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Fiction vs. Reality. Connection of dystopian elements with Donald Trump's presidency

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0. Abstract.

The main goal of the essay is to establish a comparison between dystopian pieces of fiction and reality. Mainly, to develop a connection between said fictions and alt-right parties, paying special attention to Donald Trump's presidency. The two main novels which will be used are *1984* by George Orwell, and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. As both novels present some elements that Trump has emulated during his time at the White House.

In order to establish the link between fiction and reality, *1984* and *Brave New World* will be deeply analysed in the theoretical framework. So, in the third section of the essay, it will be easier to spot the connections with Trump's presidency.

Keywords: Dystopian literature, 1984, George Orwell, Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, alt-right parties, Donald Trump.

Resumen

El objetivo principal de este ensayo es establecer una comparación entre obras distópicas de ficción y la realidad. Principalmente, desarrollando una conexión entre dichas distopías y partidos de ultraderecha, prestando especial atención al mandato de Donald Trump. Las dos novelas principales usadas durante el ensayo son *1984* y *Brave New World* de Aldous Huxley, ya que ambas novelas presentan características que Trump ha emulado mientras estuvo en la Casa Blanca.

Para establecer el enlace entre ficción y realidad, *1984* y *Brave New World* serán analizadas en profundidad en el marco teórico. Así, en la tercera sección del ensayo será más sencillo localizar las conexiones con el gobierno de Trump.

Palabras clave: Literatura distópica, 1984, George Orwell, Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, partidos de ultraderecha, Donald Trump.

1. Introduction.

This end of degree's project will establish a comparison between fiction and reality. The main goal is to show the link created by the big global powers and how they do not differ from dystopian pieces of literature such as Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World*. In order to do so, the second section of the project, the theoretical framework will cover a description of the characteristics of *1984* as the referent in the social matters which will be described in sections 2.3. and 2.4., mass control and hate speech respectively. Moreover, some other pieces of literature and video games with similar structure and characteristics will be mentioned in order to exemplify topics such as the prohibition of having different ideas from the regime's or the abolition of privacy. This will enrich and create the comparison and the link between the measures taken by dystopian governments and the real world ones.

Not only *1984* characteristics will be taken into account, but also the characteristics of Huxleyan dystopias will also be described. These characteristics will be especially helpful in sections 2.1., and 2.2., economic measures and environmental issues respectively. Those sections consist of the economic measures taken by capitalist countries such as the United States, or how the Chinese Communist Party is leaving aside nature in order to focus on the development of their country. Both sides of the fence will be considered and analysed to prove that both governments do not care about the consequences of global warming, deforestation, or even the spreading of new diseases consequential to these decisions. In conclusion, how the human species is constantly in conflict with nature. And the duality of how technological development is both helpful and harmful for life on the planet at the same time.

Once both descriptions and characteristics are explained the comparison among fiction and reality will start in section three, which is the core of the paper. The connection among the pieces of literature previously mentioned and some video games which treat the same dystopian elements with the statements and measures taken by the real world's governments. This will demonstrate that even though pieces of literature are supposed to be fictional, the worlds presented in these kinds of works are present in our reality. Not as punctual cases, but as the general term.

The third section is divided into four subsections which deal with different topics. The first one's main goal is to create links in different fields such as the economic measures which are taken in nowadays society. For example, how those measures are employed to prevent people from lower classes to become part of the higher spheres as it happens in the following extract from *Brave New World* (Huxley, 1932):

Alpha children wear grey. They work much harder than we do, because they're so frightfully clever. I'm really awfully glad I'm Beta, because I don't work so hard. And then we are much better than the Gammas and Deltas. Gammas are stupid. They all wear green, 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... (pp. 22-23).

The second subsection deals with how these same economic measures affect the environment. How governments deny the major problems of deforestation, deglaciation, and climate change. Donald Trump, former president of the United States, is one of the best examples in the previous matters. In an interview uploaded to YouTube where he talked about climate change, he declared that: "I don't think science knows actually" (Guardian News, 2020).

The third subsection necessarily mentions and explains the techniques that these governments use in order to control people and avoid social revolutions. The most reluctant case on this matter is the one established in China during the pandemics. The government decided to establish stronger measures of control taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation as an excuse. This article by Talha Burki (2020) in *The Lancet* proves one of the measures used in the country: "Drones equipped with echoing loudspeakers rebuked Chinese citizens who were not following the rules" (p. 1240). Similar measures are taken in George Orwell's *1984*:

The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it, moreover, so long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. (Orwell & Fromm, 1950, p. 23)

However, these measures of mass control never come alone. Since ancient times, people who are in power cancel and charge against others who are dangerous for the government's ideas, people who are different from the regime's ideology and, hence, the ones who would break the homogeneity they pursue. The fourth section covers these kind of measures, which are entitled as hate speech. Hate speech can be seen in passages of *1984* as the following: "He could never see the face of Goldstein without a painful mixture of emotions. It was a lean Jewish face (...)" (Orwell, 2004, p. 32). This is a clear case of antisemitism and a similar racist case is seen in the following article in *Forbes* where Tommy Beer (2021) pinpoints how Trump

classifies *Black Lives Matter* protesters as “thugs, terrorists, and anarchists” and the mob who infiltrated in the U.S. Capitol as “people who are very special”

After the explanation of the comparisons, the conclusions will be extracted in the last section of the project. Those conclusions will prove that it is difficult to separate fiction and reality in some aspects, especially in the United States while Trump was president. At the same time, they will serve as a to-do list of matters that need to change. Otherwise, humanity will be condemned to incarnate dystopias in a close future.

2. Theoretical framework: definition and characteristics of Orwellian and Huxleyan dystopias.

2.1. Orwellian dystopias.

In order to describe how Orwellian dystopias work, and what their characteristics are, it is vital to highlight how *1984* by George Orwell works. In *1984*, the world was divided into 3 powerful nations which were at war. The region where the novel is set is Oceania, where the Big Brother acts as the leader of the government. The Big Brother figure is present everywhere in the novel and, in addition, he possesses advanced technology used to control and observe people, so they cannot revolt. The other characteristic that this government has is the thought police, a group of people who are in charge of assuring that all the people follow the Big Brother's commands, and if they do not, the thought police punishes them. Throughout the novel, the processes by which the government deceives people are presented, such as the modification of newspapers and media, allowing the Big Brother to control people easily. His statements are never questioned and people follow him with ease, mainly because people who act against the rules are publicly executed or tortured and brainwashed in one of the city buildings. So, this novel will provide the basic features which are going to be reproduced, with some slight modifications, in future dystopian novels whose aim is to recreate a society ruled by fear, media and dictatorships. Following Claeys' (2010) work, Orwellian dystopias usually present 7 characteristics:

The first one is that there must be a one-party state, meaning that citizens cannot choose who are their rulers as there is only one party. In addition to this, the same party controls all the powers which are usually split in different organizations. So, the party possesses total control over the economy, the culture, and the information. The consequences of this are devastating in all the stories which present this characteristic. Basically, a society which is unable to choose their own path as they are dispossessed of their free will and they always act according to the party's interests unconsciously.

The second one consists in the development of technology used exclusively to control people's private lives or to influence their beliefs in a beneficial way for the party. In *1984*, Orwell presented the telescreen, a device which fulfils both objectives. It is used as a method of surveillance as it is able to monitor and record what people are doing in front of the machine. But, it is also used to broadcast the Big Brother's speeches to all the citizens in Oceania. The telescreen's design is also perfect because it also forces people to see and listen to it periodically, which is used to brainwash people and present everything shown on the TV as the only truth, the one of the party.

According to Claeys (2010), the third characteristic is the prosecution and eradication of the party's enemies. In *1984*, there is a constant war outside Oceania, at the very beginning it is said to be against "Eurasia" and, at the end of the novel, the enemy changes suddenly to "Eastasia". Nonetheless, those are not the only enemies acting against the party. Inside their borders, there are people who defy the party's system, the ones who commit "thoughtcrime". They are presented as the most dangerous enemies in the novel because they represent the exact opposite of what the party seeks, a unified hive mind easier to control. People who have their own values, culture and freedom are the contrary of what the Big Brother pursues.

Controlling people by means of fear is the fourth characteristic. Throughout Orwell's *1984*, the entire city in which Winston lives usually assists public executions. However, in the novel, people seem to be expecting these moments and enjoy them. The menace and the existence of these executions are used as a dissuasive element for anybody willing to defy the party's interests. And, as shown in the same novel, there were methods way worse than death itself, for example in this passage: "(...) he could see that the cage was divided lengthways into two compartments, and that there was some kind of creature in each. They were rats" (Orwell, 2004, p. 358). In the novel, Winston, the protagonist, is presented as a character who is afraid of rats. So, when Winston is arrested by the thought police, they tortured him by means of his deepest fear in order to brainwash him and earn his loyalty back.

The fifth characteristic is the necessity of the party to erase the boundaries between the citizen and them. By doing so, they avoid organizations which usually fight for individuals' rights obtaining in exchange a clearer and more direct path towards their controlling the people's objective.

