

Projet d'intégration

*Brave New World*

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*Brave New World*

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‘‘Sciences without conscience is the soul’s perdition’’

- Franois Rabelais, *Pantagruel*, 1572-

(Quotations about Science, 2009)

Sciences and technology both play a considerable role in our society. In fact, it is almost impossible today in 2009 to walk down the street and not find something contemporary where sciences are not involved. Since the beginning of mankind, human beings have always worked in order to evolve and improve their lives. In *Brave New World*, written in 1932 by the British writer Aldous Huxley, the author presents to the reader an impressive, brilliant and up to date anticipation of his view of the future world. In fact, he did something few people would have done at his time: write an audacious novel where technology and scientific advancements are used to create and control human beings. As part of my end of CED, I have chosen this novel because I believe that in our world of today, technological advancements are overwhelming our traditional and natural identity. Huxley wrote this pessimistic book in order to criticize all the technological progresses humanity started to experiment at his time and to denounce the materialism. Throughout this paper, I will explore different aspects of the novel such as: the conflicts, women’s portrait, theme analysis, a biography of the author and a criticism. In addition, I will describe the historical and cultural context, analyse the language used by Aldous Huxley, compare *Brave New World* to other works and finally describe the main characters as well as the main action of the book in Spanish. 200 words

## Conflict analysis

In this novel, the main characters are involved in a few conflicts. The main conflict in this novel is the human against society. In fact, the character of Bernard lives in the world of State but doesn't agree with all the actions suggested by this society. In the novel, there is a scene where he and Lenina are talking at their first date. Lenina proposes him some social and normal activities, but Marx refuses to partake in them all, because he wants to be alone with her. In this chapter, Marx is presented as a marginal person who doesn't want to whether do things or think as everybody else's does: "But I do," he insisted. "It makes me feel as though..." he hesitated, searching for words with which to express himself, "as though I were more me, if you see what I mean. More on my own, not so completely a part of the something else. Not just a cell in the social body, doesn't it make you feel like that Lenina?" (p.81).

Lenina seems confused and her naivety is clearly shown in this scene because she was constantly brainwashed by the society's values and has never learned to think for herself. Later in this chapter, Marx expresses the whole concept of freedom and obviously wants to experiment it: "In a different key, 'how can I?' he repeated meditatively. 'No, the real problem is: How is it that I can't, or rather-because, after all, I know quite well why I can't – what would it be like if I could, if I were free – not enslaved by my conditioning.'" (p.81). Bernard Marx describes his conditioning like alienation as well as a prison from which he unfortunately cannot escape.

In addition, Marx's vision of his situation is audacious as well as realistic and Lenina doesn't understand what he says: "I don't know what you mean. I am free. Free to have the most wonderful time. Everybody's happy nowadays." He laughed, "Yes, everybody's happy nowadays." "We begin giving that at five. But wouldn't you like to be free in some other way, Lenina? In your own way, for example: not in everybody else's

way.’(p.81-82). The first conflict is resolved thanks to soma, which is a drug that instantly makes people forget about their problems and become happy. In fact, during the whole scene Lenina tries to convince Bernard by giving him this drug. Soma could be compared to censure in our world of today because it is used in order to stop people from developing undesirable ideas and corrupting others.

The conflict involving the human against society is frequently present in Aldous Huxley’s novels. In this book, another main character, John the Savage, struggles when it comes to feeling accepted by the society whether in his community or in the World of State. John was born and raised in a salvation camp and his mother, Linda, has always told him stories about the other world which is in this case, the civilized one. Rejected by his community, John believes that the Brave new world, as he calls it, will be a better place to live in.

However, when he finds out how people really live in this modern society, he decides to lead a revolution. In fact, one of the most memorable scenes is when her mother is announced dead in the hospital because the doctor had given her a large dose of soma. Then he sees a nurse man announcing to the children that it is time for their soma distribution. John realizes at this specific moment that these people are controlled by these pills and therefore, cannot feel completely free: ‘ ‘But you do like being slaves?’ the Savage was saying as they entered the Hospital. [...] ‘Do you like being babies? Yes babies. Mewling and puking,’ he added, exasperated by their bestial stupidity into throwing insults at those he had come to save. (p.194) This modern society is described as a world where people are divided into different social classes and conditioned at a young age to prevent them from experiencing other feelings than happiness which could become threatening for the social order.

