



**Blair, Dawn**

*AMERICA 2014: An Orwellian Tale*  
Progressive Source Publishing (222 pp.)  
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a government administration gone awry (to put it mildly). Winston Smith, a Nationalist Party hack driven by pure ambition, is trying to produce a propaganda film disguised as an updated version of *1984*. Too bad—the powers that be don't want that movie to be made, and they'll do anything to make sure it's not. After Smith takes a fateful and much-needed vacation to London to visit an old friend, he finds himself experiencing firsthand just how vicious the government, to which he was once so loyal, can actually be. Blair creates a terrifying depiction of a democratic country transformed into a terrorized totalitarianism. While clearly a satire, the use of slightly altered current administration and media names—e.g., the “Blush” Administration; “Foxy News”; “John Bashcroft”—initially comes across as amateurish and reactionary rather than satirical. However, as the story progresses, this becomes less distracting and more disturbing. Blair infuses the novel with a progressive sensibility that, whether you agree with the politics or not, influences the plot line without dictating it—thus creating a more vivid, realistic picture, regardless of party lines.

An apt and enthralling remake that projects such alarming realism, it's difficult not to fear the onset of such a sinister dystopia.

—*Kirkus Discoveries*

