The world depicted in 1984 reflects different aspects of the social and political life of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. According to reports, Orwell stated that the book described the actual situation in the United Kingdom in 1948 where rationing was still in place, and the British Empire was dissolving, despite newspapers reporting its triumphs.

At that time, Orwell was working for the overseas service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which may have influenced his interpretation of the four key ministries that governed the world of *Big Brother*.

