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Chapter 1: Background on Aldous Huxley

1. The Life of Aldous Huxley 23
   Johan Heje
   During his lifetime Huxley was a major literary figure who wrote in many genres, including poetry, essays, short stories, and novels, but today his reputation rests on *Brave New World*, which is usually labeled science fiction.

2. Huxley Matured as a Writer When He Found the Theme of Humanism 32
   John Atkins
   Huxley had a distinguished literary pedigree and entered the literary world at a young age. In his early works, his mastery of language was at times brilliant but the thinking behind it was shallow; however, once he found his central theme, the spiritual nature of man, he found his voice as a writer.

3. Huxley Was Concerned with Political and Scientific Issues of the Day 45
   Harold H. Watts
   Huxley was a writer who involved himself in and wrote about the great issues of his time. A man of wide-ranging interests and a towering intellect, he mingled comfortably in England's literary, scientific, sociological, and political circles.

4. Huxley's Vision Changed from Materialism to Mysticism 58
   Orville Prescott
   In this obituary summing up Huxley's career, his earlier, satiric works, including the best-selling novel *Brave New World*, are judged more popularly and artistically successful than his later, mystical books.
Chapter 2: *Brave New World* and Bioethics

1. *Brave New World* Is Concerned with Government’s Controlling Citizens Through Science
   *Sybille Bedford*
   The theme of *Brave New World* is that it is scientifically possible for government to control and standardize humans. This can only be prevented through awareness and vigilance.

2. *Brave New World* Is Concerned with the Misuse of Science for Power
   *Joseph Needham*
   Huxley warns of the danger of science run amok in *Brave New World*, describing a world where government employs genetic engineering to manipulate its citizens for the sake of power.

3. Huxley Saw Power for Both Good and Evil in Science
   *Jenni Calder*
   Although both George Orwell and Aldous Huxley are concerned with totalitarian control in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Brave New World*, respectively, they view the cause of the problem differently. Orwell saw it in political terms; Huxley viewed the danger as coming from the potential that science could be used for evil purposes as well as for good.

4. *Brave New World* Warns of the Dangers of Consumerism, Genetic Engineering, and Technocracy
   *Robert S. Baker*
   Huxley explores three themes in *Brave New World*: the rise of consumerism, the dangers of genetic engineering, and the potential misuse of power in the hands of the scientific bureaucrat, or technocrat.
5. *Brave New World* Reflects the Gender Bias of Its Time

*June Deery*

There is gender bias in the dystopian universe depicted in *Brave New World*. This bias reflects the subservient role of women in Huxley’s society as well as the masculine dominance in the field of science at the time.

6. In *Brave New World* Freedom Is Traded for Happiness

*George Woodcock*

*Brave New World* is a didactic novel, and Huxley’s intention is to alert his contemporaries to alarming trends that he saw in society. Among these are the misuse of science, the rise of consumerism, a cult of youth, the ascendancy of technology over arts and culture, and people’s accepting happiness over freedom.

7. Huxley Presents a Choice Between Imperfect Humanity and Perfect Biotechnology

*Leon R. Kass*

The utopia of *Brave New World* trades health, security, the easy availability of sex, and peace for a dehumanized, commercialized, emotionless state with no history or culture. Huxley is offering a choice: either a human world, with all its flaws and sorrow, but also its joys; or the soulless perfection of a genetically programmed world.

8. The Brave New World Already Exists

*Rebecca West*

*Brave New World* is one of the most important books written since the end of World War I. What makes Huxley’s vision of psychological conditioning so interesting is that such a society already existed in America and the Soviet Union.

9. Huxley’s Predictions on Technology Were Remarkably Accurate

*The Economist*

While the full-scale horror of Huxley’s vision in *Brave New World* has not been realized, some aspects of it, such as the prevalence of consumerism and the emergence of biotechnology, have prevailed. Additionally, many of his specific scientific predictions, including cloning, were remarkably accurate.
10. Huxley’s Predictions of Loss of Liberty Were Not Accurate

John Derbyshire

Brave New World and George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four both depict humans stripped of their individual liberties in a totalitarian society—a consumer-oriented society in a world bereft of meaning. Huxley’s predictions in Brave New World have not been accurate. While it is possible to use biotechnology for evil purposes, the advances that have been made in this field have been to expand, not curtail, human liberties.

Chapter 3: Contemporary Perspectives on Bioethics

1. The Possibility of Designer Babies Raises Ethical Questions

Stephen L. Baird

Advances in genetic engineering will soon make it possible to alter human fetuses to produce desired traits. These opportunities will create enormous ethical questions, which parents and physicians will need to answer using facts and their own moral beliefs.

2. Stem Cell Research Opens Up New Opportunities

The Philadelphia Inquirer

President Barack Obama’s decision to lift restrictions on the federal funding of stem-cell research separates ideology from scientific inquiry and is a step that could lead to cures for many diseases and conditions, including Parkinson’s disease, paralysis, and heart disease.

3. Stem Cell Research Is Important but Needs Restrictions

Charles Krauthammer

While federal funding should be extended to research on discarded embryos in fertility clinics, President Barack Obama’s executive order fails to create ethical guidelines. This is not a case where it should be left to the scientists. The president should have created restrictions to prevent the deliberate creation of human embryos solely for the purposes of research.
4. Genetic Research Poses a Threat to Civil Liberties

Philip L. Bereano

While mapping the genetic structure of humans will lead to medical breakthroughs, it can also lead to violations of privacy and the potential for discrimination by class or genetic profile.

For Further Discussion

For Further Reading

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