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How Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* Most Accurately Portrays the Present Dangers of Our
Society

“One believes things because one has been conditioned to believe them,” Aldous Huxley writes in his horrifying dystopia, *Brave New World* (205). This echoes a similar theme woven throughout two other novels examining an otherworldly society, George Orwell's *1984* and C. S. Lewis's *That Hideous Strength*. Although all three works offer thought-provoking portrayals of a crumbling civilization, *Brave New World* stands out as being the most accurate warning due to its idea of mankind loving their oppression rather than being forced into it. The following will examine the key points in *Brave New World*, how they contrast with *1984* and *That Hideous Strength*, and why it is the most accurate and haunting depiction of the dangers our society faces today.

Three key points illustrated in Huxley's novel are the dangers of advanced technology, the conditioning of people from infancy, and the pursuit of happiness by means of glorifying pleasure. Within the book's world, technology has advanced in a way that humans are now mass-produced in a factory. Once created, they are separated into classes and brainwashed to be satisfied with their rank. People are addicted to a drug they call “soma”, which keeps them superficially happy and blinds them from the deeper parts of life. They believe they are happy because they are conditioned to think they are. Similarly, we live in a world consumed by technology. A study in 2024 found that people worldwide spend an average of six hours and forty minutes per day using screens (“Revealing Average Screen Time Statistics for 2024”).

Screens keep us temporarily happy much like Huxley's drug "soma". With technology rapidly advancing every year, it is imperative we remain careful in its use and do not allow it to take control.

Secondly, the citizens in *Brave New World* are conditioned from infancy to believe what they are told to believe. This concept may sound familiar because it resembles the path our world is heading down. With modern-day cancel culture, one is not only looked down upon for having different beliefs but can have their career taken away from them for it, or rather, they are "canceled". Children, seeing this, are being conditioned to be careful not to have any differing beliefs. Additionally, we see public schools fighting for permission to let their personal beliefs bleed through into their teaching and educate children through a biased worldview. Instead of being taught to think for themselves in school, children are taught to believe only what everyone else believes. The government is increasingly gaining more power over children than the children's own parents. This parallels Huxley's world in the aspect that parents have been removed from society. Just as the idea of parents in *Brave New World* is appalling, our world is seemingly slowly attempting to separate children from their parents. Minors are daily being given access to things such as drugs without notifying their parents. With the increasing mindset that parents are an obstacle for children in getting what they want, how far off are we from a society where parents are entirely removed?

The last point to examine is the glorification of pleasure, and I believe this truly shows why *Brave New World* is the most accurate representation of our society's dangers. The citizens in the book are addicted to the aforementioned drug "soma", which gives them the illusion of happiness. Additionally, the people are engaged by things such as "the feelies", a false form of cinema, and live by the motto "everyone belongs to everyone else" which discourages real love

and encourages perverted forms of it. Truth and beauty have been discarded for instant gratification. In our world, one does not have to look far to notice the same thing happening. Once beautiful things such as marriage, literature, and theology are disdained. We are told to “do what makes you happy” regardless of the long-term outcomes. People increasingly look to pleasure as the answer to problems- and it is celebrated. In other novels such as *1984* and *That Hideous Strength*, people are forced into believing what they are told by torturous methods. People knowingly live in bondage to the government by persecution. But what about a world where we do not know we are living in bondage?

What if we do not know because we are in love with it?

Frederick Douglass wrote, “I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one...He must be able to detect no inconsistencies in slavery; he must be made to feel that slavery is right” (Douglass and Stepto). When everyday life is pleasure upon pleasure, very few will see the manipulation they are experiencing- or will see it and not care. As Christians, we can see why this is. Because of the fall, it is the innate working of the human to love sin. Romans 7:15-17 says, “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me”(Bible Gateway). We continue down a wicked path because it is man’s very nature.

In conclusion, *Brave New World* contains terrifying and eye-opening parallels to our world that daily become more relevant. It shows the dangers of a world ruled by technology and pleasure and how these things have the power to brainwash us. Whereas other novels show the lust for power manifesting itself in overt oppression, Huxley’s novel shows a world where servitude is worshiped. But although our world may have fallen, what *Brave New World* doesn’t contain is the hope that can be had by Christians. With prayer and a sharp mind, we can resist the

call of the devil and look forward to when the Lord creates a new Heaven and new earth. All chains will be broken and every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord. And that will be a truly brave new world.

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