

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

Based on the previous analyses of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Brave New World*, I have come to a number of conclusions. As I have mentioned in the beginning, the purpose of this thesis is to analyse both novels using theories of social control. The protagonists as members of their respective society will be greatly influenced by methods of social control employed by their respective government to achieve social stability; therefore, their characteristics will also reflect such methods as used in that particular society.

The protagonist in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is portrayed as a dynamic character who suffers a life of constant fear and constraint as a result of extreme applications of legal social control. At the beginning of the novel, he is shown as fatalistic, paranoid, true, and rebellious. Then, when fear proves insufficient to secure his conformity, pain comes into play, dispensed by the arm of legal authority in the novel. Through these methods, the protagonist changes from paranoid to numb, true to false, and is finally forced into obedience—all at the cost of his freedom as an individual and a human being. Therefore, it is my conclusion that the theme of social control in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is: A continual and excessive use of legal social control which causes extreme fear and pain can

be so effective that in the end it will severely limit the freedom of the people as a way for the state to maintain its strict hold over them.

The protagonist in *Brave New World*, on the other hand, is a static character who leads a life of easy pleasure within a rigid caste system in which everyone is more or less happy regardless of her or his position in society. The protagonist is shown as boastful, self-oriented, cowardly, and childish, as the result of extreme applications of medical social control in the society in which he lives. Therefore, it is my conclusion that the theme of social control in *Brave New World* is: A continual and excessive use of medical social control which makes people completely dependent on pleasure and happiness can be so effective that it will become a way for the state to maintain its absolute hold over them.

It is clear that these two novels share some similarities. First, they are both dystopian novels which portray rigid and relatively stable totalitarian states. A totalitarian state, by its very definition, controls the lives of its people completely. This is shown to be the case with Oceania in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and the World State in *Brave New World*. Both have absolute control over their people despite their different means to achieve this control.

The second similarity is, to achieve the stability in their particular society, the ruling government in each novel use certain methods of social control which are described clearly throughout the course of the story. These methods are shown to be effective in both novels, and this success also comes with the same grand sacrifice, which is the freedom of the people. Such conclusion can be seen through the portrayals of the protagonists. In both novels, the protagonists are shown as having no choice but to display such characteristics as have been analysed in the previous chapters due to their exposure to methods of social control present in their respective society.

These two novels, however, are not completely similar. They also have several major differences, among others the setting of time. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is set in 1984, which is only thirty-six years after the novel was published. The events in *Brave New World*, on the other hand, take place about six hundred years in the future, most likely to allow for such technological advances in the medical field as described in the novel.

The types of social control used in the novels are also different. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* chiefly uses various forms of legal social control, from constant surveillance to torture, all of which are legally sanctioned and carried out by the arm of legal control, which is the Thought Police. Meanwhile, *Brave New World* uses forms of medical social control, from embryonic manipulation and social conditioning to the administering of medication which allows those who consume it to be happy all the time.

The third difference lies in the devices of social control used in these novels. The legal control in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is shown as focused on physical and psychological punishment, resulting in pain and fear. In other words, the government of Oceania threatens its people with the use of pain to bring order to its society. The medical control in *Brave New World*, on the other hand, emphasises on pleasure and drug addiction to ensure social order. This aspect of *Brave New World* also lends a slightly utopian look to its society—yet another difference with *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, in which everything is bleak and clearly dystopian.

To conclude, both legal control and medical control, when used to such an extreme, is an effective means of social control. The same thing can also be said about pain and pleasure. Despite their significant difference, both of them is an effective means to control society and therefore achieve social order.

However, in return for that stability, the societies in both novels are shown to be dystopian ones with very little room for freedom. This is proven by the portrayal of the protagonist, who is shown to be completely subject to the will of the state. The reason is because the state must have absolute control over its people in order to achieve social stability, and it gains this control through whatever means. This, I believe, is in accordance with the principle of totalitarianism, in which an absolute control over every aspect of the nation, including the people, is a must in order to establish social order.

