



“When you walk through a town like this – two hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom at least twenty thousand own literally nothing except the rags they stand up in – when you see how the people live, and still more how easily they die, it is always difficult to believe that you are walking among human beings. All colonial empires are in reality founded upon that fact.”
– George Orwell.

Orwell’s 1939 essay, ‘Marrakech’, is part confession, part almost random observations of Morocco, and wholly, an indictment of both colonisation and the inhumane mind-set that made its continuation possible.

Now mostly remembered for his impressive but often didactic and slightly clunky fiction, particularly ‘1984’, Orwell really shone as an essayist, writing on literature, gardening, politics, education, tea, and everything else. He was in many ways ahead of his time, and ‘Marrakech’ is Orwell at his most vitriolic, and most insightful.



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George Orwell

Marrakech