Moreover, people who develop different ideas such as freedom are banned from the community. In this scene, John reflects the image of a messiah, who, disgusted by the children’s alienation, comes to emancipate these people: ‘Don’t you want to be free and men? Don’t you even understand what manhood and freedom are?’ Rage was making

him fluent; the words came easily, in a rush. [...] ‘I’ll teach you; I’ll make you be free whether you want to or not.’(p.194).This quotation is interesting because John the Savage realizes that these people won’t grow up mentally and will always act like kids. In fact, men and women in this novel are like children and the government does everything in its power to make them remain the same as they are. A child is inoffensive and naive which makes him or her vulnerable. Anybody can make children believe anything without fearing any undesirable and dangerous reactions from them and the administrators of this society have exploited this weakness.

In other words, John would rather live in a society where true human relationships (even the painful ones) and transparency are important than in a superficial world where feelings are controlled and citizens encouraged to shun their human nature. The Savage wants to fight against these ideals in the name of freedom. Once again, the conflict is resolved thanks to soma; the guards arrive and spray this drug in the air. As the German philosopher Karl Marx once said: ‘‘ Religion is the opium of the masses’’. (German Philosopher Quotes, 2008) This quotation could be replaced in this case by ‘‘Soma is the opium of the masses’’ because in *Brave New World* this drug is the easiest solution to any problems. 650 words

### Women in the novel

What do Jackie Bouvier Kennedy, Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama have in common? Despite the fact that they are or for some of them were all First Ladies of the United States; they were also an important source of support and were hence responsible for their husbands’ achievements and success. However, in Aldous Huxley’s novel (*Brave New World*), depicting a nightmarish futuristic world, women are not described as strong and involved as those three emblematic First Ladies.

In fact, in the society described in this book, women are treated as sexual objects. They are not completely respected as human beings and have to satisfy every man's desires. In addition, this modern world rejects the natural fact that women play an important role in the procreation of human beings. The society constantly tries to prevent people talking about subjects considered taboos, such as motherhood and pregnancy.

Anybody who dares talking about his or her mother is regarded as an odd person, which is the case of John the Savage, who arrives at the hospital to visit his ill mother and meets the nurse: 'She's my mother,' he said in a scarcely horrible voice. The nurse glanced at him with startled, horrified eyes; then quickly looked away. From throat to temple she was all one hot blush.' (p.181). Aldous Huxley's novel is not a feminist one. People live in a polygamous society and cannot have only one partner because if women do so, they are regarded as freaks. In fact, the best example given in the novel is Lenina's one. She has been dating the same man for four months and Fanny, her friend does not think it is normal:

'Again?' Fanny's kind rather moon-like face expression of pained and disapproving astonishment. 'Do you mean to tell me you're still going out with Henry Foster?' [...] 'Only four months! I like that. And what's more?' Fanny went on, pointing an accusing finger, [...] 'And after all,' Fanny's tone was coaxing, 'it's not as though there were anything painful or disagreeable about having one or two men besides Henry[...]' (p.35-38).

This scene, describing Fanny's reaction to Lenina's long relationship with a man, clearly demonstrates that this society doesn't encourage such an unusual behaviour. The British author also portrays women as naïve and innocent people suffering in silence and that cannot act freely. Moreover, they have to renounce to their personal feelings and preferences for a specific man in order to satisfy to the society's exigencies. In fact, Lenina Crowne is conscious that she is a prisoner from her status and only plays a role that she hasn't chosen:

