



Dominated and dehumanised state in Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451

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Abstract:

The current research will examine Ray Bradbury's novel Fahrenheit 451 as a loss of freedom and human value. It analysed the narrative text from a liberal perspective; the system is the process of power throughout a dictatorship, which is the goal of the qualitative study. Anti-liberation and anti-humanistic cultures are thoughts to clash in human groups. This research paper examines the importance of liberal and humanistic viewpoints during the totalitarian era. One conclusion of the study is that Clarisse's liberal point of view helped to oppose and end the ideological siege imposed by authority. Ideology is ingrained in Fahrenheit 451 in archives beyond the written and storied history; people's ideas and behaviour. As a result, Bradbury's book presents the realistic prospect that businesses and the government could exploit televised material to deny viewers their right to freedom of speech and other individual liberties.

Keywords: Power, Privilege, Ideology, Dehumanization, Dictatorship, Technology

1. Introduction

In Fahrenheit 451, the firefighter Guy Montag challenges his duty and tries to understand why people think reading is dangerous. It was published three years after being written in 1950 as a novella for a science fiction magazine. The novel Fahrenheit 451 addresses contemporary issues and highlights possible social ills. It was associated with the Prometheus Hall of Fame prize for libertarian science fiction writing in 1984. This subgenre upholds liberty as a core value while emphasising politics and social order. When this book was published, many people thought it had a significant influence.

In the end, we live in an uncertain technological era. In the futuristic world of Fahrenheit 451, the house of every individual with a book will be destroyed. The narrative invites the reader to picture a dull, depressing society in which people are brainwashed into buying planned commodities, and existence consists mainly of a weightless, languid pursuit of happiness.

Based on Ray Bradbury's 1951 novel of the same name. Guy Montag is a fireman who lives in a remote, isolated community where the government prohibits reading out of fear for the people's ability to think for themselves. Firefighters should destroy any books or collections that informants have reported right away. Drugs are used to force everyone in this society including Montag's wife to submit, while wall-mounted televisions provide them with news. After falling in love with Clarisse, a book collector, Montag begins reading books that have been confiscated. He questions why the government encourages book burning in light of this relationship. Even though Montag is well aware that he has done so, he is faced with either returning to work or fleeing as soon as he is located.

An essential examination of liberalism and human values is necessary for this investigation. Liberalism is an ideology that supports individual freedom and equality. Humanism and liberalism focus on the individual's right to freedom from the state's power. The belief that individuals should prioritise their needs over those of others and that governments should merely serve as watchdogs is known as individualism. Freedom protects each person's right to privacy, but not at the expense of others' right to

privacy. Reading the dialogue in the book and the character biographies can help you recognise these traits.

Although dystopias developed from romantic works, dystopian societies are unhappy, constantly controlled, and dependent on the state.

Plots of dystopian novels are usually set in futuristic times and places immensely damaged by the horrors of war. A dystopian environment is a post-apocalyptic world of alienated, dehumanised people controlled by the individual or the state, all in the name of overall well-being and progress. In such a world, technological progress shapes society. Human labour is subordinated to the machine's work; in some novels, the machine is more appreciated than human life. (Kamenčák 04)

Some significant factors affect the anti-liberal and dehumanised state. Totalitarianism, technology, and ideology are the primary factors to make it that way. Its dominations reflect the loss of liberal activity of humans and their liberty.

2. Totalitarian dominance

The book *Fahrenheit 451* is an anti-liberal parable in which books are set on fire due to totalitarian rule. People's liberal lives are being negatively impacted to the point where they are unable to read the book. Bradbury portrayed the authoritarian regime, which was a nightmarish future. People today are also required to abide by the laws and regulations of authoritarian regimes. The freedom to think independently and liberally is restricted. In this novel, Ray Bradbury portrayed both liberal and anti-liberal people. Clarisse, the novel's liberal protagonist, symbolises liberal activity during the anti-liberal era. She disobeys government regulations and prefers to be free while reading literature. Guy Montag, a further antiliberal and pioneer figure, illustrates how he turns an anti-liberal into a liberal person.

The novel begins with some anti-natural activity, and when Guy Montag and Clarisse first meet, she asks Montag,

"Do you ever read any of the books you burn?"

He laughed. "That's against the law!" (Bradbury 15)

This dialogue represents how the people live in an antiliberal way, where even books are not allowed, and those who read the book punish and burn the book itself. How humans reached and lived there, where people do not think liberally, not read at least books, because this is against the law. The government knows that liberalism comes from books, so it must be banned and is a law against reading books.

The woman knelt among the books, touching the drenched leather and cardboard, reading the gilt titles with her fingers while her eyes accused Montag.

"You can't ever have my books," she said.

"You know the law," said Beatty. "Where's your common sense? None of those books agree with each other. You've been locked up here for years with a regular damned

Tower of Babel. Snap out of it! The people in those books never lived. Come on now! "

She shook her head.

"The whole house is going up;" said Beatty,

The men stumbled to the door. They glanced back at Montag, who stood near the woman.

"You're not leaving her here?" he protested.

"She won't come."

"Force her, then!" (Ray Bradbury 52)

The present woman is requested to leave the house when Beatty Montag and Firemen arrive at the book burning. Beatty issues instructions and directs her to remove the woman from the house because she won't go and will only let the book stay. Even keeping the book and reading are prohibited in this

circumstance. A person is pressured and punished if they refuse to obey. Here, it is evident that totalitarian rule is like destruction because a person is deprived of their freedom and liberty. If they rebel against the government, no value is placed on humanity.

