



# Utopia Dystopia

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## The Goals of this Class:

- Discuss the past, present, and future
- Understand government, social structures, ethics, and all that good stuff
- Respect each other's opinions
- Devise plans to turn a dystopia into a utopia!

# Go to [pollev.com/josephc611](https://pollev.com/josephc611)

One of these foods can't exist anymore. Which one do you pick?

Pancakes **A**

Waffles **B**

French  
toast **C**

Cinnamon  
buns **D**



# Utopia

- A perfect society, especially in laws, government, and socio-economic conditions
- Often imaginary or idealistic



## A utopia for some can be a dystopia for others....

- Nazi Germany - Aryan utopia, but dystopia for literally everyone else
- Massachusetts Bay Colony - originally founded as “City on a Hill” where Puritans had religious freedom, but banned all other denominations and religions



“The Allegory of Good and Bad Government” by  
Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1337-1339)





"The Garden of Earthly Delights" by Hieronymus Bosch (c. 1500)





“The Prologue and the Promise” by Robert McCall (1993)

# Elements of a Utopia

What are some essential elements of a utopia?

 Respond at [PollEv.com/josephc611](https://PollEv.com/josephc611)

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# Local Example: Brook Farm & the Shakers

- Experimental village in West Roxbury (1841-47)
- “Combine the thinker and the worker”
- “**Mental freedom**”
- “Wholesome and **simple life**”
- Equality of the sexes
- Pacifism
- Communal lifestyle





**Where do we see utopian elements today?**

# Where do we see utopian elements today?



Helsinki, Finland

- Low population density
- Healthcare, stability scored 100%
- Infrastructure scored 96%
- Education scored 91.7%
- Government transparency
- Finns are culturally a fun-loving and polite people
- Environmentally proactive
- Saunas

# Where do we see utopian elements today?



Melbourne, Australia

- Infrastructure, education, healthcare scored 100%
- Most “livable” city in 2017
- Top notch art, music, theater
- Highly diversified economy
- Low crime, low terror
- Warm climate
- Peaceful coexistence of large, varied immigrant groups (Europeans, Indians, and Chinese)

But if the attempt fails...



# A dystopia may form





# A dystopia may form



Excesses of human vices: greed, avarice,  
gluttony, etc.



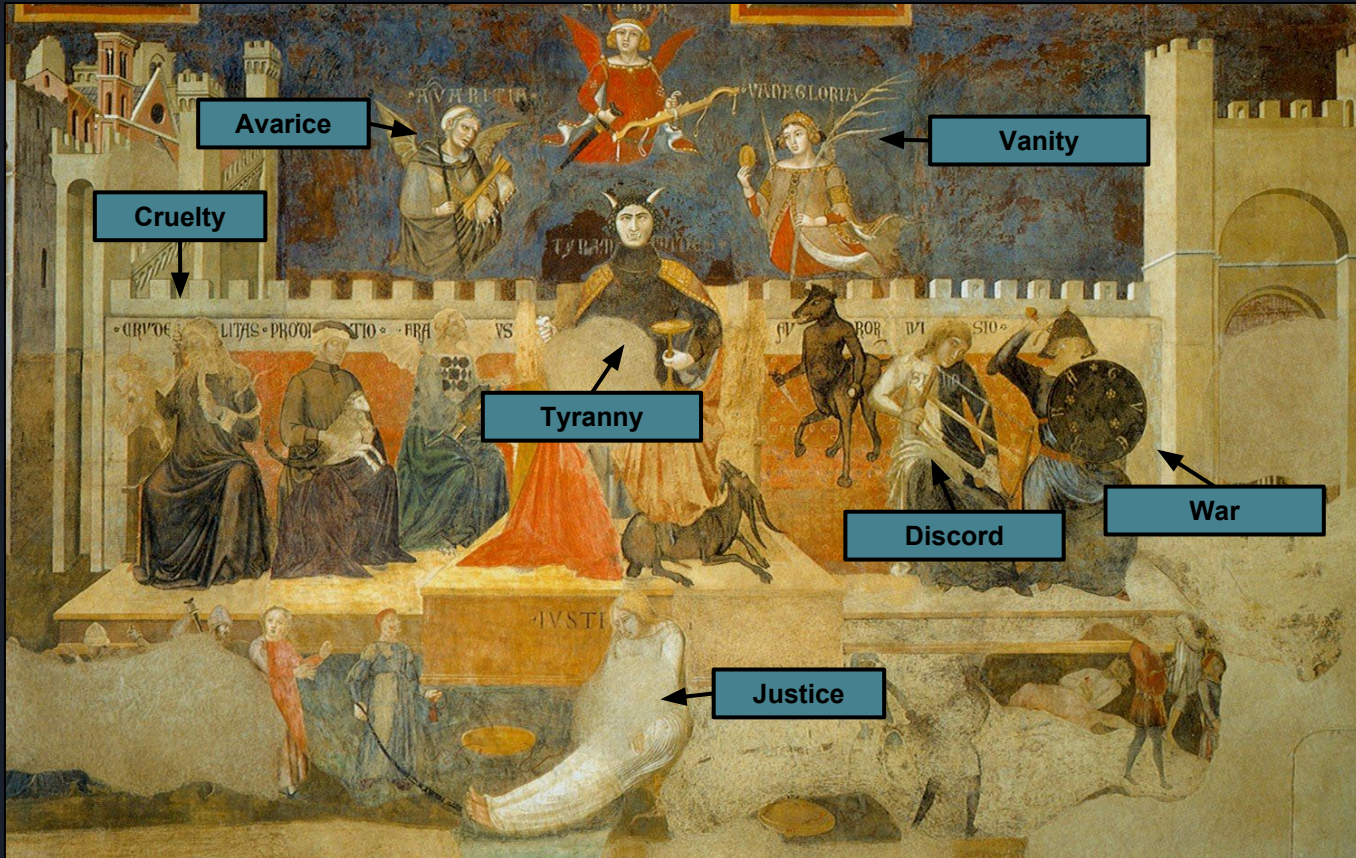


*BioShock (2007)*



# Dystopia

- An imaginary place where people are unhappy and usually afraid because they are not treated fairly
- Many times arise from failed attempts at utopias



“The Allegory of Good and Bad Government” by  
Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1337-1339)



*Blade Runner* (1982)



*Children of Men (2006)*

# What are elements of a dystopia?

 When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/josephc611](https://PollEv.com/josephc611)

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# What are some examples of a dystopia (both fictional and real)?





BBC Special on the Hungarian Revolution (1956)

# Choose your dystopia:

- Hunger Games
- Mad Max
- The Road
- Handmaid's Tale
- Fahrenheit 451
- The Giver
- Blade Runner
- Brave New World
- 1984
- Anything else you can think of!





## Brainstorm & Share:

- The main problems of your dystopian society
- The causes of these problems




## Utopian Scenarios to work towards?

- What kind of utopia do you want to create from this dystopia?
- From where would you draw inspiration?



## In the coming classes: What makes a utopia?

- Equality
- Law and Order
- Equal distribution
- Happiness
- Freedom (of...?)



# What are the major components of a society, economy, and government?

- Taxes
- Law and Order
- Human Nature
- Jobs
- Food
- Infrastructure
- And more!