Heading towards 1984?

Life is the result of satisfying a number of factors, factors which are known as being “vital”. Apart from the biological ones, there are also some connected to our spirit, without which we would be able to live, but that life would be unbearable. Among the simplest examples would be freedom. It is generally considered that us, people, were born free, but are we really?

Hundreds of books have been written on this subject and yet it is not clear whether or not we can be free. This concept is so immense that perhaps our minds are not even capable of understanding it entirely. Otherwise how can we think of ourselves as free beings when we are dependent on so many things?

Privacy or lack thereof is also a controversial issue nowadays. We are just a click away from knowing what is happening around the globe, which is good and bad in the same time. Yes, technology is useful, and yes, it seems to define us as evolved beings but it also leads to a world where privacy does not exist, a world where a Big Brother might be watching us.

Imagine a society where not only does regular police exist, but also an institution called The Thought Police. There, one would not be able to express himself, or do anything that is not approved by the Party. Moreover, every family would be lucky enough to have a telescreen in their homes, this being a gadget which transmits both images and sounds and which cannot be turned off. This is the society imagined by George Orwell in his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four, a society very similar to the communist one, not to mention the one we live in today.

The reasons I believe this novel to be interesting and of great value are multiple. Perhaps even the national spirit somehow influenced me, as Romania has a recent communist history. But it is the story itself that made me realize that even if we are not as restricted as we used to be, we are still not free. And this is because the world ahead us is one where the meaning of private thoughts will be lost, where everything will be exposed as a result of the thirst of knowledge. So, I wonder, are we heading towards 1984?