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# AUTHORITARIAN STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL ORDER IN DYSTOPIAN FICTION IN THE SELECTED WORKS

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## ABSTRACT

A party uses its ideologies to rule itself. It adheres to and uses a certain political system to keep its power. This also applies to dystopian fiction. The dominant party creates its own politics, which is the sole distinction. None of them should be disregarded, whether they are totalitarian rule or excessive freedom. Although there are many other political systems, authoritarian and autonomous government are the main subjects of this study. The dystopian novels we studied in *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *Brave New World* all use these political structures. The "Inner Party" is at the apex of the hierarchical structure in *1984*. In the hierarchical structure, the inner party members are the most powerful and live in luxury. Next is the Outer party, which is ranked second in the Ministry of Truth hierarchy, where the main character works. The "Outer party" must put in a lot of effort to set up and keep BIG BROTHER's standing in the community.

Next are the "Paroles," who are members of the working class and have the least influence in society and the hierarchical structure. Like this, the fire-fighters and salamanders in *Fahrenheit 451* are members of the powerful upper classes of society. They try to destroy the books of those who have read them. The government has a hostile attitude toward most students. This separates society into three groups: the general populace, book readers, and government officials. Additionally, among the three books in the research, Huxley's *Brave New World* depicts a system of caste hierarchy.

**KEYWORDS:** -Dystopian fiction, Politics, Totalitarianism, hierarchical system, authoritarian rule, and independent rule.

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## INTRODUCTION

A governmental structure that all people voluntarily adhere to. The superior Alphas are arranged chronologically first, followed by the less superior Betas, Gammas, and Deltas, and finally the lesser Epsilons. Additionally, *Brave New World*'s society functions similarly to the previously stated works. In the dystopian fictional universe of the renowned novels, the power relations are set up in this manner. Overall power is gained by the person at the top. However, it isn't the real situation. If we look attentively, we will see that information is the key to power, which is what the government in the dystopian society is frantically trying to hide from the public. For example, in *Fahrenheit 451*, they burn books, and in *1984*, they remove concepts like democracy to prevent people from taking revenge.

Further investigation into the power dynamics reveals that the government uses certain instruments and technology to control the populace. Both the chosen works of this study and dystopian literature heavily rely on technology. *The Brave New World* has extremely sophisticated technology. A youngster is exposed to technology from an early age, making him a slave to it. Without it, the infant cannot survive. However, in *Fahrenheit 451*, there are mechanical hounds that will pursue anyone who is said to smell like books. In the narrative, hounds are also employed to find dangers who are book readers. This keeps the government's advantage in the balance of power.

Additionally, BIG BROTHER posters and hoardings may be found around London, Oceania. They are outfitted with cameras that check every citizen's movement to prevent reprisal if someone tries to speak out against the government. Keeping its hold on power and stifling individualism and criticism, the Party uses a variety of control tactics. Surveillance, censorship, manipulation, and tyranny are some of the novel's major themes.

He seeks to bring out the dangers of totalitarian power and the elimination of individualism through this dystopian picture of domination. Besides this, *1984* cautions society to be vigilant so that tyranny and erosion of civil rights do not permeate society. Orwell gives great importance to the worth of the truth, critical thinking, and fighting against repressive institutions. Orwell cautions against information manipulation and the perils of taking lies at face value by depicting a future in which reality is flexible and the past is altered. In the dystopian novel *1984*, by George Orwell, the Party tries to eliminate all individuality and independent thinking by controlling all aspects of

the lives of its people. Strict monitoring, linguistic manipulations are some of the techniques used to achieve this control. This constant monitoring, even in intimate contexts, when people realize that they might be under surveillance, compels people to conform to the norms of the Party and cultivate a sense of paranoia due to this constant surveillance, even in intimate settings.

Newspeak seeks to eliminate language nuances and eventually even limit the extent of thought itself, making it more challenging for people to express their opinions that contradict the philosophy of the Party. Psychological deception is another very important aspect of the Party's control. It was demonstrated that the concept of doublethink was indeed a reality. This form of cognitive dissonance compels individuals to hold on to whatever the Party says, even though it may be irrational or even inconsistent.

Keep control over the present, and the Party also manipulates history. The Ministry of Truth is the one that rewrites history, alters facts, and cuts any evidence that does not fit the official version of events developed by the Party. Moreover, the Party cracks down on any form of individualism or unconventional thinking, using the means of such groups. It aims to eradicate every trace of individuality and transform people into obedient, devoted members of the group. Given the circumstances, the Party's authority in 1984 is oppressive and pervasive, affecting every aspect of the life of the populace. The Party keeps its dominance and drops all traces of individuality and independent thinking by using surveillance, language manipulation, reality distortion, and historical erasure, trapping the public in a never-ending condition of fear and servitude.

