

PARADOXICALLY PROPHETIC: BRAVE NEW WORLD?

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Brave new world, alongside 1984 by George Orwell and Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, is one of the three preponderant dystopias of the 20th century. The eighteen chapters, published in 1932 and written in 1931 by the English author Aldous Leonard Huxley, aims at analyzing science and its developments. In the light of the American way of life, the author combined absurdity with science fiction and, as a result, obtained an almost prophetic book.

Although the first contraceptive pill reached the markets only in 1960, Huxley, in 1931, discusses a society in which the sole purpose of sex is recreational, including encouraged among children, and that women were required to use contraceptive drugs.

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The birth rate was controlled only by the "Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre", an artificial intelligence called "bokanovski" which consisted of "[...] a series of arrests of development. We check the normal growth and, paradoxically enough, the egg responds by budding (HUXLEY, 2018, p. 4)" in which the ova and sperm were controlled and the embryos were modified in order to keep the society divided into five varieties Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilons, the former with genetic peculiarities considered superior and the latter, servers, with characteristics considered inferior.

Genetic improvement is a reflection of this predestined society which had been made explicit through genetic modifications in the embryo in order to remove diseases and perform genetic remapping, as in the case of anemia "Referred to the embryo's troublesome tendency to anaemia, to the massive doses of hog's stomach extract and foetal foal's liver with which, in consequence, it had to be supplied (HUXLEY, 2018, p. 9)".

In this scenario, babies, in addition to being genetically modified, are psychologically conditioned by the compulsory repetition of essences and sounds with the aim of becoming suitable individuals for the "We also predestine and condition" system. We decant our babies as socialized human beings, the Alphas or Epsilons (HUXLEY, 2018, p. 10)". Children are also encouraged to have sex with each other so that the sexual act is seen as unrelated to emotional or hormonal factors.

Taking place of today's themes such as in vitro fertilization, genetic manipulation, neurolinguistic programming and artificial intelligence, the work also portrays the disparity between the new and the old. The new, futuristic society sees the old with disgust. Explaining the confrontation between the two societies, probably inspired by the clash between the american postwar lifestyle and the 1929 crisis, Huxley demonstrates that blind belief can affect the standards of contemporary social organization.

Furthermore, the dystopia also discusses standards of beauty that would be prescribed by the government. That is, obesity, old age, clothes unsuited to the standards or old were mostly rejected. Seniority is considered a disease and a reason to live in wild places, far from the city.

The world's stable now. [...] they're never ill; they're not afraid of death; they're plagued with no mothers or fathers; they've got no wives, or children, or lovers to feel strongly about; they're so conditioned that they practically can't help behaving as they ought to behave. And if anything should go wrong, there's soma (HUXLEY, 2018, p. 193-194).

In a critical and comparative analysis, the drug "soma", offered by the government and which, in small doses, provides instant happiness, can be considered a paronym for consumption. In the work, feelings of emptiness and sadness were cured with the indiscriminate use of the substance "soma". In 21st century society, established in high standards of programmed obsolescence and promotion of capitalist ideals, "soma" becomes consumption.

In conclusion, the book is strongly recommended for those who want to develop critical thinking about the innovations provided by science, and also with regard to politics. It is necessary, however, to read it valiantly and in a non-anachronistic way, bearing in mind that many of the geniuses proposed by Aldous Huxley are currently commonplace. Moreover, the books "Island" and "Ape and essence" are good recommendations of other works of the author.

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