Goldstein’s Book: Quotes for Discussion

**Directions**: Read each of the following quotes (and use your book for context). Then, explain 1) what do you think the quote means? 2) how does it relate to the book overall? 3) What are any connections you see between the ideas of this quote and our world?

* Either answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper, or use a digital version of this document (found on my website’s resource page) to type your answers.
  + You may work with a group to discuss these quotes. Turn in one sheet/digital document for your group. The group should not be larger than 4 people.

1. “The primary aim of modern warfare…is to use up the products of the machine without raising the general standard of living” (188)
2. “If the machine were used deliberately for that end, hunger, overwork, dirt, illiteracy, and disease could be eliminated within a few generations.” (189) “This failed to happen, partly because the impoverishment caused by a long series of wars and revolutions, partly because scientific and technical progress depended on the empirical habit of thought which could not survive in a strictly regimented society” (189) FYI: These two quotes are out of order.
3. “It was possible, no doubt, to imagine a society in which wealth, in the sense of personal possessions and luxuries should be evenly distributed, while power remained in the hands of a small privileged caste. But in practice such a society could not long remain stable…[the lowest class] would sooner or later realize that the privileged minority had no function and they would sweep it away. In the long run, a hierarchical society was only possible on the basis of poverty and ignorance.” (190)
4. “And at the same time, the consequences of being at war, and therefore in danger, makes the handing-over of all power to a small caste seem the natural, unavoidable condition of survival.” (192)
5. “If he were allowed contact with foreigners he would discover that they are creatures similar to himself and that most of what he has been told about them is lies.” (196)
6. “But when war becomes literally continuous, it also ceases to be dangerous. When war is continuous there is no such thing as military necessity. Technical progress can cease and the most palpable facts can be denied or disregarded…since each of the three superstates is unconquerable, each is in effect a separate universe within which almost any perversion of thought can be safely practiced” (198).
7. “The aim of the Low, when they have an aim—for it is an abiding characteristic of the Low that they are too much crushed by drudgery to be more than intermittently conscious of anything outside their daily lives—is to abolish all distinctions and create a society in which all men shall be equal” (201).
8. “It had been preached by kings and aristocrats and by the priests, lawyers, and the like who were parasitical upon [the Low], and it had generally been softened by promises of compensation in an imaginary world beyond the grave.” (202)
9. “By comparison, with that existing today, all tyrannies of the past were half-hearted and inefficient. The ruling groups…were content to leave loose ends everywhere, to regard only the overt act, and to be uninterested in what their subjects were thinking.” (205)
10. “The essence of oligarchical rules is not father-to-son inheritance, but the persistence of a certain world view and a certain way of life, imposed by the dead upon the living. A ruling group is a ruling group so long as it can nominate its successors.” (209)
11. “But in any case an elaborate mental training, undergone in childhood and grouping itself round the Newspeak words *crimestop, blackwhite,* and *doublethink*, makes him unwilling and unable to think too deeply on any subject whatever” (211).
12. “In our society, those who have the best knowledge of what is happening are also those who are furthest from seeing the world as it is…the more intelligent, the less sane.” (215)
13. “It is only by reconciling contradictions that power can be retained indefinitely.” (216)
14. “Here we reach the central secret…But deeper lies the original motive ,the never-questioned instinct that first let to the seizure of power and brought *doublethink*, the Thought Police, continuous warfare, and all the other necessary paraphernalia into existence afterwards. The motive really consists…” (216-7).
    1. ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION: Why do you think the author leaves this cliffhanger? What do you think the motive really is?