



Dystopian Literature

Utopia

A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions.



Dystopia



A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control.

Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.

Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- ↳ Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- ↳ Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- ↳ A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- ↳ Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance. •
- ↳ Citizens have a fear of the outside world.



Characteristics, con't

- ↳ Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- ↳ The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- ↳ Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- ↳ The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.



Types of Dystopian Control

Corporate control:

One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media.



Types of Dystopian Control

Bureaucratic control:

Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials.



Types of Dystopian Control:

Technological control:

Society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots, and/or scientific means.



Types of Dystopian Control

Philosophical/religious control:

Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.

