

Methodologies

Classic Utopias

John Corey - idea predated word 'utopia'
 - Moore introduces the word (jokingly?) - as 'is it possible?'
 - good place vs. no place
 - idealized to start with although begins w/ practical ideas in Republic
 - Plato sets up possible reality through practical programs

Grayling - societies strive to produce institutions, etc. that lead to best possible
 - must create optimal conditions for ruling societies
 - hemshrens of reality leads to religious heaven

Corey - utopia as wish to evade death
 death as anti utopia - i.e eternal youth is utopic
 Utopias are selective - utopia for whom ie heaven is selective
 Utopias exclude some (tyrants, terrorists etc) - big implication

→ Gulliver's travels - Laputa floating island of mathematicians
 great question is how to exclude these people
 Republic - somewhat totalitarian ie rulers are bred, presence of slaves
 Grayling - intractability of human nature requires cracking down - in Republic
 - in actuality republics introduced to preserve top on totalitarianism
 - lots of people set up their own utopias - monasticism, American communism
 ie federation of egalitarian communities
 egalitarian = non hierarchical w/ labor shared = preserve equality

↳ new idea of utopia from Republic

~~K~~ Kibitz as a utopia - everyone gets what they need and those that
 can work, work - a paraphrase of Marx
 ↳ but must engage in authoritarianism to prevent private property
 Sacrifice of the self to the whole - contradiction

really - pressure of numbers, Competition of resources

H.G. Wells - first step must be world state

English middle class has enough to eat - we're in it

Wells describes a 'heaven' we are living

Plato didn't have it - lived in different kind of state of war

Wells facing other issues i.e. reproduction / overpopulation

Republic - premised on idea of Spectra as ideal (Athens last winter visited)

but it is Athens ideals that produced Plato's thoughts - contradiction

20th C realized 19th C utopia no? - middle class birth

But human (happens) is more complex - in these terms we

begin to think of utopia post-darwin and move away from

Wells's scientific program.

What makes us human is genetic (Darwin). Our goodness is not from our humanity but our nature = modification of human nature for utopia

↳ go horrific experiments in 20th C

Liam Silver says - production of synthetic genes allows you to try good genes - the rest of the underclass - they will not be able to interbreed

fraying - income inequality / freezing of dead → silver might be right in one sense
neutritonal rich vs neutritonal poor freshwater silver

* Darwin is a paradigm shift and introduces genetics into idea of utopia

How long will inequality go on (income)

Brazilians were amazed at Ferguson inequality and why poor didn't

kill rich

fear of utopias in part of fiction writers - recognize impossibility of ideals
problem of elite / vanguard of rev imposing their ideas

fearful in different ways but utopic people were not fearful

* Bealdwin's legacy - The Diggers - held everything in common

their reading of the Bible (thanks to literacy and Vulgate) interpreted equality and sharing in peace as message.

Arrested + executed for farming on private land

Bienin Schafft - Gabel Schafft - how do institutions do good (avoid bureaucracy)

↳ state + institution speak to each other

community is concerned w/ material state of community but are inward looking

institutions open up community to all of society

Modern utopias

Carey - late 19th C utopias optimistic / early 20th C pessimistic

19th C - egalitarian / 20th C - exclusive

Marx - for each acc't to ability for each acc't to his need

Edward Bellamy takes it up - no money, everyone w/ credit card entitling you to national surplus

everyone independent of status - totally egalitarian

joined army then voted at 45 once you earned it

Wells represents great change - worried about overpopulation + ecology

↳ reduce population based on race

Egalitarianism starts w/ Thomas Moore (then French Rev.)

early 20th C moves away from egalitarianism w/ Wells

Industrial Rev. - second way appears w/ appearance of mass society.

This mass had to be thought about in more than just aggregate of people

↳ mass will / mass psychology - mass consciousness

invention of electricity / tech - separate from mechanical of 19th C

↳ 20th C becomes soft / sensory technology → technology 'inside' humans

* remaking world + remaking people - not just engineering society but

people as well through tech or ergonomics

ideology becomes part of way we understand collective behaviour

↳ part of prospect of producing beliefs

* Ideology now belongs to this period - human behaviour belongs now to ideology
Women - bring in Feminism - write in utopian fashion

- writing in the 'not yet' w/ idea of feminism as ahead of the time

1915 - 3 males discuss female society - explaining to men how this society works

Gilman's world is entirely utopic, followed up by bisexual separat
Are men & women truly different - Virginia Woolf introduces androgyny

genderless society can be a utopia?

cloning means men are irresponsible

* utopians engage in subtraction - what needs to be removed

↳ this characterizing 20th c

↳ the cult of life - this group is often murderous (Eugenocrats)

in this C. life is defined as ultimate value (life as regulative ideal)

The goal is now to get rid of ugliness rather than wickedness

ugliness is not life

behind this is Darwin applied to humans

Eugenics as spectrum - birth control to sterilization

birth control as positive eugenics - re apply it to poor middle class +

sterilization forced for poor

Eugenics began well - intentioned

Plato was also subtractive - sick kids killed at birth

w/ synthetic genes you could eliminate disease and have designed babies

↳ cost of design babies leads to two classes of natural-designed humans

parental love will introduce it -> parents who can afford it of course will do it.

Wells saw it as a way to get rid of squalor - actually improving society

Humanism - is Darwinistic - is failed

Wells's Megamite reach goes along w/ worrying reach of human eugenics of

'where do we draw the line'

Wells thought there was no choice - thought pop growth was unsustainable
and foresaw nuclear war

Planned society = utopian society but see 'We' novel

Huxley more ambiguous opposed to Orwell

Huxley gives dystopia of happiness; dystopia of plenitude

Huxley thinks intellectual elite is important - educated mind is what matters
but Orwell gives hope to the proles

Brave New World like modern USA - jazz, etc. but Dystopia of the Good Time

Utopia - rights of individuals - system of governance
- distribution of resources

Libertarian socialism - decentralized economic + political systems

- federal unions that exist for trade

- direct democracy and participative syndicalism

- that which cannot be made at local level is not (highly/planned)

- prevents resource exploitation - sustainability is required since power is
weak per community