‘Lenina shook her head. ‘Somehow,’ she mused, ‘I hadn’t been feeling very keen on promiscuity lately. There are times when one doesn’t. Haven’t you found that too, Fanny?’ Fanny nodded her sympathy and understanding. ‘But one’s got to make the effort,’ she said sententiously, ‘one’s got to play the game. After all, everyone belongs to everyone else.’ ‘Yes, everyone belongs to everyone else,’ Lenina repeated slowly and sighing, was silent for a moment; then taking Fanny’s hand, gave it a little squeeze. ‘You are quite right, Fanny. As usual. I’ll make the effort.’ (p.38)

Lenina feels powerless in front of the World of State’s supremacy and realizes that she is only an object which belongs to everybody else, but her. As a result, she resigns and believes that she cannot do anything about it. In the novel, people use the word pneumatic to describe how good sex is with women, in particular Lenina because of her physical appearance.

Moreover, Bernard Marx’s perception of women derives from the one most men share in the society he lives in. Bernard doesn’t agree with people who talk about women as if they were objects only: ‘Talking about her as though she were a bit of meat.’ Bernard ground his teeth. ‘Have her here, have her there. Like mutton. Degrading her to such mutton. [...] (p.40). In this scene, Bernard cannot understand men’s degrading opinion about women. Marx’s attitude shows that he strongly believes that women have a dignity and deserve to be respected as complete human beings, not as animals.

Moreover, although Bernard doesn’t agree with how people treat women in his society, he obviously doesn’t understand why women think the same of themselves and accept to be treated like commodity: ‘Like meat,’ he was thinking. [...] He shook his head. Like so much meat. [...] ‘She thinks of herself that way. She doesn’t mind being meat.’ [...] (p.83) The protagonist reflects the reader’s mind, which is bothered by this world created by Aldous Huxley. Unlike John the Savage, Bernard only thinks his opinions but doesn’t express them with words. John is the one who will finally express what Bernard has always thought about his society’s behaviour towards women. In other

words, Bernard represents John's reason and John represents Bernard's voice; those two characters complete themselves. 500 words

## Themes analysis

*Brave New World* contains a few themes as other books. Themes in a novel can be considered as the essence of the morality of a story. Aldous Huxley's scientific background was useful for the purpose of the writing of *Brave New World*, because most of the themes described in the novel are directly related to sciences.

One of the most recurrent themes in *Brave New World* is the fact that people are ruining their nature. In fact, they extensively use sciences in order to modify their true nature and are addicted to technological advancements: " [...] one fertile ovary in twelve hundred – that would really be quite sufficient for our purposes. [...] So we allow as many as thirty percent of the female embryos to develop normally. The others get a dose of male sex-hormone every twenty-four metres for the rest of the course. [...]" (p.10)

As a matter of fact they can not blossom themselves fully without being dependent from those unfortunate habits that have already overwhelmed their souls. People destroy their harmony with nature, have fun playing the role of God and disturb the natural process of creation.

Another interesting theme described in the novel is the fact that the identity of an individual is determined by his or her place in the society. The government determinates in which social class someone will be and even which characteristics will define his or her personality:

" [...] 'and Delta children wear khaki. Oh no, I don't want to play with Delta children. And Epsilons are still worse. They're too stupid to be able to read or write. Besides, they wear black, which is such a beastly colour. I am so glad I'm a Beta.'" (23-24) In addition, people cannot improve the status that was given to them because they



were condemned at the beginning to stay the same: ‘‘I suppose Epsilons don’t really mind being Epsilons,’’ she said aloud.’’ (p.66)

Thus, people from specific social classes are considered inferior and those from the superior ones are scientifically conditioned to have a negative image of the weak ones.

The division of classes or races is unfortunately still a reality in some societies. We may say that this only existed during the World War II (1939-1945) with the holocaust where millions of Jews were killed and tortured. Some people may also refer to the genocide in Rwanda during the 90’s, where Tutsis and Hutus were killing each other because of their ethnic group. However, this reality still exists. In fact, in India the idea of a caste system is increased, because people from high social classes must not touch those from inferior ones. If they do, they will be considered as impure.

