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in utopia more paints a vision of the customs and practices of a distant island but utopia means no place and his narrator s name hythlodaeus translates as dispenser of nonsense this fantastical tale masks what is a serious and subversive analysis of the failings of more s society advocating instead a world in which there is religious tolerance

provision for the aged and state ownership of land utopia has been variously claimed as a catholic tract or an argument for communism and it still invites each generation to make its own interpretation

revised introduction new chronology and further reading translated with an introduction by paul turner

human beings universally dream of a better world for centuries they have expressed their yearning for ways of life that are free from oppression want and fear through philosophy art film and literature in this concise and engaging book mark jendrysik examines the multifarious ways utopians have posed the question of how human beings might establish justice and realize truly human values drawing upon a range of sources from plato s republic and thomas more s utopia to ursula le guin s the dispossessed he argues that though for many utopia means demanding the impossible the goals that seemed out of reach for one generation are often realized in the next nonetheless he shows that while utopian thought points toward our most noble aspirations it also illustrates the dangers of totalitarianism of the surveillance state and of global climate change this engaging book will be an invaluable guide for anyone seeking to understand how for good or ill utopian aspirations shape our lives even in times that seem designed to close off dreams of a better world

utopian fiction was a particularly rich and important genre during the eighteenth century it was during this period that a relatively new phenomenon appeared the merging of utopian writing per se with other fictional genres such as the increasingly dominant novel however while early modern and nineteenth and twentieth century utopias have been the focus of much attention the eighteenth century has largely been neglected utopian imagination and eighteenth century fiction combines these major areas of interest interpreting some of the most fascinating and innovative fictions of the period and locating them in a continuing tradition of utopian writing which stretches back through the renaissance to the ancient world begining with a survey of the recurrent topics in utopian writing power structures in the state money food sex the role of women birth education and death the book brings together canonical eighteenth century texts containing powerful utopian elements such as robinson crusoe gulliver s travels and rasselas and less familiar works to examine the reworking of these topics in a new context the unfamiliar texts

including gaudentio di lucca are described in detail to give students an idea of relevant material across a broad area a section is devoted specifically to women writes an area which has become the focus of attention the mixture of texts provides a useful cross reference for students tackling the subject from various perspectives and the comprehensive bibliography provides a valuable tool for those with general or specific interests

this book is about the fiercely contrasting visions of two of the nineteenth century s greatest utopian writers a wide ranging interdisciplinary study it emphasizes that space is a key factor in utopian fiction often a barometer of mankind s successful relationship with nature or an indicator of danger emerging and critically acclaimed scholars consider the legacy of two great utopian writers exploring their use of space and time in the creation of sites in which contemporary social concerns are investigated and reordered a variety of locations is featured including morris s quasi fourteenth century london the lush and corrupted island a routed and massacred english countryside the high rises of the future and the vertiginous landscape of another earth beyond the stars

this book explores and proposes original definitions of central terms in political sociology and social theory including political culture imaginary ideology and utopia in a manner that renders the individual definitions consistent with one another as part of a single and general conceptual framework for understanding social action through a weberian distinction between means ends and values together with the thought of alfred schütz and phenomenological sociology more generally it sheds light on the ways in which the book s key concepts make sense of social action advancing the view that rather than some promised land or aspiration utopia is a project of broad and far reaching collective action realized in its own enactment as such the book will appeal to scholars of social theory political sociology and political theory

in his most famous and controversial book utopia thomas more imagines a perfect island nation where thousands live in peace and harmony men and women are both educated and all property is communal through dialogue and correspondence between the protagonist raphael hythloday and his friends and contemporaries more explores the theories behind war political disagreements social quarrels and wealth distribution and imagines the day to day lives

of those citizens enjoying freedom from fear oppression violence and suffering originally written in latin this vision of an ideal world is also a scathing satire of europe in the sixteenth century and has been hugely influential since publication shaping utopian fiction even today

subtitled on the best state of a republic and on the new island of utopia this is the legendary 1516 political satire that in its attempts to mock the english king henry viii gave birth to an entire genre of imaginative fiction exploring the possibilities of the perfect society debate continues to rage among scholars of the renaissance today whether more actually believed in the socialist equalitarian concepts he espoused in utopia some of which seem unlikely positions for a wealthy powerful man whose actions as a public figure were often at odds with them but this remains a foundational work of western thought and literature and essential reading for anyone who wishes to be considered well read english statesman and writer sir thomas more 1478 1535 is best remembered as both a humanist scholar and a religious martyr he was beheaded by king henry viii for refusing to acknowledge the monarch as the head of the church of england

in a modern utopia two travelers fall into a space warp and suddenly find themselves upon a utopian earth controlled by a single world government for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines

sir thomas more venerated in the catholic church as saint thomas more was an english lawyer social philosopher author statesman and noted renaissance humanist he was also a chancellor to henry viii and lord high chancellor of england from october 1529 to may 1532 thomas more s utopia is a masterpiece of renaissance political philosophy responsible for introducing the term utopia and spawning an entire genre of utopian and dystopian literature utopia gave its name to the whole genre of books and movements hypothesizing an ideal society more envisioned a patriarchal island kingdom that practiced religious tolerance in which everybody worked no one has more than his fellows all goods were community owned and violence bloodshed and vice nonexistent based to some extent on the

writings of plato and other earlier authors utopia nevertheless contained much that was original with more this book weaving together the history and genealogy of the more family and of the other families to which they allied themselves by marriage provides an illuminating sequel to the various lives that have been written of st thomas more it tells the story of what happened to his family in the wake of his heroic witness against the tyranny of henry viii and how his descendants inspired by his faith were affected by their refusal to conform to the church of england as under successive monarchs england was forcibly transformed from a catholic into a protestant country this is a story of a line of laymen and women and of priests and nuns all of whom had a deep faith and a firm resolve that makes them worthy of being listed among the confessors of the faith minor confessors maybe but confessors nonetheless book jacket

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