

Utopia and Dystopia

The concept of utopia represents an abstract idea of a perfect society where violence, poverty and misery are unfamiliar. It is ruled by equalism in terms of almost every aspect of living to ensure that everyone is satisfied and content with their lives.

On the contrary a dystopia obtains a futuristic world where everything is restricted and controlled by the state. Therefore everyone's freedom is restricted in an oppressive way.

One example for a dystopian novel is *Brave New World* (1932) a world that has been created after all civilisation has been destroyed after a war. In this new world the citizens are divided in different classes according to their intelligence and ability to contribute to the state.

Utopia comes from the Greek and means a perfect place that does not exist. It is a perfect society where money is not necessary and where any kind of violence, poverty or misery does not exist. Furthermore everything in this world from social aspects to political are ideal, as well as the people living in this world and their attitude.

At first sight *Brave New World* seems to be an utopian world. It depicts a world where everyone is content and happy. But soon this can be refuted as it simply is an dystopian world ruled by a totalitarian dictatorship which in this case are the 10 world controllers. These controllers control and surveil their citizens to keep the strict system they have created.

Dystopian worlds are characterized by their illusion of a perfect society which is maintained through conditioning, technology that replaces humanity and the oppressive controllers.

In *Brave New World* we are introduced to the Bokanovsky and Podsnap processes, which allows them to produce thousands of identical human embryos. At this point advanced technology takes over the natural process of reproduction to control the amount of descendants. Furthermore these processes are capable of manipulating one's intelligence and physical attributes to divide the growing embryos into classes. According to this the life of a citizen of the brave new world is already lacking in freedom before one was born. To keep this control the boys and girls are conditioned at a very young age by either giving them electric shocks or hypnoaedic to dislike things that gives them an education or that might open their eyes to different things. Besides that the people are taught not to feel any emotions or to have feelings towards others just to guarantee stability and happiness.

Happiness and stability are guaranteed but these aspects do not make *Brave New World* an utopian world. Although the controllers do want the best for their people they reach these characteristics through an oppressive way that does not allow any individuality. They are being totalitarian as they regulate every public and private behaviours. And although the people were conditioned to be content with what they have we see that several characters like Lenina and Bernard find themselves questioning their society and developing opinions and behaviours that are not common.

Through John the Savage a man from the Reservation we as the audience see the negative aspects of the dystopian world. He sharply criticized the way the controllers do not allow their citizens to be educated to have emotions and to be individual. John criticizes therefore every characteristic a dystopian world has.

Utopia and Dystopia are both two concepts that lead into extremes. Brave New World is a good example showing that in order to create a perfect world the people living in this world have to be conditioned to be content. And this is a paradox because as soon as ones freedom is limited it is not perfect. An utopian world demands for freedom. So as the name says utopia stays a perfect place that is nowhere and that does not exist it is only imaginary. And the same goes for the dystopian world however here it is possible to opress and control people but there will always be someone who rebels against society and uses his force against the system.