The next characteristic deals with the need of militarizing the country or the state. Their main objective is to have the control of the people's private lives too. If everything is politicized,

then citizens are easier to control which eventually leads to absolute loyalty and a totalitarian regime. This is the easier characteristic to reproduce in reality. Governments are the ones in charge of the military and police forces. So, a charismatic leader could easily take advantage of this for the sake of their ideal vision of the world. Not only charismatics one, but also people who gain great power during their leadership. This leads to the last characteristic: a leader who is able to create a cult surrounding him.

Leaders in dystopias are usually represented as mythological creatures. They are not usually seen in public, and their existence is sometimes questioned because of this. However, people are not even allowed to wonder about that aspect as they will be prosecuted and punished if they do it. One of the most perfect examples about this deified governor is the Lord Ruler in *Mistborn: The Final Empire* by Brandon Sanderson (2006). A regime is nothing without a leader of these characteristics. The ability to find people willing to pursue their leader no matter what is vital. Up to the extent of treating them as a deity, the leader's ideas should never be questioned and everything they say must be treated as a dogma.

2.2. Huxleyan dystopias.

Huxleyan dystopias share some characteristics with Orwellian ones. Such as the development of new technologies or the improvement of the existing ones. Nonetheless, in Huxleyan dystopias those technologies are not used to control people by means of fear, but to divide people in different social groups depending on their economical income. These dystopias show the last consequences of capitalism and technology (sometimes in combination). They depict the consequences that these kinds of societies might have if principles are left aside in search for extreme scientific and economic development.

The novel which exemplifies everything mentioned previously is *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (1932). In his novel, Huxley presents a society in which the individual values of humanity have been left aside in pursuit of social values, suppressing individuality by means of hypnosis, and classic conditioning. That society in the novel is divided into five different types of humans: alphas, betas, gammas, deltas, and epsilons. Being the alphas the most intelligent and good-looking ones and the epsilons the last step in those matters, because they are used as workforce. In addition, epsilons are cloned and deprived of oxygen while they are in development.

The main goal of the powerful people in the novel is to justify that a society without individualities and highly technological is exempt from wars and social problems. Adding to

the mixture the soma, a drug used to prevent people from mental illnesses such as depression. To sum up, Huxley presented a dystopian world and made the characters in the novel believe that they live in a utopia.

According to Claeys (2010) Huxleyan dystopias present the following characteristics. The first one is social predestination: As previously mentioned in the introduction, *Brave New World* presents a society which is clearly divided into five different groups of people, the alphas, the betas, the gammas, the deltas and the epsilons. Starting from the alphas, they are meant to be the elite of England, while the epsilons are born to work hard in precarious conditions. It is easy to draw a comparison between fiction and reality here. Glass ceiling societies are quite common in reality, and usually, people who are born under poverty cannot climb the social ladder and become ‘alphas’ because these alphas are in charge of keeping the vast majority of the world’s richness, as it can be seen in McCarthy’s *Global Pyramid of Wealth* (2021)

The second feature which should be taken into account is the mass production and consequently, mass consumerism. *Brave New World* presents a setting in which even human beings are being produced in an unnatural way. They are cloned and produced as pieces of a big machine. They are not raised nor born from a family, but from a factory in which they are treated as a product. This is the last consequence of biology and capitalism applied to human condition. In those human factories, the people created artificially are also hypnotized and conditioned to work and function as the previous characteristic showed. There is no freedom left for the individual as everything is predetermined by what the society needs at the moment. In this fragment of *Brave New World*, it is clearly stated that deltas and epsilons are much more produced as they are cheaper to maintain because their lifespan is shortened. The technique used to clone and condition human beings is known as the “Bokanovsky Process”:

One egg, one embryo, one adult – normality. But a bokanovskified egg will bud, will proliferate, will divide. From eight to ninety-six buds, and every bud will grow into a perfectly formed embryo, and every embryo into a full-sized adult. Making ninety-six human beings where only one grew before. Progress (Huxley, 1932, p.4)

Suppressing emotions to increase productivity in individuals, the third characteristic is presented in *Brave New World* as a pill, “soma”. A drug created to prevent people from taking vacations, spending time with the family and avoiding negative feelings that could affect them in their jobs. In other words, it is a new tool for capitalism which makes it easier to create perfect machines rather than human beings. People who only need a few seconds to hold

everything back together and who are always willing to work for the system. In today's society, capitalism is starting to open a breach in people's minds. They feel anxious if they need to rest, people need to consume in order to be happy, and they stop relying on their family and friends because human relationships only lead to the avoidance of productivity. This will be further analysed in the 3.1. section.

The fourth feature is subliminal messages, which are commonly found in the book. For example, in this excerpt: "Everyone works for everyone else. We can't do without any one. Even Epsilons are useful. We couldn't do without Epsilons. Every one works for everyone else. We can't do without any one." (Huxley, 1932, p.64) These kinds of messages are used throughout the novel to persuade people that everyone is valuable and has a place inside society. They try to depict them as if they all had the same social status. *Brave New World* exposes perfectly how a brainwashed society works when nobody wills to defy the system. They are all happy with the rules imposed even if those rules act against their own benefit. One of the methods used to achieve this goal is the hypnopaedia, a brainwashing process which allows the book's society to control their individuals from the moment they are created. Huxley (1932) described this process in the novel as follows: "But wordless conditioning is crude and wholesale; cannot bring home the finer distinctions, cannot inculcate the more complex courses of behaviour. For that there must be words, but words without reason. In brief, hypnopaedia." (p. 23) The other method is the depiction of people from outside Ford's government as if they were savages. They are shown as in a 'safari' because they do not abuse the soma and still live in the traditional way.

Euthanasia is the fifth key feature in *Brave New World*, however, it is not a measure which is adopted by people's will. Euthanasia is taken for granted as the citizens inside the novel are conditioned that their lives are not worth it once they are not useful for the system. When this happens, they end up in the "Hospital for the Dying", a place where they are supposed to die peacefully thanks to the soma. The novel describes it as: "All the best toys are kept there, and they get chocolate cream on death days. They learn to take dying as a matter of course." (Huxley, 1932, p.142). So, what the society in the novel does is to make them believe that dying is something good for them and the society. The moment in which people stopped working should be seen as a moment for retirement and not as a painful experience.

Finally, similarly to how Orwellian dystopias work, Huxleyan ones also need godlike leaders. The main difference between them is that Huxleyan leaders do not need to intimidate

or to create fear to be followed. They grow up as gods because people treat them as such. In *Brave New World* (Huxley, 1932), Ford is described as a person who invented a car and a method to mass produce it. His inventions created a revolution in the world and people started to think of Ford as a god progressively up to the point of which the date system changed from the birth of Jesus in the bible to the day in which Ford died.

2.3. Elements in common and further examples.

Brave New World and *1984* present societies which have been completely controlled by their governments. Totalitarianism in the case of Orwell's novel, and the ability to provide what people think they need in the case of Huxley's one. They achieve this by means of strong propaganda. And, that is the first element in common. In *1984* the propaganda was made by using the telescreens or the posters which are found around the city. Those elements usually contain the three slogans of the party: "war is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength" (Orwell, 2004, p.6) or the most famous quotation from this novel: "Big Brother is watching you" (Orwell, 2004, p.3). On the other hand, *Brave New World* has invented a brainwashing technique which does not imply inflicting fear in its inhabitants, the hypnopædia. That technique is used to establish people's ideas from the moment they are born so, they do not question why alphas are superior to them or, why they have to accept their death when they are no longer useful for the system:

Wordless conditioning is crude and wholesale; cannot bring home the finer distinctions, cannot inculcate the more complex courses of behaviour. For that there must be words, but words without reason. In brief, hypnopædia. (Huxley, 1932, p. 23)

The next element in common is social aspects. Both books present a society which is divided in different social strata. *Brave New World* has the alpha, beta, gamma system. *1984* is divided into inner and outer party members, and the prole. The connection could be made if alphas are considered as inner party members in terms of privileges, betas and gammas as outer party members. And, deltas and epsilons as the prole. However, those distinctions are not equal as both books function differently in how they describe and divide their functions in society. For example, the prole in *1984* is allowed to read, and they know about family life. "It systematically undermines the solidarity of the family, and it calls its leader by a name which is a direct appeal to the sentiment of family loyalty" (Orwell, 2004, p.272). Epsilons and gammas are created to simply operate machines, so they do not need to read. And, they do not have families, as they are mass-produced using the Bokanovsky Process.

The last common element is technology. Both pieces of fiction present it as an element which is used to control people's lives. In the case of *1984*, as it has been previously mentioned, the telescreens are the central element to achieve that purpose. On the other hand, *Brave New World* presents a world which has more advanced technology. They possess clone factories where the Bokanovsky Process is applied, or soma, a drug which is able to suppress people's bad emotions. Both technological developments are aimed to maintain the society's stability, mitigating any revolt attempt.

Both novels have influenced the literature on the dystopian genre. This has led to new dystopian pieces of literature which will also be mentioned or commented on in this paper. Not only novels will be taken into account, but also films and video games which describe perfectly some of the current world's situations.

