

“Brave new world” (novel) - Summary and political aspects

"Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley presents a dystopian society set in the future where technological advancements have led to a highly controlled and engineered world. In this world, humans are artificially created and conditioned for specific roles in society, such as Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas, and Epsilons, with each class having predetermined intelligence levels and capabilities.

The society is governed by the World State, which prioritizes stability and happiness over individual freedom and autonomy. Citizens are kept docile and content through the use of the drug soma, which provides instant gratification and numbs any negative emotions.

The story follows Bernard Marx, an Alpha male who feels out of place in this society, and Lenina Crowne, his love interest. Together, they journey to a Savage Reservation, a place where people live in a more primitive and natural state. Here, they encounter John, a "savage" who was born to a woman from the World State but raised on the Reservation. John becomes a central figure as he grapples with the conflicting values of the two worlds he inhabits.

Themes explored in “Brave New World”:

1. Individuality:

- a. Bernard Marx struggled with his sense of individuality in a society where conformity is highly valued. He feels alienated and disconnected from the norms of society.
 - i. In one scene, Bernard expresses his frustration with the shallow interactions and lack of genuine connection among his peers, highlighting the desire for deeper human relationships.

2. Freedom:

- a. Citizens of the World State are conditioned from birth to accept their predetermined roles and societal norms, leaving them with limited freedom and thought of action.
 - i. Soma is used to control emotions and maintain social stability. This drug symbolizes the suppression of individual freedom in exchange for a superficial sense of happiness.
- b. Bernard yearns for freedom from the oppressive constraints of their society.

3. Consequences of Dystopian society driven by consumerism:

- a. World State is portrayed as a society obsessed with consumerism and instant gratification
 - i. individuals are conditioned to prioritize material pleasures over deeper existential questions.
 - ii. Obsession with consumption results in a dehumanizing culture, where individuals are treated as commodities rather than unique beings (Especially the lower human classes).
- b. Evident in characters' shallow relationships
 - i. lack of genuine emotional connections and overall sense of emptiness