

Control in Brave New World

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Thesis

The society of Brave New World controls its inhabitants on a psychological, social, economic, and biological front

Dramatization

Chapter 1: 16-18

Analysis

Psychological

- They're conditioned to not see beauty or feel emotions

Social

- All the characters opinions completely support the views of the rest of society

Economic

- Choices that affect all of society are based solely on the continued constant consumption of goods produced by the World State.

Biological

- Preset biological -and by consequence, social- mold

Psychological

Passage

“We condition them to thrive on heat,” concluded Mr. Foster. “Our colleagues upstairs will teach them to love it.”

“And that,” put in the Director sententiously, “that is the secret of happiness and virtue-- liking what you’ve got to do. All conditioning aims at that: making people like their unescapable social destiny.” (Chapter 1, page 16)

Til at last the child’s mind is these suggestions, and the sum of the suggestions is the child’s mind. (Chapter 2, page 29)

Analysis

- Conditioning has taken away their right to make their own choices
 - Each caste has designated roles
 - Their interests weren't chosen, they were taught
- Freedom was sacrificed for “happiness”
- The cost of their society's stability is individuality
 - Everyone shares the same belief, opinions, and thoughts
 - Characters have no depth

Social

Passage

“Lenina Crowne?” said Henry Foster. “Oh she’s a splendid girl. Wonderfully pneumatic. I’m surprised you haven’t had her.”

“Talking about her as though she were a bit of meat.”

Bernard ground his teeth. “Have her there, have her here. Like mutton. Degrading her to so much mutton. She said she’d think it over, she said she’d give me an answer this week. Oh, Ford, Ford, Ford.” He would have liked to go up to them and hit them in the face - hard, again and again.

“Yes, I really do advise you to try her,” Henry Foster was saying. (Chapter 3: pg 37,39)

Analysis

- Bernard is established as the main character due to his difference in inclination
- The society values promiscuity over monogamy
- Deemed socially taboo to have one partner for an extended period of time
- Taboo based on the hypnopaedic suggestions

Economic

Passage

“‘Then the Nine Years’ War began in A.F 141 The Nine Years’ War, the great Economic Collapse.’

In the nurseries, the Elementary Class Consciousness lesson was over, the voices were adapting future demand to future industrial supply ‘I do love flying,’ they whispered, ‘I do love having new clothes, I do love... ‘

‘But old clothes are beastly,’ continued the untiring whisper. ‘We always throw away old clothes. Ending is better than mending,’

*‘For example, there was the conscription of consumption’
‘Every man, woman and child compelled to consume so much a year.’*

‘The more stitches, the less riches;’

You can’t consume much if you sit still and read books.”
(Chapter 3, pg 47-50)

Analysis

- Cycle of consumption began in A.F 141 (2049 A.D) after a complete collapse of the economy.
- Conditioned consumption is required to keep system going.
- Consumption of World State produced goods is the only thing people in society desire.
- People fit into the roles they're destined to fill, resulting in a higher level of happiness in society.

Biological

Passage

For of course, they didn't content themselves with merely hatching out embryos; any cow could do that.

"We also predestine and condition. We decant our babies as socialized human beings, as Alphas or Epsilons, as future sewage workers or future ." He was going to say "future World controllers," but correcting himself, said "future Directors of Hatcheries," instead.

(Chapter 1, Page 13)

Analysis

- Forced biological conditioning relates to how their life is predestined
- Certain characteristics created through genetic engineering restricts them to specific life pathways
- Nature vs Nurture paradox brought into play through forced/altered nature

Conclusion

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- The World State in Brave New World controls its citizens in a variety of ways.
- World Controllers make decisions that seem right for the community as a whole but are not necessarily good for individuals, showing the value of stability over happiness.

The End