First of all, *Mistborn: The Final Empire* is a novel by Brandon Sanderson. It was published in 2016 and it is an example of a totalitarian regime as *1984*. In the novel, there is a figure which is considered as a god, the Lord Ruler. He has been ruling Luthadel for almost 1000 years. In order to do so, he has created a cult around him. Additionally, he has divided the citizens into different social groups, the noblemen and the skaa. The second group is condemned to forced labour tasks and they are usually publicly executed when they perform rebellious acts.

Secondly, *The Drown World* by J.G. Ballard published in 1962 sets the fiction in a world which has been completely flooded due to the melting of the poles of the Earth. The novel describes perfectly the feeling of loneliness and despair that human beings are left to suffer due to this tragedy. People cannot get out of their shelters because the water is so polluted that it is venomous. The tragedy was a consequence of a mass-producing society which only took into account scientific and technological progress.

Third, *The Silence* by Don DeLillo, published in 2020. This novel is set in 2022, when a natural catastrophe happens. This novel does not fit in the economic or political background of *1984* or *Brave New World*. It is connected to them by the feeling of chaos that is appreciated at the end of both novels, when the protagonists start to rebel against the system before they are drowned in it again.

Additionally, the film of *Mad Max* will also be commented on in the paper. The film presents a completely devastated environment in which there are no plants nor animals. It depicts how society has become completely inhumane, they are constantly at war. Fighting for resources as water, which used to be common before deforestation problems were irreversible.

Moreover, people on the film also suffer from leukaemia due to the hostility of the environment. So, again, this film connects with the latest consequences of mass-production.

Finally, the *Bioshock* saga will be contemplated in the essay. Both, *Bioshock Infinite*, and *Bioshock* present dystopian elements from the main novels used in the paper. *Bioshock* is set in a submarine city; people have been selected by Andrew Ryan, the antagonist, to join his city of scientific progress. Throughout the game, some quotes of Ryan are: “A man chooses... a slave obeys” or “we all make choices, but in the end our choices make us” (*Bioshock*, 2007). Both quotes are aimed at the people living in his underwater city, convincing them of the right choice they have made by joining his idea.

In *Bioshock Infinite*, the main difference is that Father Comstock, the antagonist of this game, is more similar to Big Brother as he has surveillance cameras scattered in his city, he possesses strong military force and he also delivers hate speeches against people from below. Columbia is the city which he has created, and it is a flying city whose main goal is to cleanse humanity in the Doomsday. Additionally, he also performs public executions, and has inner enemies, as the protagonist of the game, Booker DeWitt, who is persecuted throughout the whole game. Some quotes from Father Comstock are the following: "The Lord forgives everyone, but I am just a Prophet...so I don't have to. Amen" or “the seed of the Prophet shall sit the throne, and drown in flames the mountains of men” (*Bioshock Infinite*, 2013). Both quotes are directly related to how Ford, the Big Brother, and himself are seen as deities in their realities.

3. Fiction vs. reality

This new section will establish the comparison between both fiction and reality. Even though in the previous section only *1984* and *Brave New World* have been considered in order to show the main characteristics of Orwellian and Huxleyan dystopias, this one will also use the other literary works, games, or series that followed the same patterns and that are more chronologically related to nowadays time. This does not mean that Huxley's and Orwell's works are outdated as it will be seen in the following sections. They almost described how modern society and governments have reacted to the adversities presented to them. Monitoring people's locations, selling out private data, deforestation in search of economic benefit, strong military and police control by governments, or speeches following the same pattern as Big Brother's in *1984*, etc. It almost seems that both authors had a time machine and wrote what they saw in current affairs.

3.1. Economic measures

The economic measures taken by the global powers lead to extreme poverty in some sections of the population, and extreme wealth in the other.

People who are more likely to live situations of extreme poverty include: single recent mothers, unemployed ones, Americans with a disability, American Indian and Alaska natives, adults with less than a high school diploma, black and African Americans, non-citizen immigrants, children under five, Hispanic and Latinos, women, and service workers (Sauter, 2017).

Similar to how Huxleyan dystopias are sociologically structured, reality shows almost the exact same characteristics. Citizens are divided in classes, first and second class citizens are a reality although they are usually denied by governments as they are not willing to recognize that these kinds of social injustices exist. In addition to these classes, there is also another classification which is highly linked to them, people's acquisitive power. How much can they spend in a society which spins around consumerism. People need to gain and spend money in order to be happy and socially accepted. The more money people own and spend, the higher they are in society. And, that might be one of the reasons behind the success that Trump had during his run for presidency.

Clinton lost because the economy under President Obama did not perform well enough to meet Fair's thresholds of happiness. Economic growth was anaemic for nearly all of the last eight years. As a result, job creation lagged far behind the records set during other post-recession recoveries (Schiller, 2016).

The United States is undeniably one of the most capitalist countries on the globe according to *Capitalist Countries in 2021* (2021). Their society has evolved around that ideal. And, it was a matter of time that someone who owns big quantities of money was elected as president. That was Trump's case. He was seen as someone economically successful. Consequently, if he was the leader, he should have given the country economic success too. However, this was not the case. In the article by the Reality Check Team (2020) from the *BBC*, Trump reported that the US were experiencing historical rises in the economy right before the pandemics, and also a reduction of poverty. Nonetheless, that was not the case at all. Taking into account economic growth, it only increased 0.2% after Barack Obama, the president before Trump, left the presidency. And, if poverty rates were considered, the results shown did not consider black and Hispanic population, who are the most affected because of the continued

racist growth of the country. As Williamson and Gelfand (2019) discussed: “Trump has encouraged racism and benefited politically from it.”

This leads to the next issue, the presence of the glass ceiling structure in these societies. In *Brave New World* (1932), the society is divided from birth in five different social strata based on their ability and usefulness to society. The issue in the novel is the same as in reality. People in the lowest position are seen as irrelevant and replaceable as they are more numerous than the ones on the top. However, a society cannot function without people from the bottom. And, the biggest problem is the unavailability of moving from one stratum to another without great difficulties. This special type of discrimination is usually found at workplaces by women. They are restricted from moving to higher positions by companies whose representatives and leaders are usually men. Although this problem grows consciousness slowly, Trump stated the following about Hillary and Kamala during his campaign rally: “They talked about the glass ceiling, and a woman breaking the glass ceiling and it didn’t work out that way, the glass ceiling broke her” (Massie, 2020).

The root of the glass ceiling problem is that society does not seem ready to accept the validity of women in workspaces that have been traditionally occupied by men, who are afraid of the loss of their comfort position given to them from birth. The comparison with *Brave New World* (1932) is inevitable at this point, women are expected to behave as ‘epsilons’ or ‘deltas’ and to stay there and not climb up to positions which have always been occupied by ‘alpha men’. Women in the novel are depicted as inferior in intelligence, and they perpetuate gender roles as nurses, caretakers, or even mere possessions of men. This can be seen in the following fragments: “‘offer them the flowers and the books again.’ The nurses obeyed; but at the approach of the roses (...)” (Huxley, 1932, p.17), “‘Yes, every one belongs to everyone else,’ Lenina repeated slowly and, sighing, was silent for a moment; then, taking Fanny’s hand, gave it a little squeeze (Huxley, 1932, p. 37).

And, leaving aside glass ceiling, there is also another problem which increased during Trump’s administration. “Payday loans became more abusive” (Vesoulis, 2020). Payday loans are “an amount of money that is lent to someone by a company for a short time at a very high rate of interest” according to the Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.). The main issue created by these loans is that they become cyclical. People who ask for them become slaves of that money and, thus, they are hardly ever able to recover from them. What Trump did was to repeal the law that former president Obama established. Obama’s law was created to prevent people from asking

for payday loans if they were not able to pay them back. Preventing people from entering this trap. Trump's objective was not helping people who needed the money, he aimed for protecting the loan companies over the population. That situation ultimately led to poor people becoming poorer and rich people becoming richer. This problem is extremely similar again to the social predestination feature in Huxleyan dystopias, extremely capitalized countries need cheap workforce. And, people who are in despair because of these situations will supply it. In other words, undercover slavery. "We also predestine and condition. We decant our babies as socialized human beings, as Alphas or Epsilons, as future sewage workers or future." He was going to say "future World controllers," (Huxley, 1932, p. 10).

Mistborn: The Final Empire (Sanderson, 2006) depicts this situation perfectly. Skaa are supposed to take the hardest jobs in society. They are sent to labour camps when they ask for loans and are not able to repay them.

"You should see city skaa, Tresting,'the obligator said, turning back to watch the skaa workers. 'These are actually quite diligent compared to those inside Luthadel. You have more... Direct control over your skaa here. How many would you say you lose a month?'" (p.15).

In the end, as slavery is prohibited nowadays, the best way to produce slaves is to trap them in these kind of capitalist tricks. There is an even more dangerous problem beneath this, which is that the people who are forced into these situations are racialized people because they have bigger difficulties in finding a stable job which pays well. So, it seems that society has not evolved since the seventeenth century when slavery was eradicated.