However, the most interesting theme in the story is the government’s use of censure. In Huxley’s novel, the World of State uses its position to control people and make sure they will not elaborate a plot against the government. This totalitarian government tries to prevent people from feeling undesirable feelings. As a matter of fact, they have conditioned people to consume soma, a pleasure drug which quickly makes people forget about their negative thoughts:

‘‘[...] why don’t you take soma when you have these dreadful ideas of yours. You’d forget all about them. And instead of feeling miserable, you’d be jolly. *So jolly,*’’ she repeated and smiled, for all the puzzled anxiety in her eyes, with what was meant to be an inviting and voluptuous cajolery.’’ (p.82).

Mustafa Mond, the World of State controller summarizes soma in one sentence: ‘‘All the advantages of Christianity and alcohol; none of their defects.’’ (p.110) In other words, soma contains all the benefits of a religion (which is the impression of having something to believe in) and drugs such as alcohol (the feeling of being drunk after an

important consumption of alcohol). Censure is the action of limiting the freedom of speech of someone and the government in the story clearly applies this principle.

This theme is still present in our world of today because some countries of the world still apply censure. It is a shame that in 2009 some people keep torturing or assassinating people for their ideas or their writings. In fact, in Tunisia where the dictator Ben Ali rules, people can not express themselves freely and are often tortured if they try to denounce the government. In China, the government tries by any mean to hide information or databases to the population. If someone wants to express an opinion on the internet, the charges against this person could be severe. Many people do not even know what the word democracy means because the Chinese government controls the internet networks. 500 words

### Biography of the author

Aldous Leonard Huxley est né le 26 juillet 1894 à Goldaming, Surrey en Angleterre. Il est le petit-fils T.H Huxley, un important biologiste de l'époque qui contribua à développer la théorie de l'évolution de Darwin et le frère de Julian Huxley, qui était également biologiste. De plus, sa mère était la sœur de Humphrey Ward, le romancier et la nièce de Matthew Arnold le poète. Cet écrivain britannique issu d'une famille d'intellectuels fut diplômé de l'université d'Oxford (1916) en littérature anglaise.

Malheureusement pour lui, il ne pourra pas poursuivre une carrière scientifique comme il le désirait tant puisqu'il sera atteint en 1911 d'une kératite, maladie ophtalmologique le rendant presque aveugle. À l'aide de lunettes spéciales, il sera cependant apte à lire mais apprendra également le braille afin de reposer ses yeux. Cet incident regrettable l'empêchera par le fait même de participer à la première guerre Mondiale (1914-1918) qui sévissait à cette même époque. Par la suite, Huxley se tourna vers l'écriture et publia sa première collection de poèmes en 1916 suivis de deux autres

en 1920. En 1921, celui-ci publia son premier roman intitulé *Crome Yellow* critiquant la société de son époque. Huxley était un écrivain prolifique puisqu'il publia une douzaine d'œuvres en l'espace de huit ans.

Le style de l'écrivain est un mélange de cynisme, de dialogue intellectuel et de critique sociale, surtout de la société occidentale. Son style a fait de lui l'une des figures littéraires les plus à la mode de la décennie. Aldous Huxley fut notamment influencé par l'écrivain anglais D.H Lawrence, son compagnon de voyage en Italie et en France. Il s'installa d'ailleurs en Italie (durant les années 20) dirigée à l'époque par le gouvernement fasciste de Benito Mussolini. Cette étape de sa vie aurait ainsi inspiré l'auteur dans l'écriture de *Brave New World*, où il décrit une société contenant des aspects similaires au régime politique d'extrême droite. De plus, son héritage familial très riche ainsi que les événements qu'il vécut dans sa vie (suicide de son frère Trevene dont il était proche) ont eus un grand impact sur ses œuvres. En effet, Huxley déclara que la mort tragique de sa mère lui a donné un sens éphémère du bonheur humain. La colère du personnage de John le Sauvage dans *Brave New World* lorsque celui-ci apprend le décès de sa mère, ne fait qu'exprimer la frustration que Huxley éprouvait à quatorze ans lorsque Julia sa mère décéda d'un cancer.

