

## Class Notes

Discuss the things that interest you [the class] the most.....

The basic discussion during class 02/21/05 can be minimized into eleven points. Most of the points are relative to each other. Some points may not have been included due to repetition of the same ideas or complexity in explaining the point. Each point may consist of more than one student's perspective and therefore one point may have two very close perspectives though the perspectives may seem distinctive to those respective students. This reading chosen by Dr. Glen Helman describes a society living a utopian life style. Name of text: *New from Nowhere*

1. Interest of characters, Dick, Speaker of Story, Bob, and their relationship to society.
2. Purpose of nature: Beauty of nature, reflection of clear water and architectural advances that take away the natural beauty of society.
3. Does his story about the architectural imagery seem true or false? Does it seem factual? Speaker notices change in architectural design compared to the architectural structuring(s) of his time.
4. People decided on going back to the old ways [manual way-by hands] of making things because making things by hand forced the craftsman to put his feeling into his work compared to using a machine to do the work for you.
5. Would you like to live in this period? Yes or no? Why or why not? Some students respond by saying that they would want to live in the utopian society because everything seems so right. For example, the people of the utopian society didn't worry about getting paid for something that they loved doing such as their crafts. i.e. Ferry man and Dusk man with wearing gold. Some students say no because

the society seems boring and unrealistic compared to today's society of mere Capitalism (AMERICA). Other relative perspectives refer to advantages and disadvantages of utopian and dis-utopian society. Also, reflections of architectural imagery and beauty are reiterated.

6. Description of Utopians' lives: They don't have to worry about bad things like problems from different classes. There are no bias classes because all are for one and no one is left out of the society. Money is of no worry. Some students emphasize the idea of arrested development—specifically connected to education, within the utopian society. Because they don't exactly want to use machines which depict their intelligence and understanding that they could have machines programmed to do the work for them. They focus on doing things by hands the hard way... Other students emphasize that if they were living in that society they wouldn't exactly know about better education. It is of no worry to them.
7. If machines could do all of the work, they would take away much of human purposes. Thus, emphasizes are made to express the division and emerging of 2 specific classes: Working class and the Intelligent class. Workers are obviously represented by the Utopians and the Intelligent class is represented by those who believe in using machines and expanding their minds to better themselves and perhaps society.
8. Comparison between 2 societies, agriculture, and technological advances are emphasized. i.e. China: South Korea (High Standard of living) compared to North Korea's (Low Standard of living). Again where would you wish to live Utopia or dis-Utopia?

9. Some students choose industrialized society (dis- Utopia) for its advantages in intellect and computer/machine expansion. They argue that those people who make machines still have to put their craftsmanship into building the machine that makes other products.
10. The most important value to understand is that doing things by hand are of the most importance. 2 societies are emphasized, but obviously to please both sides the solution is somewhere in the middle.
11. Final question to think of is while creating machines in the industrial society are the craftsmen's feeling taken out of their work? It's probable that this is the reason capitalism is the best choice.