The last consequence of this issue is homelessness, which connects with the subliminal messages' characteristic in Huxleyan dystopias. Homeless people are necessary in capitalist societies to deliver a message; they are human subliminal messages of what are the consequences of not succeeding in life. And, as a result, they are forced to live in extreme conditions because their way of life is for people who do not succeed in the capitalist system. "Around the world, homeless people are referred to in derogatory terms – vermin, cockroaches, pigeons – things to be exterminated. They are seen as dirty, lacking morals, and burdens on society" (Farha, 2015). Similarly, they are treated as the savages in *Brave New World*: "a savage reservation is a place which, owing to unfavourable climatic or geological conditions, or poverty of natural resources, has not been worth the expense of civilizing" (Huxley, 1932, p.141).

Bioshock Infinite (2014) used this concept throughout the whole game. Father Comstock, the leader of the dystopia, chose a few successful people and created a flying city. What he does throughout the game is to demonize people who are not in his city and to use them as examples of bad praxis. The ones against the system are condemned to go back to earth, where they will be hopeless as they will never be able to return to the city. This goes even further when Comstock speaks about Doomsday. When he will cleanse humanity from those sinners from below. Although it seems as a rough metaphor, this is what capitalist countries are doing with homeless people. For example, in the States Trump stated that “police need to be backed up in order to punish and arrest homeless people” (Bittle, 2019).

In addition to these statements, there are also other measures which are being implemented in big cities in order to prevent homeless people from sleeping in the streets. These measures are usually known as anti-homeless architecture. They consist of spikes in the ground, over benches, under ceilings, etc. They are made in an aesthetic way so the impression people get at first sight is that they are used to embellish the city. Nevertheless, they are used to make homeless people's lives even harder. All these measures cross the line of dystopian elements. And, they do not constitute a countermeasure to prevent homelessness. There are no regulations that could be helpful to allow people affordable housing. Only some cities such as New York, which have a ‘right-to-shelter’ law, prevent people from sleeping in the streets. However, those shelters have proven insecure and dangerous for the people who use them. Especially women, who are sometimes abused while living there. Shelters are supposed to be safe places and, in the end, they are nothing alike. People prefer living outside, as other characteristics that shelters have are the tight timetables and the lack of resources for everyone inside them. Correspondingly, in *Brave New World*, women are also sexually assaulted under the premise of “everyone belongs to anyone else”. Sex is not treated as a taboo in the novel. However, women are treated as sex toys:

“‘Lenina Crowne?’ said Henry Foster, echoing the Assistant Predestinator’s question as he zipped up his trousers. ‘Oh, she’s a splendid girl. Wonderfully pneumatic. I’m surprised you haven’t had her.’ ‘I can’t think how it is I haven’t,’ said the Assistant Predestinator. ‘I certainly will. At the first opportunity’” (Huxley, 1932, p.37).

Nowadays, homelessness rate is at 0.17% according to Stasha (2021) which is almost half a million people without somewhere to live. This is something that *Human Rights* covers in its “The Right to Adequate Housing” section. According to it, adequate housing must present

“privacy, equal, and non-discriminatory access to housing and the right to choose one’s residence” (United Nations, 2009, pp. 3-5). None of these characteristics are met in the shelters previously mentioned. Privacy is not achieved when people need to share their room with unknowns. The access is not equal either as people need to fill in a document and then, they might be chosen as suitable for the shelter or not. And finally, homeless people have not had the right to choose their residence. They are abandoned by the system and forced to seek a roof to sleep under. Sometimes, they are even separated from their friends and family because the shelters are at maximum capacity, especially during winter.

Human Rights do not stop there. There is also a section which reads the following: “States must make every possible effort, within their available resources, to realize the right to adequate housing and to take steps in that direction without delay” (United Nations, 2009, p.4). This clearly contradicts what has been previously stated in this section of the project. But, there is another contradiction inside the *Human Rights* declaration as in the previous section of this “Right to Adequate Housing”, it can be read that: “the right to adequate housing covers measures that are needed to prevent homelessness, prohibit forced evictions, address discrimination, focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, ensure security of tenure to all, and guarantee that everyone’s housing is adequate” (United Nations, 2009, p.6).

So, the problem with homeless people comes first from a deficient system that forces a part of the population to this situation. And then, from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which allows the system to be lax in this aspect because what the United Nations did was not to create a set of rules which should be followed. They created a set of instructions which could be followed, or not. Probably, because in the end, people who belong to lower classes are usually forgotten and only pointed out as how people are not supposed to behave.

The last economic measure covered in this section is Public Health Service in the United States. First of all, health services are not free in the States; they are public in the sense that everyone can access them as long as they can pay for them. Obviously, this is intimately related to what has been previously exposed. Paying for a treatment is usually expensive, especially if a surgery or a cure requires several sessions as it could be the case of a cancer. People who are not able to gather the money in advance end up asking for payday loans which may ultimately lead to situations of extreme poverty.

“The average wage in the USA was 52.000\$ (44.000\$ in the case of women) a year” according to Martin (2017). There are healthcare programs which are used to prevent people

from paying abusive amounts of money if they fall ill. They are usually priced at around 450\$ a month. “Unless they had a bad medical history or even if they are older individuals, which may lead to an increase of it” (Fontinelle, 2021). So, healthcare programs cost 5400\$ a year considering that the person is healthy and living alone. A hypothetical family with two children and an unemployed member would need to pay four times that money with the average wage, in that case, the quantity grows up to 21.600\$. This leaves the family with 30.000\$. Taking into consideration that those people need to buy food, books, pay taxes, and transportation, that amount of money is not enough for a family to live with. And, this is not the toughest case, this is only an optimistic average consideration. The Obamacare program was implemented in order to avoid people from spending larger amounts of money on these kinds of insurances.

However, Trump eliminated it. This may eventually lead to more extreme situations where only people with high economic income might be able to pay for their health while a poorer population is expected to get in debt. “‘What’s the matter with him?’ whispered Lenina. Her eyes were wide with horror and amazement. ‘He’s old, that’s all,’ Bernard answered as carelessly as he could. He too was startled; but he made an effort to seem unmoved (Huxley, 1932, p.95).

The fact that Lenina is surprised by the existence of old people in combination with the quote which explained death conditioning in children proves that *Brave New World*’s society does not want old people in their system as they are no longer useful for it. Which is closely related to how homeless people are seen in society.

As it happens in *Brave New World*, people are abandoned by the system once they are not helpful for it. They are not given death as it happens in the novel, but they are likely condemned to live a life which is highly likely to end in that way. Suicide rate of homeless people is at a 47% according to Bulman (2020). The figure is devastating as it truly depicts what is like to live as an outsider in a society which has abandoned its humanity in order to pursue monetary income, and in addition, these people are being pursued as if they were criminals just because they give tourists a bad impression about the city, turning human beings into furniture which is not pleasant to look at because it makes people uncomfortable.

To sum up, Huxleyan dystopias depict how our world would be if people forgot about their human side seeking for extreme economic benefit. The economic measures described in this section and the consequences that they have in the short or long term are devastating from a human perspective, people are slowly condemned to live in disastrous situations just for the

sake of the economic system ruling the country. Measures that should be aimed to help the entire citizenship are only aimed to obtain benefits instead, leading to societies which are only centred in consumerism and not in human principles.

3.2. Environmental issues

The economic measures depicted in the previous section do not affect humans exclusively, there are other consequences which might lead to global problems in the long term. Global warming is a term everyone is familiar with, same goes for deforestation, pollution, acoustic, light pollution, etc. However, these are not the only problems that human beings will have to face if consumerism does not decrease in the following years. Desertification, rising of the global sea level, extreme summers and winters, and ultimately extinction are some other consequences as the Earth cannot keep up with the rhythm that big industries hold.

“Since the industrial revolution in 1760, the world has experienced a change towards more mechanized and less human dependent jobs. In exchange, the global temperature has risen about 1 °C” according to the Earth Observatory (2020), a subdivision of NASA. Even though one degree in 300 years might look insignificant, the truth is that since 2000, the temperatures have experienced a rising which is historical. In 20 years, the temperatures have risen 0.5 degrees and that growth does not seem to stop. That huge growth is a consequence of pollution, contamination, and mass production. And, the consequences that it may have could be devastating for life on the planet. Some organizations have started campaigns in order to increase people's consciousness.

Nonetheless, “focus should not be put on individuals but on the big companies which are responsible for the majority of global greenhouse gas emissions” (Ritchie & Roser, 2020). It is necessary to decarbonize the industry and start looking for new alternatives such as renewable energies. Following Ritchie and Rosher’s study, the usage of those kinds of energies only in transport would decrease emissions by 11.9%. And, in addition to that, if fossil fuels would not be necessary that percentage could go even lower, up to 25.5%. That should slow down the effect of global warming a bit while the scientific community searches for new resources and alternatives for the other issues which affect emissions.

There are other alternatives which could be helpful in order to decrease the previous percentage even more. In recent years, veganism has grown in popularity as people have noticed that by becoming vegan not only they are avoiding animal suffering but, they are also fighting against the meat industry. It is the biggest responsible for mass desertification in some areas

which cannot hold animal farms. “The landscapes and places affected by this industry have become wastelands where it is almost impossible to grow anything” (Djekic, 2015). Similarly, in *Mad Max* (2015) people need to fight the consequences of desertification. Mainly, the lack of water, radiation, and the need to search for resources which used to be abundant.

