

The Evolution of Clothing

In this IDAF project we want to write specifically about clothing and uniforms, comparing 1984 according to George Orwell's imagination, today and the future. We will describe these three periods in more detail and show examples to get a better idea of what we imagine. Our goal is to make a project about the topic of clothing and uniforms, which is a topic that is not talked about much, but still affects everyone and will affect everyone in the future.

1984

In the novel “1984” from George Orwell, dress styles are distinguished between Outer Party members, Inner Party members and Proles. Outer Party members, for example Winston and Julia, must wear blue overalls (part 1, chapter 1, p. 4, l. 9). Inner Party members, for example O'Brien, must also wear overalls, but they are black (part 1, chapter 1, p. 13, l. 12). Proles are not required to wear uniforms. [1]



Because both party members wear the same uniform, this creates the illusion that everyone in the party is the same. In fact, nothing could be further from the case. Second, the overalls are ugly, helping to dehumanize party members. [2]

Winston wished to be dressed in blue shorts, grey shirt and red neckerchief of the spies (part 1, chapter 5, p. 64, l. 22 – 26). His opinion was that everyone looked ugly in their uniform overalls (part 1, chapter 5, p.69, l. 13 – 14).

The rich men called capitalists wear long black coats which are called a frock coat, and a queer, shiny hat shaped like a stovepipe, which was called a top hat. This was the uniform of the capitalists, and no one else was allowed to wear it (part 1, chapter 7, p. 84, l. 3 – 7).

The party members were monitored around the clock and if they did anything that violated the rules, they had to expect penalties. The government brainwashed and manipulated them.

2021

In 2021, everyone can wear what they want. You have every opportunity to follow your own desires, which is something we should really appreciate. However, from school to school, work to work, and country to country, dress codes may differ and yet are not entirely free to choose.

Depending on the profession and position, the options of dress vary. It is clear that you cannot go to a business meeting wearing sweatpants, as this is not in line with the dress code and you would be looked at strangely.

In Switzerland, it has become normality not to show up to work like a bum. In the healthcare industry, it is important to pay attention to hygiene and therefore dress accordingly.

In schools in Switzerland there are rarely dress codes, whereas abroad it is more common. Especially students in countries outside of Europe must follow dress codes and wear uniforms. In our secondary school, the only rule was that you cannot come to school wearing sweatpants. In India, students must wear shirts, pants or skirts and the girls sometimes even have to braid their hair.

An advantage of uniforms would be that one is not judged based on clothing. A disadvantage would be that you are no longer free in your choice of clothes and cannot wear what you feel like at the moment.

In addition, there are cultural aspects that must be taken into account, as they also play an important role. In places where modern trends have not yet arrived, people dress even more traditionally and adapt to their surroundings.



An important role is played by social media, which influence young people in particular. You see a star or an influencer with a new trendy piece of clothing and you want to be just like that person and then buy the same clothes. For example, if Cristiano Ronaldo stopped wearing Nike soccer shoes and started wearing Fila shoes, Fila would be much more attractive in the soccer shoe industry. Especially for children, Cristiano Ronaldo is an idol and they want to be like him and that is why they buy the same shoes.

If the clothes are not in line with the latest trends, you are looked at strangely and judged by your appearance. You should not judge anyone by their appearance, but you should expect to be judged based on your looks anyway.



A current topic is the mask regulation of the federation due to COVID-19. Because of these measures one is not allowed to go out of the house without a mask without expecting consequences.

At the beginning of the corona crisis, there were only ordinary blue masks, as known from medicine. Moreover,

they were sold out almost everywhere. But with time there were enough masks to get.

Since no one knows how long the corona crisis will last, people have become more creative about the look of the mask.

No longer just blue, but masks of all colors and patterns are now available. Even famous brands like Gucci or Prada make masks, which are sold for a much more expensive price than the ordinary masks. Besides, you can easily make and design masks yourself.

So in this day and age, you have to be adaptable because depending on the place and situation, dress codes, styles and trends vary.

2084

In the year 2084 people will live in two worlds. On the one hand, in the real one as we know it today and, on the other, in a virtual one. To enter this virtual world, you have to put on virtual reality glasses, which are already available today. These glasses can be worn any-time and anywhere. [3]



These two worlds will hardly differ from each other and people will feel the same emotions, both physically and psychologically. This means that people will be able to represent themselves or have a digital version of themselves. Accordingly, they will start paying attention to how they look. People will want a digital fashion wardrobe that they can use to express themselves, whether it is wearing a suit to work or perhaps dressing up for a virtual fighting tournament. Either way, everything we see in our "real" world will also be fully digitized and available for simulation. All this technology and hardware innovation will lead to more realistic looking virtual realities and games, and when that happens, fashion will be one of those key industries.

One can imagine that the virtual world is a universe with different worlds. Examples of such worlds would be the leisure, gaming, school, and work worlds.

In the working world, it may be that you live in Switzerland and have to attend a meeting abroad. With the virtual world, you can meet customers or business partners quickly and easily, and with a few clicks you are already dressed appropriately. Instead of talking via video chat, as we know it today, or even flying there by plane, it will be possible in the virtual world to meet "in person" with the counterpart.

In the school world, teaching can take place digitally in the future and you no longer have to be physically present in the classroom. As in the world of work, it will be possible either to participate in lessons via video chat or to meet with the class in the virtual world. As a result, there will no longer be any school uniforms or dress codes.

In your free time, you can always meet up with friends, no matter where you are. Be it a football match, a date or a movie night with friends.

So in the future, you can go anywhere and choose the right clothes for any situation.

List of references

Nineteen Eighty-Four (1984) by George Orwell

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- [3] [Fashion in 2100 | insights | monavaile](#) (www.monavaile.com)

List of figures

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