

In What ways is the control of women's bodies reflective of the totalitarian control of the regime in Gilead?

How does Offred consider her body in her present circumstances? What role do dreams & memory play in the narrative?

The body goes from an instrument to a territory. Through the juxtaposition time we can see the loss of control or connection between Offred and her body. "I used to think of my body as . . . . or a means to implement for the accomplishment of my will" becomes "dangerous territory". When comparing the two quotes it can be interpreted that she no longer views her body as her own, she is scared of it and the "will" and freedom she once had is no longer there.

Because of the restrictions placed on women's bodies Offred feels like her body isn't her own anymore. The control of the regime influences how women view their own body.

The body is now in control of her will rather than her in charge of it. Due to the importance placed on motherhood Offred also places an importance on her womb. However there is also a sense of fear of her own body as she knows that not getting pregnant means she'll probably get sent to the colonies to die.

A walking womb → Offred's entire purpose is to make a baby.

Being disconnected from one's bodies is also a coping mechanism because the reality of being treated like the property of men is so painful and disturbing.

Controlling women's bodies falls in line with Gilead or any totalitarian regime as the only way people will give up their freedom is if they start seeing themselves as controlled by the regime and giving up. Controlling what people say, do, and wear takes away much of their self-expression and they no longer feel like individuals.