The main issues derived by the meat industry do not stop there. They are responsible for forest fires and deforestation. The land is required to grow soya beans which are used to feed the animals in the industrial farms. And, obviously, those macrostructures need plenty of space to be built. By burning down forests, CO₂ emissions grow rapidly. And, simultaneously, that same CO₂ cannot be absorbed as trees are responsible for turning that CO₂ to O₂ by means of photosynthesis. So, progressively, CO₂ will start to accumulate in the atmosphere while little O₂ would be produced if the pace of deforestation is kept. Last year’s fire forest in the Amazon was really harmful as it almost led the rainforest to stop producing its own rain, which is what keeps the forest alive. The consequences of the loss of the Amazon Rainforest may lead to irreversible damages to our planet. Not only by losing and extinguishing wildlife but also people who live there would need to find other places to live or, otherwise, would be killed in the process. Said consequences can be found in the article by Laura Bridgeman (2020). Finally, concerning this topic it is more than likely that deforestation could lead to future pandemics. According to Nadia Pontes (2020),” nowadays, people are protected from viruses and diseases which are in those places, however, the deeper humans reach the forests, the more likely they will have to face them”. If governments do not avoid deforestation by means of regulations, it is more than likely that desertification would lead to new diseases or to a more regular appearance of known diseases. This is related to what happens in *Mad Max* (2015). People in the movies suffer from leukaemia due to the radiation they suffer because the soil is highly contaminated. The reason beneath that soil contamination is the lack of green spaces which were the consequence of a capitalist society unable to stop.

Currently, the countries which are attached to the UN signed the *Paris Agreement* in 2016. A long term plan to limit global warming up to 2°C by means of reducing greenhouse gases’ emissions. However, the agreement is not being followed by countries such as the United States or China, whose option is to keep on with their production level as it is necessary for the development of their countries’ economy. “In the case of China, one of their keys to mass production is maintaining lower wages and their business ecosystem.” As Prableen Bajpai (2021) states in her *Why China is “The World’s Factory* article. The main problem resides again in the laxity of these kinds of treaties. As they are voluntary, countries who are not concerned

with these aspects do not follow them and keep their names on the list in order to have a good image towards the world. “Both China and the United States are responsible for 20.09% and 17.89% of the global emissions respectively” (United Nations, 2016)

The main difference between China and the States, is that China stopped denying climate change 4 years ago even though they are still in the process of decarbonisation. In the last few years, they are continuously decreasing their emissions. On the other hand, the United States under Trump’s presidency raised their emissions. Mainly, due to his constant claims of denying climate change’s existence. This constant denial on the matter could have led to measures which would have worked in favour of it. As an instance, he wanted to exit the *Paris Agreement* because it was not going to give benefits to his country’s businesses.

President Trump had long held that the accord would cripple growth and intrude on American sovereignty. “It is time to put Youngstown, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; and Pittsburgh, Pa., along with many, many other locations within our great country, before Paris, France,” he said in 2017 when he announced that the United States would withdraw from the accord. (Friedman, 2019)

In addition to this, he called it a “hoax” during his electoral campaign (BBC News, 2018). Both statements were quickly deployed as people started to raise awareness of how those measures could affect them. And, Trump was forced to withdraw them because he was afraid of the repercussions.

Some dystopias have tried to depict what a planet which has been condemned to extreme global warming is like. Novels like *The Drown World* by Ballard, which present a world swallowed by the sea due to the melting of the poles. Ballard presents a society which is hopeless. People are condemned to live in isolation as the water flooding the world is also polluted. Even though this piece of fiction seems to be far from our daily lives, if the global temperature increases by 5°C, the consequences could tip the balance towards this dystopia. Similar to what has been happening throughout the pandemics this previous year. In *Sopa de Wuhan*, Gustavo Yáñez González stated the following:

La fragilidad biológica actualiza también una de orden ontológica. Cuántos comienzos y proyectos suspendidos, viajes cancelados, porvenires sacrificados. El virus sabotea el imaginario del cálculo y control del sí- mismo. La soberanía sobre el tiempo ha sido maniatada sin más. No somos sujetos sobre un predicado maleable, sino más bien puro

devenir-frágil en un mundo que no controlamos¹ (González, 2020, as cited in *Sopa de Wuhan*, p.140)

The coronavirus' outbreak is one of the better examples of human behaviour under extreme conditions. During the first weeks of the pandemics people started to behave as if the end was nigh. It is important to consider the different possibilities that scientists have provided in order to explain its origin. National Geographic posted an article which considered the four possible scenarios for the virus being spread to human beings. The article's name is "*We still don't know the origins of the coronavirus. Here are 4 scenarios.*" (McKeever, 2021). Those scenarios vary from: "direct spillover from animals to humans", "spillover from animals to humans through an intermediate host", "introduction through refrigerated or frozen foods", and finally though really unlikely "laboratory leak". Trying to find the origin of the virus is vital in order to find the most effective cure for the disease. However, this project is not aimed to discover or discuss the origin of the virus, the goal here is to pinpoint the role that human beings have played in the spread of the virus around the globe. Whether the virus was created by humans or simply transmitted to them is irrelevant. What is relevant is the fact that it is one of the consequences of humanity's irresponsibility with the environment in the past decades. In order to prevent new pandemics, governments need to take care about the problems which have been previously mentioned in this section and to stop pursuing an economical benefit that would be useless in a world unable to hold human population.

"The pandemics have created situations which were almost science fiction as the shortage of toilet paper due to the massive wave of people buying it" (Nguyen, 2020). The response that people had towards the virus was proof of how society has prepared them to face every kind of problem. They bought as much as they could afford. Vegetables and other fresh food which stops being edible after 2 or 3 days were sold out in no time as people started buying them unreasonably. In the novel by Don DeLillo, *The Silence*, he depicts the first hours of a natural catastrophe. How people behave throughout the novel reminds of these kinds of behaviour that people have had throughout the beginning of the pandemics, when people left aside their common sense and started to act selfishly to 'save themselves' from the virus.

Another situation which was a consequence of the pandemics was the reduction of transport as people were supposed to stay at home for long periods of time. People started working from home, students took online lessons, and, flights, buses and other means of public transport have been reduced in order to avoid people traveling. According to what has been

¹ Biological fragility updates an ontological order's one too. How much beginnings and suspended projects, cancelled trips, sacrificed futures. The virus hijacks the calculus' imaginary, and the control of itself. The sovereignty of time has been easily tied down. We are not subjects of a malleable predicate, but a pure fragile transformation in a world we do not control.

previously stated in this section related to the substitution of fossil fuels to avoid CO₂ emissions. It is logical to assume that they have decreased. Nonetheless, “the emissions coming from transport have not decreased that much” according to Wilks (2021). In his article, he stated that climate change will not change as fast as people expect to. And, as soon as life in the streets was reactivated, the levels went back to normal. Emphasizing the importance of taking measures to prevent global warming from growing further before it is too late.

Finally, this section will also take into account ‘ecovillages’, an alternative to what the capitalist society usually offers. Ecovillages are small villages whose lifestyle is orientated to live harmoniously with the environment. So, they pursue respect for nature, renewable energies’ use, eco-friendly building materials and recycling. Ecovillages were defined by the American philosopher Robert Gilman in the article by Iberdrola (2017) as “human-scale, full-featured settlements in which human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a way that is supportive of healthy human development and can be successfully continued into the indefinite future.” Gilman was one of the main developers of this idea internationally. And, he stipulated what people needed in order to create an ecovillage: people should start from zero a community which fulfils four dimensions. Economy, ecology, culture and social aspects. They should also consider working with the local community, and progressively incorporating each of the previous elements via social and political representatives.

They are usually placed in the outskirts of big cities. And, usually, they are motivated by governments in order to repopulate abandoned villages. Those governments usually provide the basics for living there including sometimes eco-gardens or building materials to facilitate the first stages. In the end, ecovillages’ main purpose is auto sustainability by means of permaculture designs, which consist of ecological designs and engineering pursuing self-support. Such as, rainwater recollection, compost generators, and electric supply without internet connection. Social sustainability is achieved thanks to cooperative administration, conflict resolution, local leisure, etc. Finally, the economy inside the ecovillage is aimed at little handmade products, vegetables grown in the same ecovillage, and, fomenting people from the place to participate in the different activities proposed there. Ecovillages are important as they promote the use of new technologies in a sustainable way, a less stressful way of life, and they enhance cooperation and equality by avoiding people’s exploitation.

In conclusion, environmental measures taken by big country governments are not enough to slow down the effect that greenhouse emissions create in the atmosphere, leading to

an unavoidable increase of global warming and the subsequent consequences that it might have on the planet. Nonetheless, people who act in consequence have created initiatives as the ecovillages. Although, their goal is not to become sustainability models as the impact they have on the planet is minimal.

3.3. Mass control measures

It has been previously mentioned that Huxleyan dystopias did not need strong actions in order to keep the population under control, however, that is not the case in Orwellian dystopias. People who are against the regime are usually dangerous. So, in order to control them, mass control measures are necessary to avoid riots, revolts or simply counter propaganda for the government, regime or the party.