De plus, Aldous Huxley vivait au sein d'une famille bourgeoise mais ne s'identifiait point à celle-ci. Huxley était considéré comme étant différent des autres membres de sa famille étant donné sa grande intelligence et ses intérêts personnels. Ainsi, dans *Brave New World* (1932) l'écrivain britannique fait ressortir son côté plutôt marginal à l'aide de personnages tels que Bernard Marx et Helmholtz Watson qui essaient tant bien que mal de s'adapter dans la société dans laquelle ils vivent, malgré leurs différences. Un des aspects intéressants de *Brave New World* est la capacité d'écriture de Huxley ainsi que ses connaissances scientifiques concernant l'évolution humaine. Dans cette dystopie, il intègre des notions éthiques, morales et philosophiques. À cette époque (20<sup>ème</sup> siècle), les écrivains étaient très créatifs et visaient

l'expérimentation. Plusieurs courants littéraires étaient populaires notamment le surréalisme et le modernisme.

Aldous Huxley était un écrivain très en avance par rapport à son époque puisqu'il avait prédit dans *Brave New World* les processus de clonage humains et plusieurs autres aspects scientifiques et techniques. Ainsi, il publia *Brave New World Revisited* près de trente ans après la publication du premier opus, où il décrit tous les phénomènes et avancées technologiques qui se sont ou non réalisées depuis 1932. En observant notre société actuelle, on peut donc conclure que Huxley était un écrivain très créatif et se démarquait des écrivains de son époque par sa grande maturité et ses connaissances étonnamment avancées. 650 words

### Criticism

*Brave New World* is a fictional novel written by Aldous Huxley where the British author describes a dystopian world in which technology and science are extensively used to control human beings. This society, in which they live in, uses conditioning in order to educate people and prevent them from disturbing the social order. These people are kept ignorant and need to take a pleasure drug to remain happy. In 1932, when it was released, the novel received several criticisms from contemporary critics, even if the work was later acclaimed and appreciated. The book was even banned from Ireland.

Huxley's novel was audacious for his time, especially because his country of origin, England which is well known for being a conservative country. In other words, I must say that I was impressed by Huxley's ideas. Those were different from those proposed in the England of this time and he could have easily decided to stick to those ideas, renouncing thus to his personal values. People were mostly conservatives and therefore didn't agree with Huxley's pessimistic view of a futuristic world. Even H.G Wells, a British author, claimed to be a pioneer in science-fiction literature was offended by the book. In fact, Wells stated: "A writer of the standing of Aldous Huxley has no

right to betray the future as he did in that book,” (Brave New World at 75, 2007). H.G Wells who had written *Men like Gods* in 1923, felt insulted about Huxley’s novel, especially because he had taken his inspiration from Well’s story. It is ironic because when Huxley was asked what he was writing about, he answered: “I am writing a novel about the future—on the horror of the Wellsian Utopia and a revolt against it.” (Brave New World at 75, 2007)

For my part, my appreciation of the novel has greatly changed through the reading. In fact, when I started reading the first pages I was completely mixed up because of the all language used by Aldous Huxley. He uses a complex language with scientific words and expressions which were a little hard to understand at first. In addition, the fact that the novel was written in English was not helpful because as a francophone I barely read English novels. The first chapters were difficult to read because of the heavy content and all the information given at the same time. Moreover, the plot was not easy to follow; everything happens so fast and the story is told from different points of views.

However, I must say that when I finished reading the novel I was astonished by all the content of the story. Adding to that, I was really impressed by the author’s descriptions of technologies, which were not available yet at that time. I really liked the contrast used in the book between the World of State and the salvation camp. In the book, people from the World of State claim that they are more civilized than the ones from salvation. This statement is debatable, especially when you take a look at the government’s procedures in this so called civilized society, to control everything. In the salvation camp, traditions and important values such as truth and freedom are really essential. Another element that has caught my attention is the way that the author sees his futuristic world.

