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01/12/2016

Man is Never Free - 1984 & Brave New World

When citizens are born into a dictatorship, society cannot function due to restrictions placed on them by the government. A totalitarian society consists of citizens being dominated by inequality, belief, unhappiness and violence. In George Orwell's novel 1984, he presents how the individual is born free yet there are certain limits one can go through. Similarly, in Aldous Huxley's novel Brave New World, he illustrates how a lot of individuals can be made and how the lives of many can be predetermined through science. Both authors use technology in their works to overcome the individual's mind. The government looks down on relationships in both novels because it expresses free will. In both society's, there is no individuality among the citizens. Lastly, to take full control, the government takes over the minds of every citizen in society. Both George Orwell and Aldous Huxley explore man's freedom and social conformity in their writings; however, in Huxley's novel, citizens are biologically born into a society where everything is predetermined for them.

Technology is the central focus of the totalitarian society. In Huxley and Orwell's novel, technology is made to seize the citizens from their freedom. In George Orwell's 1984, technology is used to spy on the citizens continuously. For instance, when Winston and Julia visit O'Brien, they notice that he has a certain privilege. "'You can turn it off!'" he said. "Yes," said O'Brien, 'we can it off. We have that privilege' (Orwell 169). Winston is shocked to see that the telescreen can be turned off only depending on the caste that people were put in. Citizens of Oceania cannot escape the surveillance by the government because they are always being watched; therefore, their freedom is lost.

However, in Huxley's novel, Brave New World, the citizen's instincts are controlled from birth by revolutionary technology to react to specific things. For example, the director is explaining to the kids how the electric shocks affect people later on: ""They will grow up with what the physiologists used to call an 'instinctive' hatred of books and flowers. Reflexes unalterably conditioned. They will be safe from books and botany all their lives" (Huxley 30). In the World State, depending on the caste, people were shocked to dislike certain things. Unlike Orwell's novel, the World State uses technology to control the human instinct from the time of birth. Technology is very useful to the government because it can stop citizens from rebelling against the government. Thus, Huxley's novel presents a society where the individual is in chains from birth.

A relationship is a way of expressing one's free will in society. In both societies, citizens can try but will never succeed in having a relationship with one another. Having a relationship is crucial to the government in both works because it can lead to a rebellion. In 1984 by George Orwell, citizens are not allowed to have relationships with other comrades. When Winston and Julia go to the park, they are on the look out for anything that will reveal their outing: "there was no telescreen or concealed microphone to record their small act of rebellion" (Orwell 176). The citizens of Oceania are not allowed to experience free will or be in a relationship because that can steer towards a rebellion. Winston and Julia are being unorthodox towards the Party by exposing free will. Winston is born with the freedom to live, however, he cannot have a relationship with other people due to the governments limits. In Brave New World, all the citizens go by the hypnopaedic saying, "everyone sleeps with everyone else" (Huxley 461). The people in Brave New World have the freedom to sleep with whomever they want except they are conditioned from birth to not have feelings for other people. If anyone is in a long relationship, they are being nonconformist towards the government. The government knows that the people will never come to a sense of awareness because the people are conditioned to love everyone. In doing so, this ensures that there will not be a rebellion against the government. The two novels are similar however, in Huxley's novel, the

citizens will never come to a sense of awareness to rebel against the government because of their conditioning. Both works illustrate the loss of man's freedom but in Huxley's novel, man and woman is restrained from free will.

A society where individuality does not exist will lead to a dystopic place where freedom is suppressed by a totalitarian regime. In both works, the government's goal is to eliminate individualism from every citizen. Anyone expressing individuality will be removed from society. In 1984, the government is trying to shape the citizens mind into thinking a certain way. Syme is having a conversation with Winston and they discuss the language in Oceania: "Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end, we shall make Thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it" (Orwell 52). In Oceania, no one can reveal individualism. The Party's main goal is to conform people into communicating in the Newspeak language so no one can go against the government. However, Syme shows understanding when conversing with Winston, which makes him a threat to Oceania. Similarly, in Brave New World, John tries to help the people seek reality after witnessing his mother's death. "'Free, Free' the savage shouted, and with one hand continues to throw the soma into the area while, with the other, he punched the indistinguishable faces of his assailants... 'Men at last'... He picked up the cash-box and showed them its black emptiness. 'You're free!'" (Huxley 193). John is finally a man because he endures pain. John shows his individuality by punching the people and waking them up to reality. He also attempts to help the people standing in line witness the false things in society, such as soma, that make their world seem better even though it is not by showing them the empty box. Because the people keep taking soma when things are bad, this makes it better for the government because no one will wake up to reality or go against their conditioning. Therefore, it is Huxley's novel that tells the reader that man is born free; however, in order to be accepted by the government, they should obey the rules.

The government's control of the mind is the most powerful when trying to achieve a totalitarian regime. Both Huxley and Orwell present societies where the government controls the mind of the individual and in the end, the government always wins. In 1984, after the government has taken control of the mind, the individual has to conform to all the needs and love Big Brother. After the government captures Winston, his mind taken over and controlled for him: "But it was alright, everything was alright, the struggle was finished. He had won the victory over himself. He loved Big Brother" (Orwell 298). After being in room 101, the government has taken over Winston's mind and has controlled him to love Big Brother. He cannot choose to do whatever he pleases because he is now conformed to love Big Brother. Furthermore, In Brave New World, John visits Mustapha Mond and tells him that he wants to be apart of society. "“He said he wanted to go on with the experiment. But I'm damned," the Savage added, with sudden fury, "I'm damned if I'll go on being experimented with. Not for all the Controllers in the world. I shall go away to-morrow too"” (Huxley 217). John is being unorthodox towards the society by telling Mond that he chooses to be free. Because John is not from the Metropolis, he is not conditioned to conform to the Party's needs and he does not know that freedom is not an option in the World State. In Orwell's novel, being free comes with a cost and Winston has to pay it by loving Big Brother. However, in Brave New World, John chooses to be free with no consequences yet he lives in a place where everything screams. Therefore, even if society is born free, the government imprisons them.

The government will forever imprison citizens in both societies. Technology will continue to ruin the lives of many. Relationships will no longer exist. Individualism will be lost forever causing the society to be bleak and dark. The government's control of the mind will create the citizens to be more faithful to the government. For the society to continue, citizens of the lower castes in both works must come to a sense of awareness and rebel against the government.

Works Cited

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*. New York: Harper & Bros., 1946. Print.
Orwell, George. *1984*. New York: New American Library, 1949. Print.