

Learning History through Cartoons (compiled and edited by Fred Cheung):

Animal Farm (by George Orwell)

“Animal Farm” was a cartoon film from George Orwell’s satiric novel (1945). The film was about the [ironic/satirical] story of how the animals of a farm successfully revolted against its human owner, only to get into a more brutal power struggle among themselves and then ruled by a dictator (reflecting communist Soviet Union after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and then the dictatorship of Stalin).

Power struggle between the pigs (leaders):

“Napoleon” = Joseph Stalin (praised as the “Glorious/Mighty Leader”)

“Snowball” = Leon Trotsky (condemned as a “traitor” & a “criminal”)

“All animals are equal” (later became “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than the others”)

“Four legs good, two legs bad” (later became “Four legs good, two legs better”)

“No animal shall sleep in a bed” (later became “No animal shall sleep in bed with sheets”)

“No animal shall kill any other animal” (later became “No animal shall kill any other animal without cause”)

“No animal shall drink alcohol” (later became “No animal shall drink alcohol to excess”)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVxA7xvDHms>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGSiFESwWtI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIPRV2fFmLo>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGCo5Tva39s>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6peo16naLok>