Finally, I can say that my final impressions on the story are generally positive. I have appreciated how Huxley integrated Shakespeare’s works in the book and the fact

that John uses them to understand life. I think that this is an original concept and it clearly shows how clever and creative Aldous Huxley was. However, I was a bit disappointed at the end of the story because I believed that there would be a more spectacular revolution similar to the one led by the character of Étienne in *Germinal* (1885) written by Émile Zola, a French novelist, from the naturalist movement. In his book, Zola describes the awful conditions of life of mine workers from France in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which was dominated by aristocracy. Through the story, people realize their alienation and their slaves' conditions and finally decide to start a revolution against the power. Moreover, I thought that Bernard Marx would be the one who would start this revolution, because of the prophetic name given to the character. On one hand, I was expecting more action from him and on another hand; I was not expecting John's reaction. Despite all those elements, *Brave New World* is a masterpiece in modern literature and Aldous Huxley had the courage to write a novel where our future is described as undesirable, rather than a place where we would be enthusiastic to experiment. 750 words

### Language used by the author

Aldous Huxley graduated from the prestigious Oxford University in English literature. As a matter of fact, language is an important element in Huxley's works. For this section of the paper, I have chosen to explore different aspects that the ones asked in the guidelines. In fact, I have chosen to analyze the content of the title of the novel and explain some names of the characters chosen by Huxley.

First of all, one of the most interesting aspects in this work is the title given to the novel. The title *Brave New World* was not chosen for the purpose of praising the society in which the characters live. The character of John the Savage uses this expression naively to describe his enthusiasm about the idea of joining a modern world:

‘‘ The young man drew a deep breath. ‘To think it should be coming true – what I’ve dreamt of all my life. Do you remember what Miranda says?’ [...] ‘O wonder!’ he was saying; and his eyes shone, his face was brightly flushed. ‘How many goodly creatures are there here! How beautiful mankind is!’ [...] ‘O brave new world,’ [...] ‘O brave new world,’ he repeated. ‘O brave new world that has such people in it. Let’s start at once.’ (p. 126).

In this scene, John uses this expression with excitement which refers to Miranda’s speech in *The Tempest* (1611) written by William Shakespeare, which has inspired lots of authors in the world and his works constitute the basis of English theatre. However, Huxley has chosen this title ironically to define this dystopia and conspiracy. The British writer describes a totalitarian society in which sciences are extensively used in different fields and where the government spreads its supremacy. In addition, the government takes advantage of the naivety and ignorance of the people it has created in order to convey ideas such as happiness. When he chose the title of the novel, Huxley’s intentions were clear; he wanted to subtly criticize and denounce the unethical world he created.

Second of all, some characters bear names which refer to important and influential philosophers and political figures from our history. In addition, some of them are predestined to change or accomplish something in the story.

As a matter of fact, the character of ‘‘Bernard Marx’’ (p.29) was named after the German philosopher Karl Marx, who was born in 1818 and elaborated Communism as well as Marxism theories during the Industrial revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He also wrote *Das Kapital* (1867) and *The Communist Manifesto* (1848). In addition, he denounced the injustices between social classes and came up with the idea that religion, economy and politics were three sources of alienation, from which the working class

should be emancipated from. This philosopher also elaborated the dialectical materialism, based on Friedrich Hegel's writings. This theory consisted in understanding today's society through the former social classes in which people had lived. Moreover, Marx had already predicted actual phenomena such as Globalization. Huxley chose to name his character after him, especially because Bernard's personality tends to be different from others and he criticizes his social environment.

