Theodor Adorno Discussion Post

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Theodor Adorno makes a distinction between popular music and what he calls “serious” music. One of those distinctions, is that popular music focuses more on the glamor rather than the music itself. Glamor can be the buzz a song gets due to the popularity of its record label, the rhythm of the piece, chord progression, etc. I agree with this view. In today’s world, when a new song is released, it’s rare that people break down the musical components of a song. Consumers usually talk about the artist who produced the song, the rhythm, anything but the musicality of the song. This is akin to liking loving a person on the outside but never talking about what they have on the inside, which is core of the person and in this case the music.

Adorno also states that consumers of popular music are given a false sense of freewill, in regards choosing what songs they like. He continues by stating that, the overplaying of songs on the radio cause us to subconsciously like a song against our will. I strongly agree with this point, due to personal experiences. One being, when rap artist “Lil Uzi Vert” initially went mainstream, I hated the sound of his music, as it sounded like gibberish to me. However, after a few years of hearing his songs repeated on the radio, and in cars with friends, I found myself liking the sound of his music slowly over time. This experience could have major negative implications in psychology, regarding mass control through the brainwashing of ideas.