The expanding mass media of Bradbury's era amply illustrate the world in which Montag inhabits. There are three television screens on Montag's living room walls, but the shows aren't highly intelligent. Instead, individuals get something like an adrenaline rush or, at the very least, modest pleasure from these programs' combination of colours, loud noises, and neutral shared chats. The world has everything you're searching for, Montag, but the normal man will only ever see 99 percent of it in a book (Ray 86). When combined, the radios and television displays provide the impression that reality has an extraordinarily knowledgeable impact and are constantly attacking the senses. Literature is the sole recommended source of information. However, reading is prohibited because it causes people to become confused and depressed.

In the dystopian future of *Fahrenheit 451*, the authorities are prepared to suppress any sign of criticism or scholarly discussion to ensure that everyone is "happy" (McGlenn 2). Thus, the media downplays the fact that their nation is in danger of a full-scale attack, fire-fighters destroy books, and individuals who show critical thinking and intellectual consciousness, like Montag's neighbour and Clarisse, either disappear or are killed by unidentified agents. "If you don't want a man to be politically unhappy, don't give him two sides to worry about; give him one," Beatty recommends to Montag. Even better, don't give him any. Let him forget that war exists (Ray 61).

As Montag increasingly realizes what his town has become, he decides to take added steps ahead of time to restore what has been lost: "literature, history, language, memories, critical thinking, and true happiness." In dystopian literature, the author's bad forecasts are often based on his own life inclinations, beliefs, and ideas that he perceives as potentially difficult or disastrous (Wien3).

He was cleaned up and headed for a fresh, varied future. In the countryside, he meets clever and suitable companions, but he sees the city burn instead of being encircled by fire. People disregard the conflict, yet it has affected them as they sit passively and watch TV, not knowing what would happen to them. The concepts of authoritarianism, scientific advancement, and technological advancement serve as substitutes for what propels society forward. They have occasionally actively taken part in the establishment of dictatorships.

Although Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* does not explicitly depict a totalitarian society, it is clear in the authority and individual rights that are inaccessible to the average person (Greasley 77). The government employs book burning as a form of censorship in *Fahrenheit 451*. Montag tells his wife, "You weren't there, you didn't see," after seeing Mrs. Blake and her books burned. Force a lady to remain in a burning house, and there must be something in books that we cannot fathom. You stay for a reason (Ray 51). Montag finds the book people after managing to flee the city. They provide him with a place to hide from both the robotic dog known as the Mechanical Hound and his fellow fire-fighters. This dog can find the whereabouts of desired personas and prohibited literature. At the end of the book, he is asked to become a member of their organization. He expects the emergence of a new civilization there that values knowledge and the truth once more. The American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee was set up because of *Fahrenheit 451*'s censorship, which exerted pressure on publishers that tried to remove books to increase sales. Bradbury's work set up a link between censorship and society's degradation and dehumanization. The book also cautioned against the excessive amount of censorship started by minorities, such as African Americans who want Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* removed from classrooms or evangelical Christians who want Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* removed from science curricula.

There are items all around humans. Additionally, delving deeply into the fields of object studies and Thing Theory is the greatest approach to learning about an item. In the hands of academics and theorists, things have undergone a sort of development. It began with materialism and consumerism, and it is now known as the thing theory. This theory encourages us to appreciate the worth of objects and primarily addresses subject-object or human-nonhuman connections. After reading Bill Brown's article on "Things," academics began to see things differently. According to Brown, an item has its own agency; it can interact with people, affect their aura, and affect their emotions.

The long-standing study of how beings create things was transformed into how things create beings by the Thing Theory. After learning about this theory, I was motivated to use it in dystopian fiction by my interest in the significance of objects in writing. The most crucial factor in this situation is the things that often aid tyrants in creating and keeping a dystopia, and often aid people in overthrowing such regimes. In *Brave New World*, a futuristic civilization known as a "world state" is shown, with technology playing a key role. Margaret Atwood described Huxley's dystopia as a "softer form of totalitarianism, which differs from other dystopian novels like 1984, Fahrenheit 451, Anthem, etc." Huxley tried a novel approach by using science and technology to rule the state without resorting to tyranny or force. Additionally, Mitchel Foucault's views in his seminal work, *History of Sexuality*, are echoed in this new notion of rule.