Another character who bears an interesting name is "Mustapha Mond" (p.213). This character was named after an important Turkish political figure: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The latter was the founder of the modern republic of Turkey and was the first president of the country, as well (1923). This statesman completely reformed the political institutions by replacing the shariat (Law of Islam) by the Swiss Civil Code. Mustapha Mond is the world controller and the one who created this state. The expression Atatürk means father of the Turks in Turkish and this politician is still praised by his people, which is really interesting because the character of Mustapha Mond is also considered as the father of the Brave New World. Nevertheless, the author might also have chosen the character's name which "is a play on the words "Must staff a mond." ("Mond" is derived from the French word "monde," which means world.)" (Brave New World (Characters), 2006) These two elements demonstrate Aldous Huxley's brilliant linguistic skills and general knowledge. 550 words

### Contrasts and comparisons

For this part of the project, I have decided to compare my novel to a movie from which the character and the theme are similar. The movie I have chosen to compare to *Brave New World* is *V for Vendetta*. *V for Vendetta* created by the Wachowski brothers (the same who brought us *The Matrix* trilogy) was released in the theatres in 2005. The themes and characters presented in the Watchowski brothers' movie are probably the ones that are the most similar to Aldous Huxley's novel.



First of all, the character of V (Hugo Weaving) an anarchist vigilante who hides under a Guy Fawkes' mask is similar the character of John in *Brave New World*. Fawkes was an English protestant from the 17<sup>th</sup> century newly converted to Catholicism, who was one of the conspirators of the unsuccessful Gunpowder plot in the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> of November elaborated by Robert Catesby and Robert Winter. The Gunpowder plot consisted in blowing up the English parliament, in order to protest against the anti-Roman Catholic laws proposed by King James I. Fawkes was discovered, tortured and hanged. V is similar to John the Savage, because he wants to change the way people think in the society.

V was a victim of scientific experiments in a concentration camp, where homosexuals, Jews and Muslims were jailed. However, instead of dying like the others, V survived and the scientists discovered that he started obeying to his own logic, became physically resistant and extremely clever. Later, frustrated by the government's inhuman procedures towards him, he decided to start using his new abilities in order to change the world. The character of V is a marginal person who strongly believes in his opinions and disagrees with the society of his time. Unfortunately for V and John, they both die for their cause. He is also a marginal person who strongly believes in his opinions and disagrees with the society of his time. Unfortunately for them, they both die for their cause.

Another interesting element in the two works is that both characters use a poetic and literary language to express themselves. In addition, the use of this specific language demonstrates the intelligence and education background of those two characters. There is a memorable scene in *V for Vendetta* where the protagonist introduces himself to a woman, Evey:

“Voilà! In a view, a humble vaudevillian veteran, cast vicariously as both victim and villain by the vicissitudes of Fate. This visage, no mere veneer of vanity, is a vestige of the vox populi, now vacant, vanished. However, this valorous visitation of a by-gone vexation, stands vivified and has vowed to vanquish these venal and virulent vermin van-

guarding vice and vouchsafing the violently vicious and voracious violation of volition.”

(Memorable quotes for V for Vendetta, 2005)

V uses alliteration, which consists in repeating the same vowels in order to create an effect of poetry. In this case, V repeats several words which begin with the letter v and this poetic technique can charm anybody. This characteristic defines both V's personality and identity. In *Brave New World*, John the Savage often quotes Shakespeare's works such as *Macbeth* and *Othello*. Thanks to Shakespeare, John understands life and uses the English author's poetry to express himself.

Second of all, the theme in *Brave New World* and the movie *V for Vendetta* are quite the same. The most recurring theme in those two fictional works is the use of the government's supremacy to control every single aspect of the citizens' life. In fact, both stories take place in a totalitarian society. Totalitarianism is an ideology frequently present whether in communist or fascist regimes, where the government controls all political or private activities in the country. Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin were the three most famous dictators who applied Totalitarianism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In *V for Vendetta*, the story takes place in London, where a corrupted conservative party controls everyone's life.

