

UPI2211 Utopia

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1 Week 6 Monday

1.1 More's Utopia: Foreign Politics, War and Morals in Utopia

1.1.1 Foreign Politics

- Idealism
 - Human nature is a treaty by itself, humans are united via feelings and emotions
 - And it is more effective than treaties
- Cynicism
 - Giving rewards to people who kill the enemy king, as loyalty is impossible and people only care about themselves

1.1.2 Policies

- Do not involve citizens in foreign wars
 - Only on a voluntary basis
 - Unless Utopia is invaded, then people are tasked to defend
 - Send whole families to war instead, boost morale
 - Compare to “international army” who fight for others causes
- Tolerant of religious plurality
 - However disallows/looks down on atheists
 - All religions held in a same church - everything is common to all religions

1.2 Discussions

1.2.1 Warfare: hypocrisies and contradictions

- Utopians hire Venalians to fight for themselves Problems:
 - “Utopians do not care how many Venalians they send to their deaths” (p.94)
 - They don’t care if Venalians are enticed by money to fight one another
 - Saying that Venalians are “naturally designed for war” prevent Utopians to question the moralities of their policies
 - Double standards on the value of human life, regarding Utopians and Venalians
 - Can they always be the richest country?

1.2.2 Group discussion questions

- Are these policies what More thought was the ideal manner of inter-state behavior?
 - Is this Thomas More or Morus? Probably Thomas More
 - Are they ideal? Probably in a efficiency sense, but does it go against their morals?
 - Their reasons for going to war are quite petty

- Utopia is built on a practical rather than a moral objective
 - * For example, religion + afterlife is to regulate moral behaviors
 - * Did he want to eliminate the class system? Probably not(?)
- Is a non-contradictory utopia possible? Efficient == moral?
 - Not killing civilians is a efficient/moral way of waging war.(less lives lost) But reasons for waging war might not be moral
 - Impossible. Why?
 - * There is just so much you can control. Things can never be absolutely equal
 - * There will always be tradeoffs? Also, what is moral then may not be moral now (ie no freedom of choice to live life)
- Is Utopia satiric? If so, why did he still alternate between possible and satiric policies?
 - He wants people to think about his policies
 - Blurs the line between utopia and dystopia - good place and no-place
 - Cover up what he really thought with ridiculous ideas?