

Warnings from Huxley

In *1984*, *Brave New World*, and *That Hideous Strength*, Orwell, Huxley, and Lewis, each describe how the world will eventually crumble, and how freedom for the masses will be stripped away. Although all three novels provide insights reflected in today's society, Aldous Huxley's visionary work *Brave New World* strikes closest to the truth. Considering our society's fascination with pleasure, inability to do hard things, and exposure to constant seductive conditioning, the dangerous *Brave New World* is a dystopian society that is less fictional than it initially seems.

First, the world we live in is selling itself to the "passing pleasures of sin" as described in Hebrews 11. Huxley's world entertains, amuses, and pleases; seemingly our society seeks to accomplish these same ends. Sadly, the average American would likely accept the restrictions of *Brave New World*, while salivating at the prospect of limitless pleasures. While Orwell's world depicts a government that strangles its people, depriving them of simple pleasures, Huxley aptly describes how humans might enslave themselves, pleading to be handcuffed. Interestingly, in "*That Hideous Strength*", C.S. Lewis argues that future humanity will face enslavement as they seek to be made perfect by their inventions. In contrast, perfection itself is redefined in *Brave New World* by taking down absolute truth and making the highest good what feels best.

Secondly, the inability to do hard things will be a vice that carries immense consequences. The issue at stake here is character, or how the Savage in *Brave New World* describes it, virtue. Often, one hears of "hard times making hard men," and easy times creating "soft men." In *Brave New World*, the spoon-feeding nature of the government creates weak-willed men who will never stand for anything again if it requires hard work or sacrifice. In *1984*, Big Brother swiftly breaks every knee that stands against him. The Thought Police and the

constant presence of the telescreen serve to form people into slaves of the Party, keeping them away from truth, family, and God. Huxley demonstrates that in a world such as his, however, none of this intense security is necessary. The soft, amused, and brainwashed populous will never be interested in those nonsensical ideals of the past.

Finally, the power of behavioral conditioning is key to the enslavement of people in *Brave New World*. Many will look at Huxley's process of conditioning and deem it so absurd that it would never actually happen. Unfortunately, we are speeding towards these realities, as almost every piece of modern media carries with it an immense amount of power to sway, train, and convince. Many media platforms are designed to change the very way one thinks, delivering fast-paced, bright, colorful dopamine-inducing images and messages that are slowly melting the brains of humanity into numb puddles of agreement. Lewis, Orwell, and Huxley all agree that conditioning is necessary for all three of their science-fictional futures. In *1984*, Big Brother and the Party shove propaganda into every single home. In *That Hideous Strength*, N.I.C.E. wields the tools of deception and confusion, sprinkling seeds of doubt and chaos over the general populous, while deceiving the higher-up employees within their own company. Huxley uses the most extreme form of conditioning, using twisted psychology and neuroscience-driven technologies to implant the messages they need their citizens to wholeheartedly believe.

How do we as a society combat these dangers? We must stop trading comfort and peace for truth, goodness, and beauty. These God-honoring ideals are what connect us to the transcendent and give our lives meaning and purpose. Peace, Security, and even "Universal Happiness" are worth giving up for the freedom to seek God and truth. *1984* is a world nobody wants to live in, however, many would sign their names to the *B.N.W.* ideals of "Community, Identity, and Stability"(Huxley, 1). This is the deceptive allure of a new world like Huxley has

proposed. These three spheres are important, but when achieved without biblical values, they prove to be just as restrictive as Big Brother. A sober understanding and respect for the past, a desire to seek the beauty of the classics, and the ability to pursue and live by truth will be the guardrails that keep us from careening off the edge into the abyss of human enslavement. If however, the world continues on the tracks it has laid, Huxley's society could emerge, steamrolling truth, classics, and Christians in its path.

Works Cited

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