

MIDTERM PAPER

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Throughout science fiction, the depiction of science and technology can play a critical role in the development of the underlying themes, and arguments of the author. In the novel *Red Star* by Alexander Bogdanov technology is used many times to support Bogdanov's sociological theories and opinions about socialism. Specifically, his depictions of technology develop the importance of global unity for the establishment of a successful communist society. Throughout the novel, Bagdanov depicts the importance of having society be united globally for his depiction of communism to be successful. He then utilizes the depiction of technology throughout the novel to advance this idea, and reinforce the argument for the global unification of society as a prerequisite for a successful communist utopia.

One point when the selflessness of the Martians is exemplified, and is used to demonstrate it necessity for the development of an idealized communist society is on the space ship during the trip to mars. At the begiing of the trip, NAME explains to NAME how the crew of the space ship work together. EXCERPT. Here NAME explains that there is no hierarchy on the space ship, and that everyone simply trusts the knowledge and experience of the others. If any one person was selfish and did not trust the knowledge of the others, then this social structure laking a hierarchy would not function. This social structure can only function if everyone considers themselves equals to everyone else, and only defers based uppon experience. This structure of sociaty, which has been condenced to be represented by the society of the crew of the ship, is directly what Bagdanov considers an ideal social structure for communism. There are no leaders, and no slaves, everyone is on equal ground, and work only to serve the greater good for the community.

- Selflessness/Unity
 - All of this only works if people are selfless
 - * The spaceship is run off of trusting others and to have the knowledge in their field. This allows there to not need to be a hierarchy.
 - * The excess of products that allows people to work when and how much they want, is only possible by people being selfless and working for the good of society. And working wherever there is a shortage of labor.
 - * The Grand Canals were only possible to people were willing to work for the greater good of society, and were selfless in the sense that they are willing to do work for the greater good of the people.