The government even imposes a severe curfew and forbids people to possess specific books. This aspect of the movie is really similar to Aldous Huxley's novel, because people in *Brave New World* the population is constantly controlled by the World of State. However, the situation in *Brave New World* is even worse because the citizens were scientifically created by the society and cannot understand their condition because they are kept ignorant. In addition, many books, such as Shakespeare's are forbidden in order to make sure that people will not read things that might push them to revolt themselves. 684 words

## Spanish section

En la novela *Brave New World*, hay dos personajes principales y son muy importantes en la historia. El primer personaje principal de esta novela se llama Bernard Marx. Bernard es un Alpha y está descrito como un hombre que no tiene características físicas muy imponentes. En efecto, él es acomplejado a causa de su físico inferior porque es delgado, pequeño y los otros alrededor de él tienen éxito con las mujeres. En cambio, este personaje es muy listo y cuando es humillado, puede volverse muy cruel. Los otros piensan que Bernard es un hombre muy extraño a causa de sus opiniones a propósito de su condición de ser vivo y sobre la sociedad en general. Ellos piensan también que Bernard se comporta así a causa del error que cometieron durante su concepción (habrían puesto alcohol en su sangre). Marx es un marginal y no puede integrarse en la sociedad moderna.

El segundo personaje principal es tan importante como el primero. John el Salvaje es el hijo de Linda y del director del centro de incubación del mundo civilizado: Tomakin. Durante sus vacaciones a Nuevo-México, Linda se perdió en una Reserva de salvajes y dio a luz a John. Este personaje es guapo, tiene la piel blanca y el pelo rubio. A causa de estas características físicas, John siempre ha vivido en un entorno hostil y nunca ha aprendido la confianza mutua. De niño, él estaba una víctima de discriminaciones raciales de los otros niños. Su madre le contó varias historias a propósito del otro mundo y el sueño de salir de su reserva para ir en el mundo civilizado. El sueño de John puede ser comparado al sueño americano. John es inteligente, valiente, ingenuo y a veces orgulloso. Él es también muy respetuoso de él mismo y con los otros. Su madre lo aprendió a leer y se vuelve aficionado a Shakespeare, el famoso escritor inglés. John interpreta y comprende la vida con las obras de Shakespeare.

En esta novela, la acción principal es cuando John el Salvaje encuentra a Bernard en la reserva. Un poco mas tarde, John llegará en el nuevo mundo. Cuando llega, John parece impresionado por esta sociedad. En cambio, Bernard empezará a utilizarle como un instrumento para volver a ganar la popularidad que ya había empezado a perder a causa de sus acciones y opiniones. John realiza que Bernard lo utilizó y ya empieza a comprender que no es el mundo que había imaginado. Cuando Linda, la querida madre de John muere a causa del soma (una droga de placer) John se enoja y empieza su revuelta. Él tendrá una confrontación muy interesante con Mustapha Mond (uno de los diez cerebros de la sociedad) sobre la vida y la sociedad. Luego, John se aislará en una casa abandonada y será acosado por periodistas y otras personas del mundo moderno. Al fin del libro, John pierde su lucha, se ahorca y el mundo moderno gana. 491 palabras

## Conclusion

To conclude, *Brave New World* is now considered as a classical masterpiece in science-fiction literature. One author had finally dared to write a controversial novel proposing a catastrophic view of a futuristic world; Aldous Huxley. Huxley was an important writer in the history of English literature. In fact, he was not only an impressive and clever author ahead for his time, but also a realistic person who was not afraid to express his pessimism about life. His great intelligence is noticeable in this novel, especially because he describes some scientific techniques which were unknown at his time and would later become true. Despite the fact that he could not achieve his dream of becoming a scientist due to some health problems, Huxley put all his heart into his two passions; sciences and writing. He also focused all the sadness and frustration he had suffered from the loss of his brother and mother in his characters' feelings. This British author has also been a great source of inspiration for other writers and poets such as George Orwell (1984) and Jim Morrison (the lead singer of the rock band from the 60's The Doors). Besides, Morrison had chosen to name his band The Doors after Huxley's novel *The Doors of perception* (1954). Moreover, one of the most interesting aspects of *Brave New World* is that it pushes people to think about what could happen to mankind if sciences were used unethically. In a situation where our government would have abusively used sciences to change our living habits; would we still have the natural tendency of leading a revolution? 266 words

Total: 5141 words

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