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## **2020: An Unpredictable Year the History of Humans; Special Reference Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World***

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### **Abstract:**

The present paper deals with the idea of how life can be so unpredictable that the existence of every single creature on this planet falls under the canon of doubt. The current year 2020 has rocked the earth with its never-ending devastation. There is no alternative but to tap the stop button on the daily everyday tasks. Moreover, that is the only measure to counter it. The article would complement Aldous Huxley's great work, *The Brave New World*. The dystopian literary tradition mass theory is applied to this paper. This dystopian novel anticipates tremendous scientific and technological advances. This paper aims to examine the unprecedented change in life. It is an effort to procreate and acknowledge the way the world has embraced transition and the more transformations that are yet to come.

**Keywords: Dystopia, Coronavirus, Covid-19, lockdown, Brave New World.**

COVID-19 is transforming the planet inside out. It has even restricted our movements. Each segment of human life has been influenced. The Year 2020 was just a difficult pill to take in. Yet it is proven tough not only for one or two nations but for the entire world. The most prominent countries, like China, the U.S.A., India, Russia, and Britain, had the most impacted. Amidst Corona, it is reasonable to arouse a feeling of depression and despair. Nothing could be terrifying than the terror of contracting this deadly virus. Isolation, fear, global instability, and the constant bombardment of negative news from the corona virus pandemic are taking a severe toll on everyone lives. Nothing sounded positive from the very first day of 2020. In addition, the irony is that the world has fallen in love with the Negative word because of Covid-19. Words like lockdown and quarantine that have never used before have now been part of our day-to-day tongue. It has confused the world whether we have

taken a hundred steps ahead of our time to become digital, or whether we have dropped ourselves because of the economic downturn.

The universe was running at such a high pace as if there was no room to breathe. Nevertheless, this pandemic has forced and locked everyone inside his or her homes to leave with nothing but relaxation. Almighty has used his ways to get his existence felt. We are merely puppets that have no control in our hands. This pandemic has faced us with the reality of life that nothing in this life has more weight than health. All should only wait and relax. Gone are the days when people have all the time in the world to roam around towns without any reason and have no time to sit with their family. One good aspect that COVID-19 has provided is to understand that the family falls first and the entire universe comes second. COVID once again brought forth the idea of folding hands and a greeting that was part of our cut years before. Ironically, men were close to each other by the side, just through folding palms, displaying a symbol of affection and appreciation from a distance of 2 m. Moreover, the sad thing is that people embrace and kiss each other tightly while expressing their love and 2000 m away from each other's souls. People of our generation have never spoken of the fact that one virus might fundamentally transform our lives and make our actions immobile. It is like a nightmare for the entire world. Our lifestyles, relationships, perceptions and professions have all shifted.

A dystopia literary tradition that conflicts with the dynamic partnership between politics and popular media, a trend established in later American literature of the twentieth century. Dystopia is an antonym for utopia, which means a perfect world. Sir Thomas More invented the concept in his most acknowledged novel with the same title in 1516. It provided a model for an ideal world of reduced crime, abuse and misery. Writing in reaction to joint authoritarian manipulations of the population in the mid-twentieth century, these European authors developed concepts and icons, including corporate surveillance, emotional repression, relaxation abuse, language reduction and ingrained self-discipline. However, although mass media can force individuals to adhere to the status quo, novels often demonstrate how mass culture provides new technology, forms of interpretation, and discourses that individuals may utilize to criticize overwhelmingly prevalent oppressive institutions. Throughout the end, fiction not only represents fact but also serves as a critical instrument for political study.

War is Peace

Freedom is Slavery

## Ignorance is Strength (Orwell 22)

It sounds a bit cliché, but it is a story of everyone life that in this runaway life, we forget the reason behind this life. Existence is never natural, but it is a blessing by God that we are reading the chapters of life. Otherwise, many have read just ten pages of this book, and the book was closed for them. Nobody wants to leave this world eventually, but death is the harsh reality of life. We get stricken with anxiety and hopelessness because everything just seems too impossible and big, but what we need is to go back to something simple. This tumultuous year would probably remain the most talked-about year in the chapters of literature. Yet the tragedy is that this is the first year that has brought meaning to virtual existence in a real way. Life is all spinning around the gadgets. There is nothing wrong about thinking that, if technology were not present, it would not even have been feasible to dream of spending a day in complete isolation. At the first time in centuries, citizens were not compelled to stay in their dwellings, but this was sadly the only way to continue to survive. “...reality, however utopian, is something from which people feel the need of taking pretty frequent holidays...” (Claeys 381)

Everything was stuck inside the devices, from safety to schooling and from everyday basic needs to work. Those who have been anti-technology would lift a green flag for this because this is the only realistic way to stay alive. The Year 2020 was incredibly extraordinary because people were still uncertain because either this year is making us secure or miserable. Much like life has taught us to be courageous and confident. It has told us that nothing counts and that what exists is only fitness. It has forcefully provided us the time to sit down with the kids and chat that is hard to find these days. At the other side of the coin, they have left life physically, socially and emotionally fragile. Participants fell into distress and tension at the outset of the COVID 19. Sitting idle and doing nothing is the onset of despair and futility. Nevertheless, the fear of the future has made it more deplorable. Schools, colleges, workplaces, shopping malls, fuel pumps, gas stations all shut down, and even people shut their doors to their loved ones in fear of catching this infection. People were petrified of approaching each other's hands and kept a gap of 2 m if it was exceptionally urgent. Relationships have mislaid a lot from this infection. Moreover, if one had encountered their relatives and had unintentionally come into physical contact, they would run to their washroom to bathe, or to get the touch out of their heads, as though, according to them, the person had the virus, and they certainly sounded foolish. Nevertheless, there is nothing to joke over since that is the need for an hour.