In 1984 the Party did so with different techniques. Such as strong military forces, public executions and its most famous example, the telescreens, which serve both as a monitoring device and, as a powerful way to make propaganda in favour of the Party. Relating this to our current situation might be simple. Mobile phones are the best way to establish surveillance on people and to keep them under control. The location and activities are constantly monitored by big companies such as Google or Amazon. But, this will be commented later on in this section as it is more related to how Huxleyan dystopias offer what people need at the same moment they need it. Thus, creating a close link between the capitalist system and the population. Right now, focus will be given to how during presidential campaigns, candidates usually take advantage of social media in order to engage with a wider audience. Especially, to engage with young people who are the main users of these applications and sites. In the United States, Obama was the first candidate to use the medium back in 2008 and obtained great results thanks to it. Some studies such as the one by Chan and Fang (2007) have proven that younger people are no longer interested in the traditional media. So, in order to get their attention, politicians needed to adapt to the new times. According to Chris Tenove (2019), they attempt to make their political messages more appealing for the public by means of the use of memes or figures of speech which are easier to understand for them, leaving traditional political speeches behind.

Now, it should be considered at this time if this is an efficient way to get votes or if people are being manipulated. It is a fact that younger generations are not as much interested in politics as older ones did according to the article written by Symonds (2020). If that is the case, what politicians do should be looked upon. People with little interest in politics tend to be the more impressionable, and when that is the case, they do not choose their candidates thinking

on social problems as the previously mentioned ones. They choose the candidate for their charisma, their ways of expressing their ideas and the ones who are most renowned.

During his election campaign, Trump constantly tried to be in the spotlight. He claimed controversial statements constantly, which made him appear in headlines all over the world over and over again. In the article provided by Rivero (2016), it is easily seen that Trump as a keyword was one of the most searched words on the internet during the campaign. And, probably, he would have continued with this if he was not banned from social media, which is the reason why in future sections there are no direct quotations from his Twitter account. So, other pages and articles which have compiled his tweets have been quoted instead. Following this lead, it was vital that Trump's interventions in the media were brief and concise. His political campaign was made of short statements, which inflicted high emotional responses in his voters and the people listening to him. In fiction, figures such as the Big Brother from 1984 and Father Comstock from *Bioshock Infinite* work in the same way. In 1984, the Big Brother's speeches were clear and concise. His main intention was to spread hate towards the common enemy, Goldstein. This can be observed in the following excerpt:

Nobody heard what Big Brother was saying. It was merely a few words of encouragement, the sort of words that are uttered in the din of battle, not distinguishable individually but restoring confidence by the fact of being spoken. Then the face of Big Brother faded away again (Orwell, 2004, p.20)

Similarly, Father Comstock speeches are also used to incite fear and hate among the people who follow them. His main goal is the same as the Big Brother's, to maintain the system in which they are powerful. The consequences that those claims may have in their audience is irrelevant for them.

And when the angel Columbia gave unto The Founders the tools to build the new Eden, they did so without hesitation. For Eighty-Five years, they prepared the way of the Lord. But when the great Apostate came, he brought War with him and the fields of Eden were soaked with the blood of brothers. The only Emancipation he had to offer... was death. (*Bioshock Infinite*, 2013)

Whether people were in favour of his message or not, everyone was talking about it. This is called 'bad publicity'. Nonetheless, alt-right parties usually base their political agenda on these kinds of interventions. They are easier to follow and, in the end, they get what they want from the very beginning. To be in everyone's 'telescreens': smartphones, TVs, radios, etc.

Trump's model has been imitated throughout the world. Probably one of the most outstanding cases concerning this, is the one related to our country. In Spain, the right wing lost the elections back in 2019. However, since they lost they have started strong counter propaganda against the left wing. Taking advantage of the coronavirus situation in the country. The reason behind this is exactly the same as Trump's. They started to make short appearances with these kinds of statements and, at the same time, people criticized their speech and they got free publicity. So people who did not know them, ended up voting for a party which is even more repressive than the usual right parties in Spain.

In addition to this, it is remarkable the place that the media plays in these kinds of events. Media is a double-edged sword, and it should be more aware of how it attracts people to undesirable events such as these ones. Because, even if those channels of communication are biased towards an ideology or another, what they are meant to do is merely to inform people and not to bias them towards the ideology they pursue at the moment. And, another important factor is that journalists and people behind traditional media should not make a living off breaking news as they are usually not enough contrasted and, consequently, they provide false information. The exact same thing happened in 1984. George Orwell (2004) does an outstanding job when he describes how the newspapers work in his novel, as it can be seen in this extract:

As soon as all the corrections which happened to be necessary in any particular number of 'The Times' had been assembled and collated, that number would be reprinted, the original copy destroyed, and the corrected copy placed on the files in its stead (p. 51).

The easier way to obtain votes and to give these parties strength is basically to keep them in the frontline. And also, trying to lure people into how they are always right while the other candidates are mistaken. They play the victim's role in the news programmes and, the main issue with that is that by doing so, people tend to empathize more with them. And, that makes things easier for them as their message is spread faster. According to Armaly and Enders (2021) "victimhood is central to politics (...) is an important—albeit overlooked—ingredient of public opinion and political behaviour".

Doubtlessly, this method is used to facilitate the access of those right wing parties to the government. Nevertheless, that is not their only way to keep people under control. Especially,

if they manage to get into a sufficiently advantaged position in said governments. That allows them to push even forward their ideologies. The main issue of them in power is that they control not only mass media, as explained before. But, they also control the military and police forces of the country. Even though both body powers are usually conservative, once a right wing party gets more presence or the control of them, they become more radicalised than before. Black population comprehends about 13% of the States' population, however, they are killed three times more than white people (Cohen, 2020). What is the reason behind those kinds of numbers? Are black people actually more likely to commit crimes? Or are police officers letting their racism take over their weapons? Recent studies have shed some light on this matter, according to Peebles (2019), "people from minority ethnic groups are definitely easier to target by police". Even if overall white people are more killed by them. But, this is not a study that should be overlooked, the police are supposed to take care of the citizens and they are not the ones who should judge their actions. Tribunals and judges must take the responsibility of deciding if someone is found guilty or innocent. Nobody but them should decide who lives and who dies. And, even if that is the case, death penalty is still a measure which should not exist. Executions are measures constantly present in Orwellian dystopias. And as the death penalty still exists, a clear comparison can be made with several dystopias which use it as a dissuasive element for the ones against the regimes. In 1984 executions are public in order to inflict fear over the population:

It appeared that they had engaged in fresh conspiracies from the very moment of their release. At their second trial they confessed to all their old crimes over again, with a whole string of new ones. They were executed, and their fate was recorded in the Party histories, a warning to posterity (Orwell, 2004, p. 99).

Nevertheless, black or Hispanic people should not be compared with the 'criminals' depicted by the literature. They are victims of a society whose will is to prove that they are not valid because of their skin colour, culture, etc. They do not act against the regime or the party. Not even against society. Their main goal is to be seen as equals and to avoid discrimination by others, to have the same job opportunities and to be able to walk in the streets without the constant menace of getting shot.

In addition to these public executions by the police and the repressive system, it is important to comment on the existence of radical groups associated to racist ideas or even politicians. That is the case of a movement called the QAnon or Q. According to Brett Forrest

(2021), “it consists of a conspiracy theory, mainly followed by Trump’s supporters, which states that there’s a “deep state” in charge of taking Trump down”. Moreover, the Q is supposedly connected to Trump as their messages have matched some times. Although it is not true and what the Q actually does is to incite hate in white supremacists which are frenzy followers of the former president. The Q drop hints connected to his public speeches to increase the speculation around the group. Trump noticed that the Q existed and started to take advantage of the situation. In his last speeches, he started to become more and more aggressive. Calling people to violence in an indirect way. These last speeches were responsible for the Capitol’s breach.

It is crucial to analyse Trump’s messages during his last campaign as he was creating an insurgent atmosphere. Just in case he lost the elections. Such quotations include: “Stay calm. The storm comes”, “Nothing can stop what’s going to happen. Nothing” (Bencks, 2021) among others. These messages were delivered in the middle of a political campaign which started to denote that Trump had lost support across the country. And, his main goal was to feed Q's conspiracy theory. How Trump was supposed to save the country from minorities, and politicians who were falsely accused of child abuse, scams, etc.

In January, after the results of the election showed that Biden was the winner, Trump gave a speech in front of the White House. In that speech he accused Biden of having manipulated the elections once again. And, he told the people who were attending the meeting that: “If you don’t fight like Hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore;” “When you catch somebody in a fraud, you’re allowed to go by very different rules;” and “You’ll never take back our country with weakness.” (Bencks, 2021). Those claims were clearly aimed at a coup d’état. Trump manipulated his most sworn voters, white supremacists, to take the country for themselves as they had been lied to and the ‘evil ones’ had stolen their rights to rule the country. Trump has always been supported by white supremacists as John Haltiwanger (2020) claimed. So, it was not striking when most of the people who raided the Capitol were members of those groups.

