

This profound lack of contact with reality is evident in almost all Skinner's speeches and writings. It is most obvious in his use of words in ways almost directly opposed to their usual meanings. We have seen that his "psychology" has almost no psychology in it. He used the words "scientific" and "unscientific" (or "pre-scientific") in ways distinctly his own: what he does is "scientific"; what he refuses to recognize is "unscientific." The present book has nothing to do with either freedom or dignity except to indicate, rather indirectly, that Skinner has no use for either of them. The word "beyond" in the title does not refer to the future or to any development of men toward any higher degree of manliness, but of his desire to return man to some past condition in which men will be deprived of their human dignity by reducing them to the status of trained animals. When Skinner speaks of "education," he means training, especially memory training. When he talks of men, he is constantly thinking of laboratory animals. Thus if Skinner announced a lecture on "recent discoveries in human education," he would talk about "traditional knowledge of animal training," although, as likely as not, neither he nor his audience would recognize the fact. The best commentary on Skinner's use of words is in the analysis of "doublethink" and "Newspeak" in George Orwell's novel "1984."