To the future or to the past, to a time when thought is free, when men are different from one another and do not live alone-to a time when truth exists and what is done cannot be undone: From the age of uniformity, from the age of solitude, from the age of Big Brother, from the age of doublethink-greetings!  
(Orwell 32)

One can only make out how negative Huxley might think that he has written work like *The Brave New World*, and what made him write like that. Throughout his life, he must have had a pessimistic view. Maybe he tends to foresee the future, or he was just interpreting the other side of the coin. However, Huxley was writing because he was brave enough to talk about it. He was fearless to talk about the dystopian world we are living today. There is nothing wrong with naming 2020 a dystopian year. Nevertheless, Huxley already has that vision in his head, which the world is about to experience. The world was not ready to accept his scary work. The view of the Brave New World at the time of its release was overwhelmingly negative. Many were insulted by the existence of Huxley's potential, although only a few grasped the metaphysical ramifications of the book. Parents and teachers contend that the novel concepts of promiscuity, self-harm and general misery are not suitable for adolescents. Most colleges and libraries across the world have forbidden novels, so still, now they exist on the lists of prohibited authors. People are also affected by the novel's attitude to dystopia, which prompts the reader to think: What is lacking in an ideal future without misery, disease or sadness? This query and the answers offered by Huxley in *Brave New World*.

Huxley spoke of the science and hi-tech aspect of culture. He talked about the conditioning centre where children are designed outside the womb and cloned to raise the number. He then concentrated on the definition of the class structure. These people are categorized to be part of a community, and therefore they have to have exposure to certain chemicals and hormones to alter or turn into a particular class. Embryos, given to a higher status citizen, had specific different requirements. Unfortunately, embryos destined to be a lower class imperfectly and partially treated. Higher castes and lower castes are named as The Alphas and The Epsilons. It is a story about Bernard Marx, an Alpha who met a boy named John during his trip to a savage reservation. He thought John and his mother Linda are lost family member of their director and brought the two with him. John called the director father, and so the director has to resign. Then John was kept as a kind of experiment in the "brave new world," as he calls it. Linda was admitted to a hospital as she became hooked to a

drug named soma, which calms the individual but ultimately died. This occurrence made John very furious and fled away to a lighthouse to stay in solitude. He is involved in self-flagellation. He whips himself and, along with him, two women that captured media attention. Upon taking soma, John became filled with passion and fell asleep. The next morning, he eventually hung himself.

The book explores a dystopian world named the World Government, which centres on technology and performance. Throughout this culture, children influence feelings and personality at an early age, so there are no enduring partnerships since "everything belongs to someone else." Huxley took up the cynicism and built the bleak setting of his book to condemn it. Some of the fear that fuels *Brave New World* can be linked-to typical confidence in technology as a potential cure for illness and war problems. John's emotional condition is proof of the bleak environment surrounding him and indicates that being from any other region, he was not at all happy with the modern world surrounding him. He was unwilling to accept the transformation in his life and took a decisive action that finally begged for his life. Who thought of this that Huxley's dream would one day be a fact? A similar story depicts this year 2020. It seems like we are all from some other part of the world as John, so violently left in the ocean of stress, depression, and confusion is going to be full of misery. In the same way, several innocent lives are taken this year and have not been able to overcome this dramatic reform. It is incredibly difficult to embrace this tremendous transition in life and to continue your whole existence. On the one hand, citizens were battling this illness in isolation in clinics, but sadly, they died fighting it. There have been people who have taken their own lives like John as they are unable to combat this transition due to countless causes such as financial recession, and depression, tension, and anxiety have become very prevalent. "We must go on, because we can't turn back."(Stevenson 23)

The best and most accurate cultural impact on *Brave New World* may be inferred from the title of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, play dealing about what it takes to create modern civilization. John is indeed an imitation of the play hero Caliban, described as a "savage." Huxley often indicates the presence of Shakespeare in John's preparation on the estate, where the discipline comprises mainly of Shakespeare's plays. Several reviewers felt *Brave New World* was, in the main, a dystopian spoof of *The Tempest*. This year, everybody has been forcefully put under the canopy of modern techniques, and there is no alternative but to be autonomous and responsible. A nation like ours, where digital education is a nightmare, is required to sign in to the modern environment. Citizens who previously never used online

banking have been pushed to use Google Pay to prevent physical interaction. The turn of the century is incredible. Huxley was correct that a transition was inevitable. He was not mistaken to compose the masterpiece but instead applauded for taking this theory to the fore. He was right that life was uncertain and that one should always be ready with a courageous heart to confront it.

It is a perfect time to give the term courageous a clear definition and to behave in that manner. It is a tough moment for the entire planet from every angle. From the economy to health, every nation is a target of the virus. It is an exact period of worship and solidarity. It is time to support each other emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. It's time to act like Prospero and Miranda, the heroes of *The Tempest*, to adapt this modern world as they made the lonely island their home and waited for the right moment for joy all their lives. And, not like John, who lost himself and was the victim of this transition. It's time to build your reputation for history, and any single individual who battles this pandemic in some form may claim it financially, physically or psychologically, everybody can pat on their backs. Because they will be proud of them when, after a century, the new creations will study them as the Brave New World, and they exist among the brave people who have been part of this new world.

O, wonder! How many goodly creatures are there here! How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world, That has such people in't! (Shakespeare 97)

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