What Trump did throughout his political campaign and how it led to the Capitol’s assault is a perfect technique of mass control manipulation. The latest step of Orwellian dystopias, the cult around the party. People who are no longer able to think for themselves, and who do not possess free will. Their desires are the regime’s ones. In 1984 this can be observed in Parsons, Winston’s employee:

Parsons was Winston's fellow-employee at the Ministry of Truth. He was a fattish but active man of paralysing stupidity, a mass of imbecile enthusiasms—one of those completely unquestioning, devoted drudges on whom, more even than on the Thought Police, the stability of the Party depended (Orwell, 2004, p.28).

To conclude with this section, the most dangerous part of mass control issues comes first when alt-right party members are given voice in mass or social media. It is the trigger for the consequences which may affect people's lives in the future. The main issue with that fact is that their political speeches are created and delivered in order to create debate. And, by doing so, they are widely spread. However, as it has been stated throughout the paper, citizens are not the ones to be blamed. They should take responsibility for their actions. But, statements which threaten other people's lives should be punishable and must force those people out of politics. Politicians should always grant citizens wellbeing and they should never use their power to promote violence against minorities.

3.4. Hate speech

After the examples of how people's lives are controlled by means of military forces, police and media. It is necessary to demonstrate how all these measures are mainly used to attack minorities. In only 21 years in this century 'new problems' have arisen'. They are not new per se; they have always existed. But, they did not have the same visibility as nowadays. The world has entered a new era thanks to the internet and, at the same time, people started to get more involved with collectives as the LGTBQ+ one. People who are not tolerant with them have it easier to harass and pursue them. However, they are not the only ones affected by this 'hate wave' that has slowly grown at these times. Racism has not disappeared and it seems to increase as some government leaders encourage it. And, in addition, at the same time women are empowering themselves, they are also depicted as if they were trying to dominate men. Instead of as seekers of equality. All these problems have created a political turmoil which is probably responsible for the rise of alt-right parties.

Alt-right parties have taken advantage of all the situations and the people who are also on their side to point out all these minorities who are starting to share their thoughts and feelings. Feelings which are different from their old vision of the world, dominated by white and male privileges. A study by Dancy, M., Rainey, K., Stearns, E. et al (2020) proves that white male students perceive some fields of study as their own. And, they are not willing to change their perspective on the matter. This is quite similar to the fourth characteristic of Orwellian dystopias depicted in the theoretical frame. The government is trying to avoid

diversity in citizenship by means of fear. Their goal is to avoid mind-sets different from theirs, as all these people are dangerous for their fragile stability. These governments are in a sense similar to the Ministries work in *1984*.

The Ministry of Truth, which concerned itself with news, entertainment, education, and the fine arts. The Ministry of Peace, which concerned itself with war. The Ministry of Love, which maintained law and order. And the Ministry of Plenty, which was responsible for economic affairs (Orwell, 2004, p.7).

After the explanation behind the alt-right parties rise in ‘socially’ advanced countries is set. Now, it is interesting to pinpoint the exact moments in which these discourses were delivered in order to back-up what has been previously said. First of all, sexism will be analysed. In the USA, during the election campaign, Donald Trump was interviewed in the Rolling Stone. In that interview he stated:

Look at that face. Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president? I mean, she's a woman, and I'm not supposed to say bad things, but really, folks, come on. Are we serious? (Zimmerman, 2015).

This statement was aimed at Carly Fiorina, the republican rival of Trump at that moment. The main problem beneath it is not the fact that he looked down at someone for her physical appearance. That is the lesser problem. The main issue lies in: “I mean, she’s a woman, and I’m not supposed to say bad things”. Only in that statement, Trump disrespected her for being a woman and, at the same time, he ridiculed the feminist movement. He mocked women saying that his intention was not to offend women. As if the feminist movement’s main goal was to avoid these kind of conflicts. He exaggerated the feminist message to make it sound as if they only sought immunity without criticism. However, this was not the only controversial statement that Trump delivered through his political campaign. Following the sexism thread, he also claimed that: “She gets out and starts asking me all sorts of ridiculous questions, you could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever” (Zimmerman, 2015). This is another clear example of how Trump, former president of the States, managed to undervalue women. In this case, he tried a counterargument against Megyn Kelly, who was in charge of moderating the debate in which Trump took place. She asked him questions related to his previous misogynistic statements and he answered her back by saying that she was not being professional.

Both of the examples above happened before he got into the White House in public interviews. Nevertheless, while he was president of the US, he also tweeted some other statements which continued charging against women. Receiving at the same time support from his voters and people from outside the US with the same ideology. Some of them are included in an article by Andrews (2020) in *The Washington Post*, where he highlighted in the “Fearmongering Insult” part a tweet which simply claimed that USA was the most powerful nation on Earth and, that no women should intervene in how he was ruling the country as they (women) were leading “broken countries full of crime”.

After the depiction of sexism in the US by their former president. Secondly, this subsection will go further and demonstrate how racism was also present during his election process and his years in the presidency. Even when Trump was well-known as a racist from the moment he mentioned the construction of the wall in order to separate Mexico from the USA. An element which will be compared with how some dystopias use the same strategy to create a barrier between people from the regime and outsiders.

The first known case of Trump’s racism was the Central Park Five. Five young black and Hispanic people were wrongly accused of rape and they got arrested. Trump claimed in 1990 that “they must be executed” and “forced to suffer”. When they were proven innocent in 2002 after the confession of the guilty one, a white man, Trump continued charging against the Central Park Five stating that “it is a disgrace”. And, during his 2016 campaign, he insisted again on their guiltiness (Graham et al., 2020). What this exemplifies is that Trump was not worried about the true guilty or the victim of the rape. He was only concerned with prosecuting and accusing people from a different ethnic group just because of their skin colour or their precedence. As he would prove through the years that followed his career.

Moving on to his most infamous case, the building of the wall, he was willing to build a physical frontier between Mexico and the States in order to prevent Mexican people from entering the country which he was ruling. The wall in itself is claimed to be inefficient as it covers a really long distance and it is almost impossible to watch it. And, as Jim Wallis (2017) pinpointed, “it is just a monument to racism”. A symbol which is going to stay there to remind people that Mexican people are “drug dealers, criminals, and rapists” as he claimed on and on during his presidential campaign (BBC News, 2016). The wall in itself is a really dystopian element. It is represented in several novels and video games as an elitist element used to separate people who were valid for the purposes of the regime from the ones that do not want

to follow it, or simply are different from the regime. In the case of *1984*, the wall is the border with Eurasia and Eastasia. In *Bioshock*, Andrew Ryan built a submarine city where he only accepted people capable of leaving aside their principles and abandoning their faith and willingness to be ruled by anyone but him. This is strongly related to isolating people from reality and hiding them from the truth, the fifth characteristic of Orwellian dystopias. The objective that both dystopias pursue is to avoid people from inside the regimes to know that there is diversity outside their walls, they stereotype people who do not follow their rules to keep their citizens unaware of the actual truth making them easier to manipulate. According to Kate Wagner (2016), dystopian architecture covers the field of study in charge of explaining the effects that certain buildings create on the people. In fiction, those elements are usually presented in the form of isolated cities, buildings with strange shapes, or the creation of cities which are easier to monitor. What Trump tried to achieve by building the wall was not to prevent people from entering the States. He wanted to give a message. The wall would have a despair effect on Mexican people, the unavailability of leaving their country.

To continue with the topic of racism in the USA, Trump tried to cover it after George Floyd's death. Alleging that "it was a terrible thing", however, it did not last long as he also claimed that "More white people, by the way. More white people" (DeCambre, 2020). Referring to that, more white people are killed by the police in total. This has been discussed in the previous section, the fact that more white people are murdered by the police is true, however, statistically, black people are three times more likely to get killed by them. What Trump tried to do when he claimed it is again to put emphasis on the idea that black people and minorities in general are starting to take over the system and they try to control and manipulate people's lives. This process is usually called reverse racism, which is a theory which states that minorities who criticise white people are being racist to them in the same way white people are racist to them. The main problem of this is the social position that both sides hold. The truth is that it is impossible for inverse racism to exist, as the people who are supposed to be 'racist' towards white people do not hold a position of power in society, henceforth, they do not put them in a place where they are the constant focus of attention. Besides, this problem arose when people started to include black, Asiatic or Hispanic population in their workplaces and not only 'Americans'.

Finally, this section will also investigate the discrimination towards the LGBTIQ collective. Mainly, the trans collective, as they have been the most punished and pursued during Trump's presidency. Since the very moment he got into the White House, one of his main

focuses has been the trans collective. Three weeks after being elected president, he rolled back Obama's bathroom rules affecting transgender people. That rule allowed trans people to use the bathroom which is appropriate for their gender identity. Trump stated that "the previous rule was confusing" and that his main aim was "to protect everyone" (BBC News, 2017). However, throughout this paper it has been demonstrated that 'everyone' only refers to white privileged population. And, this measure was just the first of a long list.

Another important measure that he took away from trans people was the right to serve in the US Army. Another measure which was implemented by Obama back in 2016. According to Trump, transgender people who enrolled in the army were a distraction. He allowed people who were enrolled previously to stay in the army, however, they needed to serve in the division which corresponded with their sex assigned at birth. And, moreover, people who were receiving hormone treatment and surgery would no longer be allowed to do so. "Only people who had undergone the gender transition were allowed to enrol" (Jackson et al., 2019). This situation left many trans people defenceless. And, in the end, they were forced out of the army due to their psychological state. The last consequence of this was an increase in the number of homeless trans people, which are usually rejected from jobs. In a field experiment by Granberg, Andersson, and Ahmed (2020), they proved that transgender people are less likely to be hired than cis gender ones. What is more, the amount of experience reported in their CVs was also irrelevant when they applied for the jobs.

