

# utopia

The Search for the Ideal Society in the Western World

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## **Utopia The Search For The Ideal Society In The Western World**

**Chloë Houston** 

### **Utopia The Search For The Ideal Society In The Western World:**

**Utopia** New York Public Library. Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 2000 Utopias Howard P. Segal, 2012-03-02 This brief history connects the past and present of utopian thought from the first utopias in ancient Greece right up to present day visions of cyberspace communities and paradise Explores the purpose of utopias what they reveal about the societies who conceive them and how utopias have changed over the centuries Unique in including both non Western and Western visions of utopia Explores the many forms utopias have taken prophecies and oratory writings political movements world's fairs physical communities and also discusses high tech and cyberspace visions for the first time. The first book to analyze the implicitly utopian dimensions of reform crusades like Technocracy of the 1930s and Modernization Theory of the 1950s and the laptop classroom initiatives of recent years The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature Gregory Claeys, 2010-08-05 Since the publication of Thomas More's genre defining work Utopia in 1516 the field of utopian literature has evolved into an ever expanding domain This Companion presents an extensive historical survey of the development of utopianism from the publication of Utopia to today s dark and despairing tendency towards dystopian pessimism epitomised by works such as George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four and Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale Chapters address the difficult definition of the concept of utopia and consider its relation to science fiction and other literary genres The volume takes an innovative approach to the major themes predominating within the utopian and dystopian literary tradition including feminism romance and ecology and explores in detail the vexed question of the purportedly western nature of the concept of utopia The reader is provided with a balanced overview of the evolution and current state of a long standing rich tradition of historical political and literary scholarship The Utopia Reader, Second Edition Gregory Claeys, Lyman Tower Sargent, 2017-02-14 The Utopia Reader compiles primary texts from a variety of authors and movements in the history of theorizing utopias Utopianism is defined as the various ways of imagining creating or analyzing the ways and means of creating an ideal or alternative society Prominent writers and scholars across history have long explored how or why to envision different ways of life The volume includes texts from classical Greek literature the Old Testament and Plato's Republic to Sir Thomas More's Utopia to George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four and beyond By balancing well known and obscure examples the text provides a comprehensive and definitive collection of the various ways Utopias have been conceived throughout history and how Utopian ideals have served as criticisms of existing sociocultural conditions This new edition includes many historically well known works little known but influential texts and contemporary writings providing an even more expansive coverage of the varieties of approaches and responses to the concept of utopia in the past present and even the future In particular the volume now includes feminist writings and work by authors of color and contends with current concerns such as the exploration of the ecological ideals of Utopia Furthermore Claeys and Sargent highlight twenty first century trends and popular narrative explorations of Utopias through the genres of young

adult dystopias survivalist dystopias and non print utopias Covering a range of original theories of utopianism and revealing the nuances and concerns of writers across history as they attempt to envision different ideal societies. The Utopia Reader is an essential resource for anyone who envisions a better future Thinking Utopia Jörn Rüsen, Michael Fehr, Thomas W. Rieger, 2006-12-01 After the breakdown of socialist and communist systems in the East it had become fashionable to declare the so called end of utopia end of history end of narratives The authors of this volume do not share this view but think that it is time to rehabilitate utopian thought The political concept of Utopia that has given its name to these transcendental projections onto the world has been too narrow to describe and analyze the moving forces of the mind perceiving human existence beyond reality By broadening the perspectives of utopian studies these essays enable the reader to reconstruct scholarly paradigms and strategies of utopian complex and holistic thinking in modern cosmology philosophy sociology in literary historical and political sciences and to compare traditions and ways of Western utopian thought to the practice in the East Allegoresis Longxi Zhang, 2018-05-31 Why is it that a text particularly a canonical text is often said to contain a meaning different from what it literally says How did allegorical readings arise and develop By looking at such examples as Jewish and Christian interpretations of the Song of Songs and traditional Chinese commentaries on the Confucian classic Book of Poetry Zhang Longxi discusses allegorical readings from a broad perspective that bridges the usual East West cultural divide and examines their social and political implications. His approach is wide ranging cross cultural and cross disciplinary exploring allegoresis with regard to religion philosophy and literature In his inquiry into allegory and allegorical interpretation Zhang examines the idea of a self explanatory text of the Bible as conceived by Augustine Aguinas and Luther discusses the importance of the literal basis of textual interpretation and takes up the question of moral responsibility and political allegiance Zhang who regards utopia as an allegory of social and political ideas explores how utopian visions vary in their Chinese and Western expressions in the process commenting on contemporary literary theory and political readings of literature past and present **The Philosophy of Utopia** Barbara Goodwin, 2012-12-06 This collection addresses the important function of utopianism in social and political philosophy and includes debate on what its future role will be in a period dominated by dystopian nightmare scenarios The Bishop's Utopia Emily Berguist Soule, 2014-04-23 In December 1788 in the northern Peruvian city of Trujillo fifty one year old Spanish Bishop Baltasar Jaime Mart nez Compa n stood surrounded by twenty four large wooden crates each numbered and marked with its final destination of Madrid The crates contained carefully preserved zoological botanical and mineral specimens collected from Trujillo s steamy rainforests agricultural valleys rocky sierra and coastal desert To accompany this collection the Bishop had also commissioned from Indian artisans nine volumes of hand painted images portraying the people plants and animals of Trujillo He imagined that the collection and the watercolors not only would contribute to his guest to study the native cultures of Northern Peru but also would supply valuable information for his plans to transform Trujillo into an orderly profitable slice of the Spanish

Empire Based on intensive archival research in Peru Spain and Colombia and the unique visual data of more than a thousand extraordinary watercolors The Bishop's Utopia recreates the intellectual cultural and political universe of the Spanish Atlantic world in the late eighteenth century Emily Berguist Soule recounts the reform agenda of Mart nez Compa n including the construction of new towns improvement of the mining industry and promotion of indigenous education and positions it within broader imperial debates unlike many of his Enlightenment contemporaries who elevated fellow Europeans above native peoples Mart nez Compa n saw Peruvian Indians as intelligent productive subjects of the Spanish Crown The Bishop's Utopia seamlessly weaves cultural history natural history colonial politics and art into a cinematic retelling of the Bishop's life and work New Worlds Reflected Chloë Houston, 2016-05-06 Utopias have long interested scholars of the intellectual and literary history of the early modern period From the time of Thomas More s Utopia 1516 fictional utopias were indebted to contemporary travel narratives with which they shared interests in physical and metaphorical journeys processes of exploration and discovery encounters with new peoples and exchange between cultures Travel writers too turned to utopian discourses to describe the new worlds and societies they encountered Both utopia and travel writing came to involve a process of reflection upon their authors societies and cultures as well as representations of new and different worlds As awareness of early modern encounters with new worlds moves beyond the Atlantic World to consider exploration and travel piracy and cultural exchange throughout the globe an assessment of the mutual indebtedness of these genres as well as an introduction to their development is needed New Worlds Reflected provides a significant contribution both to the history of utopian literature and travel and to the wider cultural and intellectual history of the time assembling original essays from scholars interested in representations of the globe and new and ideal worlds in the period from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and in the imaginative reciprocal responsiveness of utopian and travel writing Together these essays underline the mutual indebtedness of travel and utopia in the early modern period and highlight the rich variety of ways in which writers made use of the prospect of new and ideal worlds New Worlds Reflected showcases new work in the fields of early modern utopian and global studies and will appeal to all scholars interested in such questions

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