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FYS Social Utopias

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“How do I imagine a utopian community to live?”

A social utopia is a society in which all people have equal rights and are satisfied with all facets of their community. Such aspects include the society’s government and economic systems, as well as its education, healthcare, work opportunities, and societal standards. In order for all of these conditions to exist, everyone in the utopia must actively participate in the community and work with the same definition of a utopia in mind. Should someone deviate from the society’s set definition of a ‘social utopia’, their actions may fracture that society’s standards for a utopia and thus break its utopic classification.

Due to this, a utopian community would establish rigid rules that all community members must follow. These rules ensure that all members are living in conjunction with the society’s definition of utopia. In addition to these strict rules, citizens would have little privacy to ensure that they are not working against the utopic structure through purposeful subterfuge or simply by accident. Other methods created to preserve utopia include strict societal expectations impressed upon people from birth as well as precise economic policies so that everyone would have equal amounts of wealth. While these actions may be viewed as being oppressive and over excessive by people outside of the utopian community, they are initiated in order to preserve utopia and prevent the rise of dissenters. As well, all of the society’s members would have to agree to follow these methods in order to fulfill the requirement of utopia where all citizens are content with all aspects of their society, such as the government and economic systems.

In a utopian community, all citizens would be treated as equals and are not discriminated against due to their race, gender, religion, culture, or wealth. Due to this treatment, everyone would have the same amount of affluence and healthcare, and the same opportunities for education and work. Since a basic society requires occupations such as manual laborers, each person would share responsibilities and rotate which tasks they would have to do for a day in order to create equality for everyone. This universal equality would contribute greatly to societal expectations within the community to promote impartiality as well as efforts to maintain utopia, thus greatening the influence of the utopia’s rigid structure as members would most likely wish to keep their equal affluence and influence within the utopia.

Due to the large amount of effort required to create and maintain a social utopia due to their fragile nature in providing equality and contentment for every community member, living within a utopian community would require one to follow a strict set of rules and conform to a certain societal expectation of how a person should act. However, with all of the rules and regulations needed to upkeep a social utopia, as well as the social expectations engrained within the community’s members from birth, the difference between a utopian community and a dystopian community is indistinct.