The material universe depicted in *Brave New World* is one in which items play a key role. In the world-state, machinery and technology are employed for human manufacturing or reproduction. The state's citizens were enslaved by the government's machine. The conditioning machine, soma, hatchery, and other items were essential to this book. Here, infants are not born from a woman's womb but rather are created in a hatchery. This hatching machine plays a significant part in this book. Once more, there is no denying the need for conditioning devices. People were conditioned to think the way the government wanted them to. The drug soma is another significant item. It is employed to keep society peaceful. The state's citizens use soma to treat a variety of mental health conditions to avoid negative outcomes that may result from the presence of unhappy individuals in the community. Let's now skim the material of the 1932 novel "*Brave New World*."

The book begins in the year 632 A.F., when a major conflict has killed one-third of the whole civilization, and a new, advanced society known as the world state has appeared under the leadership of Mustafa Mond, one of the ten global controllers. Create a regulated and stable society, advanced technology, bioengineering, psychological conditioning, cloning, pharmaceuticals, and many other novel devices have been used. In the guise of preserving stability, a variety of humanistic traits are eliminated, including freedom, love, emotions, fellow sentiments, free will, and free choice. Since language is supposed to be the origin of feelings and ideas, even a large vocabulary is discarded. This book specifically explains to readers how scientific and technological advancements may guarantee peace and stability. In this book, there are several instances when the power of items over people is emphasized. In *Brave New World*, humans are coerced into promiscuity by science and technology.

Monogamous partnerships are known to elicit human emotions like love and desire for one another, which are forbidden as emotions are thought to generate social unrest. Therefore, the state sanctions promiscuity to prevent this; for the sake of stability, a person is not allowed to have a committed relationship. Thus, there is a clear reflection of matter over mind and object over subject. Another crucial item is the "surrogate cartridge belt," which serves as a "pregnancy substitute." In doing so, it robs individuals of a crucial humanistic trait—becoming mothers.

The usage of hatcheries in this book is another example of how people may lose their sense of self via the use of items. Human beings are created artificially in a hatchery machine. Develop five distinct kinds of humans. The state puts human eggs in tubes and injects chemicals into the embryos. The designations alpha, beta, gamma, delta, and epsilon are used to find each class. People who belong to the Epsilons and Deltas are demoted for the rest of their lives since they are regarded as the lowest class. Humans naturally have emotional desires. Everyone wants to have a better life, but the government has stolen this drive by using science and technology to keep peace and stability.

Once more, the link between the people of the world state and the drug soma proves the object's agency and impact. The use of the medication "soma" to eradicate humanistic qualities illustrates the harsh truth of treating people like objects or puppets. Make people unaware of their existential dilemma, the Soma was created and intended to keep them perpetually joyful. It is forbidden for anybody to have any form of mental disorder in the state. It will be addressed with a short-term solution. The state manufactures soma medications because their usage guarantees the restoration of mental equilibrium and artificially allows people to continue enjoying their lives. It also raises the question of whether we can even think of them as things or beings because they are manufactured in factories with their predetermined class structure, much like a product with a level. The sole person with a true body and a representative of the people, John, ends his own life. This shows how people are rejected in the world of materialism.

## CONCLUSION

The dystopian novel 1984 by George Orwell was released in 1949. It depicts a civilization ruled by an oppressive authority known as "Big Brother." Although the novel itself has not been the subject of any research, its main conclusions and points have been examined in several literary studies and academic interpretations. This is clear in the novel's main story structure.

Bradbury presents the annihilation of this tyrannical future civilization through nuclear war as a purifying rebirth. However, the book concludes with the ominous implication that there is a strong likelihood that this fresh beginning for human civilization would follow the same dangerous course as the earlier one. This piece does highlight a genuine concern in society that the administration may turn into an authoritarian, repressive one. A crucial part of scientific and technological advancement is post-human civilization. Post humanism is extremely interested in the potential impacts of techno chauvinism on human life and identity. It looks at how modern

technology, like genetic engineering and artificial intelligence, could drastically change what it means to be human. However, a stable and balanced solution is needed if human civilization is to continue with all its current human values and traits. Therefore, we must find that delicate line that will precisely balance the interaction between humans and their innovations to counteract the effects of "technological singularity." As the research draws to a close, it may be said that objects, more especially, digitally mediated objects, are increasingly competent and powerful. Therefore, to preserve a harmonious balance within society, a new theoretical framework is needed to find these things as well as their relationship with humans and their function in the future. As a conclusion, it can be said that the analysis shows that scientific and technological advancements should not be unchecked and that certain moral standards and legal measures should be implemented to avoid "technological singularity" or societies like the "World state" portrayed in *Brave New World*.

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