Peter Plotas

RP 1

The utopia, although an open-ended and interpretive concept, can be mentally conceived with a reasonable amount of ease when one stops to consider the true functionality that such a “perfect society” must possess. This fictional dwelling of euphoria must hold the same precise operating qualities, aesthetic beauty, and embodiment of class as a European watch. The denizens must be satisfied in all aspects of their desires and also under the impression that their quality of life has continued and will continue to rise, so long as the present government remains in power. Without such traits remaining reasonably consistent, the utopia would cease to appear perfect to the inhabitants, which would cause unrest. This unrest would lead to cries for change, giving way to a bumpy downslope path of activism and questioning that a utopia must inherently not have in order to be, by definition, a utopia.

What other practicalities would a utopia need to implement in order to continue to appeal to societal welfare and pace of mind? Such a society might begin with an outer layer of defense, against both potential enemies and Mother Nature. A defense with such broad objectives would likely take the form of a specially tempered glass dome in order to defend against any possible obstacle of nature. Within this transparent shield, one would find a gleaming and immaculate cityscape; this fascinating metropolis must hold these standards of simplistic beauty and awe in order to inspire the citizens into believing their residence is of the highest tier and the pinnacle of modern, sanitary living. Each building must hold a purpose, filled with people that serve a benefit to the community and are happy with their occupations. Jealousy may not exist. Aesthetically displeasing structures may not exist. People that provide no aid or constructive addition to the society may not exist. As a result, there must be an effective way of disposing of this utopian trash.

Or, perhaps there is a way of preventing this trash to begin with? The answer lies on one sacred plane which no government can absolutely access or control: the mind. This is the crux of any attempt at a perfect society. In order to prevent any large collections of people that may present a threat to the utopia, the society must find a way to control free thought on a large scale. Such a feat would be achieved through brainwashing and constant reminders and threats and mental bombardments towards actions or words or even thoughts against the controlling party. These concepts were perfectly thought out within *Brave New World* and *1984*. The objective of mental control could be met through consistent display of advertisements and promotions of the government and its faces. Support for the decisions of the controlling party would be universal, and resistance would be unthinkable. Furthermore, loyalty to the government could be strengthened more so with the incorporation of religious belief directly into the governing system. This renders all offenders and their infractions against the utopian state not only criminal but heretical as well. Simply put, the necessary aspects of a utopian society must be to maintain happiness and security of civilians, to create a praise-worthy environment that caters to all needs and appears to be by and for the people, and to mentally manipulate people into loving their state and governing system, while simultaneously rendering all actions against this utopia as out of the question. [word count: 569]