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Literary: The Handmaid’s tale

1. Should great social and political change be instigated by elites and flow from top to bottom, or should it involve the masses overthrowing the top?

If we consider that the definition of a society is an organized community of different individuals sharing laws, customs and values, then the structure of said society should not only benefit a small percentage of the population. Indeed, the social and political structures should attempt to respond to the needs to of the majority while making compromises if it does not fulfill the demands of the whole population. Likewise, change should be instigated by the masses as a disastrous system most commonly established by the ruling group is most detrimental to these individuals who constitute the majority of the populace. Whether it be in past civilizations or in nowadays society, the ruling elites have always being comprised of a small group of resourceful people controlling the financial system, and thus extending their influences over legal and social structures, whereas the masses are most often subject to these prearranged decisions. It is thus quite logical for social and political change to be instigated by the populace as they are an often silenced group who does not have the power to go against the measures installed by the elite. These elites could also install favorable policies that would only benefit themselves which could not be overturned by the people and establish drastic societal roles in order to create a system they envisioned. The dystopian society present in The Handmaid’s Tale is not exempted by such a pattern: in an attempt to repair the previous system, the oppressive Republic of Gildead was founded, which consequently led to Mayday’s establishment.