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"Utopian Bureaucracy: Collective Empowerment or Tyrannical Control?"

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Utopian Bureaucracy: Collective Empowerment or Tyrannical Control?

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Carroll College Honors Scholars Program

What would a good and just society look like?

Arendt’s examples of Utopian Structure
• Citizens have restrictions on when they work, eat, leisure activities, and where to live.
• Citizens who break laws are enslaved and treated worse than foreign slaves
• Utopians have no desire for individuality because they have been molded by the system to always prioritize the commonwealth
• The people have been altered by their governing system to the point that they do not know how to want anything else or enact change to the system

“Power is never the property of an individual; it belongs to a group and remains in existence only so long as the group keeps and remains in existence only so individual to it belongs to a group in whose name an action is never the property of an individual; it belongs to a group and remains in existence only so long as the group keeps and remains in existence only so long as the group keeps it existing” (Arendt, Il, pg. 38)

“Else he that killeth himself before that the priests and the council have allowed the cause of his death, him as unworthy either to be buried or with fire be consumed, they cast unburied into some stinking marsh” (More, pg. 99)

“Rule by Nobody [bureaucracy] is clearly the most tyrannical of all, since there is no one whom the people have been trained to hate because they have been trained to hate the system to which they work, eat, leisure activities, and they have restrictions on when they work, eat, leisure activities, and where to live.

References

Arendt’s examples of power and violence and More’s Utopian vision each demonstrate why Utopian governance could never actually exist; the Utopians have no individuality or faculty of action.

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