This connects with the following measure that Trump wanted to establish: he wanted to allow sex-segregated shelters to have the right to decide on whether trans people could enter the shelter or not. Similar to what happened to the bathroom rule, people would have needed to attend the shelters which corresponded to their sex given at birth rather than their actual gender. (Santos et al., 2020). There is a frightening idea behind transphobia which is homogeneity. Transgender people are alienated from the system as they do not fit the mould imposed by society. Transphobe people usually call their situation as unnatural, and there are women who are renowned feminists that do not recognise trans women as women. They are usually called TERFs, which stands for Trans Exclusive Radical Feminist. They propose measures really similar to Trump's as they think that trans women are men in disguise. Their main claims in order to defend their position are biological. According to them, a woman should have the period, be able to give birth and, if they are not capable of doing so, they should undergo gender transition although they would not be considered as a woman anyhow by them. Kately Burns (2019) denoted a rise of this group. In her article, she also pinpointed the connection of TERFs

with ultraconservative groups as WoLF. In addition, these people are responsible for hate campaigns directed towards trans people. They do not care about their age, social status or situation. Their goal is to destroy transgender people's integrity as human beings. The problem beneath these campaigns is the high rate of suicide among trans people. According to Dawn Ennis (2020) at least a 48% of transgender people have attempted to suicide or perform self-harm.

All these previous messages are dangerous in today's society. Our world is in the middle of the communication era and these kinds of comments, ideologies, and rules are dangerous for next generations and the current one. Plurality is what makes people human and this should be taken into account before attacking minorities. Just for having been born as a white person people must not think themselves as higher beings. Sexual preference or even gender are also issues that should never be taken into account when applying for a job or getting paid. And, especially, hate speeches must be prohibited and punished hardly because they threaten people's lives and rights.

4. Conclusions

At this moment, it is difficult to establish a clear distinction between dystopian works and reality. Especially, realities affected by strong regimes or alt-right leaders. Trump has served as an example throughout the whole paper, and it should not be forgotten that he was the president of one of the most powerful countries in the world. The United States has been ruled by a dystopian leader for four years and the measures he proposed while he was in power were almost replicas from the novels and video games which have been used to establish the comparisons. These are the conclusions extracted from the project.

First of all, the economic measures presented in the 3.1 section were concerning. The fact that a society which prioritizes economic income over happiness and well-being is disturbing. But, in addition to that, how the system is kind of a vicious cycle and constantly tries to generate poor people to sustain itself was the most striking part. Capitalism needs cheap labour, and the best way to obtain it is by pushing people to their limits, forcing them to accept any job in order to earn a living which is not sufficient in the vast majority of cases. It is also worth-mentioning how once someone becomes homeless, it is almost impossible to get back into society. Those people are almost condemned to live a life which serves as an example for society. Something to avoid by all means. And, those homeless people are treated as furniture by city halls. Instead of finding a solution for them, they find it easier to come up with ideas which are only useful to push these people to more extreme conditions. Keeping them hidden

from society but always present in the streets. It is true that homeless people have always existed. However, nowadays, it should not be difficult to find them a place to live and give them opportunities to go back to a normal life. But first, some economic measures should be taken in advance to prevent them from working in jobs which should be considered as slavery otherwise.

The wage difference and the glass ceiling are also problems which should definitely not exist. Both problems do not come from how the economy works, they come from people's mind-sets, especially men's. They saw their comfort zone in danger as women have been able to prove their validity in society and, as men have always held powerful positions in society, they are afraid to lose said positions to women, who came better prepared than them. So, their response is not to allow them to reach those positions by selecting people who will perpetuate that same situation on and on.

The second section covered environmental issues. Probably, this one is the most problematic as it concerns our life and survival as species on the planet. The pace of life is unsustainable, the way in which production and consumerism are established is clearly not healthy for nature. However, as individuals, we can only recycle, reuse and reduce, which is not enough as it has been explained in the same section. The best way of avoiding the pollution increase each year is to stop mass-producing items and products which are not necessary in that quantity. Researching new crops which consume less water while at the same time augmenting its production. Some alternatives as veganism are something to consider. They would heavily reduce greenhouse emissions and would also help to preserve forests and water supplies all around the world, which would also be helpful for the atmosphere as the less trees cut down, the more emissions they are able to purify and absorb. Leading to a cleaner atmosphere and air. However, veganism is probably a utopian element. Meat consumption should be more controlled in order to avoid the meat industry creating massive factories which not only lead to animal suffering, but also to deforestation and desertification.

Additionally, the UN should revise the regulations concerning the greenhouse emissions to the atmosphere and stop creating laws which only serve as recommendations rather than a set of rules to follow. It has been made clear that big countries will not follow the *Agreement of Paris* as it would only decrease their progress and economic growth. Nonetheless, they should not be prioritized when the whole world's health is at stake. Coronavirus will be the

beginning of what is yet to come if big factories do not slow down. And, in order to do so, world governments need to create stricter regulations to avoid them from polluting so much.

Ecovillages were something interesting to research, they created big enough communities to be almost self-sufficient, and they also provide education services to teach people how to live that way. Probably, the biggest drawback they present is the lack of internet connection as the internet is nowadays necessary for almost everything. But, they are a really good alternative for the system as their economy is based on handmade goods and crops which have been grown using only natural resources. Same as their houses and practically everything they possess in there.

Thirdly, entering the Orwellian zone, mass control measures had been taken into account. Explaining how these measures are implemented is supposed to be harder work than expected as there are many authors addressing the issue. Nevertheless, being constantly monitored by companies such as Amazon, web cookies, and also our smartphones tracking our positions is almost impossible not to think about telescreens and the way they worked in *1984*. The main difference with the novel, is that in reality, people chose to be slaves of these devices up to a certain extent. Nobody is forcing them to use their mobile phones, have social media or buy online. However, most people are using them, and the ones who do not are seen as weird or outcasts. So, even if people are not forced to use mobile devices or social media, they have become part of the new era of communication and, moreover, they have proven really useful throughout the pandemics. The main issue is not about using said technologies significantly, but about making people conscious of the way they are manipulated by politicians who use social media to promote their ideas. The main difference with traditional media is that social media offers the capability of contrasting several sources of information. Instead of being forced to listen or watch just one source as in the past. Young generations must be educated in the use of social media. Instead of avoiding them, contrasting information must become vital to avoid alt-right parties rising in popularity in the future.

It is also important to consider that the police forces need a deep revision. They should never act against citizens without motives and, neither should they be allowed to hold racist or sexist attitudes in these organs. The problem in the United States is that gun control law allows people to possess weapons in their homes in order to ‘protect themselves’, and it permits the police to take stronger measures against people. Police brutality is also related to dystopian elements, acting against citizens contrary to the party’s interest is one of the core elements in

the fiction. And, it seems that fiction once again has been overcome by reality. Police in dystopias are acting in favour of the system which they are serving. However, police in reality act according to their own beliefs but, as happened with Trump and his supporters, sometimes they are motivated by their governments.

The cult around the leader is also dangerous. People who follow orders without hesitating and that are triggered by means of set words or phrases from the power figure are doubtlessly one of the biggest dangers currently. They have suffered a slow process of brainwashing by those leaders, creating people who have left behind their individuality to become just a tool to be used when necessary.

The last section, which is highly related to this previous feature, has shown how regimes do not want diversity or changes while they are in charge of the government or country. In the case of Trump, who is the figure analysed throughout the essay, he has charged minorities who do not accomplish his idealistic vision of how 'America' is supposed to be. His slogan "Make America Great Again" was a clear example of how he wanted to go back to traditional values of the country. Women needed to go back to be housewives, racial segregation and, also not considering transgender people rights into account and forcing bigger discriminations on them.

All these people have been treated as menaces to Trump's identity. And, by doing so, they have become the focus of attention of all his supporters, who were given the opportunity to express their misogynist, racist or transphobic ideas loud and clear. They were supported by the president of their country. Minorities have suffered an unceasing attack from these normative people who, in the end, are the ones accepted in society. And, they are the ones dictating the rules that the rest have to obey and follow.

In conclusion, the border between fiction and reality has been blurred progressively in the last 20 years. This has led to situations which have been overlooked by many people as they did not affect them. However, these should not be forgotten nor forgiven. Otherwise, the situation will only worsen and reality will overcome fiction completely. How alt-right governments try to reach a totalitarian regime by means of manipulating people is frightening. But, it is even more concerning the fact that people who are against said alt-right parties are depicted as evil and dangerous in public speeches. Obviously, people can share their ideologies and opinions, however, there are certain messages which are dangerous in the world we live in. They directly act against human rights and, that should not be allowed, freedom of speech should never be used for harassing others. Nobody should ever have to live scared of people in

power. Those in charge should grant the protection and wellbeing for all their citizens. Not only the ones they consider worthy of them.

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