the incident but doubts that it is true. Ringo Starr blatantly denies the actions citing stupidity and finally George Harrison un-ashamedly



states "I was too bloody stoned to remember". This change in personal opinion shapes my own understanding of the Beatles life philosophies and their song meanings such a rebellious and quarrelsome quartet that they are.

Therefore it can be safely concluded that through the variation of subtle and often seemingly insignificant factors can change ones whole opinion and memory of an incident and event and has done so many times as I have stated.