This section of the analysis discusses the elements of anti-liberalism, from banning books in the story to burning. The study is done by comparing the events of the time the story was written and the attitude of the society and government of that time with the events within the fictional story Fahrenheit 451. The direct influence and involvement of the government in the character's everyday life are not implicitly shown, but Fahrenheit 451 is essentially a political story, as it often mentions a nation-propagated war. (LIGO 30)

Clarisse says to Montag, which is a fireman who works to burn books, "Strange. I heard once that a long time ago, houses used to burn by accident and they needed firemen to stop the flames." (Bradbury 15)

Clarisse reminds the importance of the book; she says this is vice versa, and in the present time, Bradbury cautions people that, in the literalism era, there is not any liberal activity, so Clarisse's character reminds that liberal point of view and goes against the government, what kind of era, she heard that fireman's work to put fire to house or place not burn, she questions against the antiliberal activity, that is why futuristic world depicted by Bradbury.

Some factors affect liberalism, such as technology and antinatural elements. This is also one factor directly affecting liberalism, that people must not read books and listen to T.V. news and shows.

Dictatorial governments can manipulate all information broadcast on the media by spreading propaganda to obscure or distort the facts and to serve their ideologies (Guriev & Treisman, 2015). Also, totalitarian states attempt to control access to information and impose strict censorship on all informational sources, banning books, suppressing speech, and censoring communication. (Fatma 2)

3. Technological dominance

In Bradbury's day, television and the present were closely intertwined because television shows were not recorded for later airings until 1951. The introduction of TV also sparked conversations on topics unrelated to media consumption. The cultural library of an egalitarian society changed as televisual media and networked media feeds developed. This modification led to the formation of a commercialised televisual library that misled its viewers to raise sales and spread disciplinary messages to guarantee conformity with the law.

Ray Bradbury's highly conventional and strongly recommended views on technology are mostly what the reader is left with after reading the book. This appears to contradict the liberal tenor of the book, which emphasises the value of free speech.

Our environment is constantly changing, for the better and worse. Bradbury struggles to comprehend this paradox, which his audience may already know. Bradbury appears to be very opposed to development since he claims that it can only be good.

For example, Montag is unhappy with how "nothing is connected" in the current world around him, so he looks for answers and knowledge in the past—all those books. Another example of this connection to a somewhat idealised past is his friendship with Clarisse, who looks "ancient" and has a connection to the natural world. Outside of technology, Clarisse has a connection to the natural world.

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When Montag tries to chat with his wife, she is only interested in discussing work. During this time, husband and wife give each other their own time. As a result, Montag complains to his friend Faber about his wife.

"Nobody listens any more. I can't talk to the walls because they're yelling at me. I can't talk to my wife; she listens to the walls. I just want someone to hear what I have to say.

And maybe if I talk long enough, it'll make sense. And I want you to teach me to understand what I read."

Faber examined Montag's thin, blue-jowled face. "How did you get shaken up? What knocked the torch out of your hands?"

"I do not know. We have everything we need to be happy, but we are not happy.

Something needs to be added. (Bradbury 107)

Due to her obsession with TV and sWalls, Montag cannot communicate with his wife. In this technology age, he can no longer maintain his positive relationship with his wife. No one has any authority, freedom, or human worth in this place. Simply removing all the technology has fallen victim to mine. Bradbury thus emphasised how technology codominance dominates the human person in this passage.

When Ray Bradbury's famous futuristic novel appeared, the United States was involved in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. In its mad fear that communism would invade the state, the government had, throughout much of the 1940s and 1950s, been wary of a fault in hunting out citizens whom it may think have compassion with leftist causes. They were mechanically considered dangerous to democracy and the country. Much of this monitoring policy focused on published material. Citizens lost their jobs and reputations for having books or journals that the government labelled as friendly to communism. Many writers, like the "Hollywood Ten" screenwriters and playwright Arthur Miller, were mistreated for writing books that the government disapproved of. (Gebreen 216)

Bradbury cannot forecast the future precisely, as with any dystopian book. However, his relevance for today is exceptional, given our willingness to support modern conveniences like the Internet and smartphones.

4. Ideological dominance

Ray Bradbury's depiction of an authoritarian social structure makes it clear that owning and reading books is prohibited. The main character, Montag, a firefighter who is accused of burning books, battles both anti-intellectualism in general and his identity. Montag escapes to the woods and rebels against the autocratic government machinery after experiencing a moral crisis. He encounters a group of men who wish to use the literature they have secretly memorised to teach pupils about their cultural background to restore society. Using Althusser's theory of ideology, this research reinterprets Bradbury's fanciful society while analysing how the prevailing ideology interpellates individuals through governmental institutions and the subject of resistance to such a powerfully promoted ideological call.

The portrayal of a police state by the firefighter and the dog is an open invitation to implement authoritarian political machinery. Fahrenheit 451 portrays a shallow, subservient, and anti-intellectual society that results from ideological governmental machinery. The statements of some characters, like Beatty, Faber, and Clarisse, who are familiar with earlier generations (and can therefore offer comparisons), or the lives of some characters, like Mildred and her friends, who embody that society, make it clear that the repressive and ideological state apparatuses work together.

"Was it my wife turned in the alarm?"

Beatty nodded. "But her friends turned in an alarm earlier, that I let ride. One way or the other, you'd have got it. It was pretty silly, quoting poetry around free and easy like that. It was the act of a silly damn snob. Give a man a few lines of verse and he thinks he's the Lord of all Creation. You think you can walk on water with your books. Well, the world can get by just fine without them. Look where they got you, in slime up to your lip. If I stir the slime with my little finger, you'll drown!" (Bradbury 152)

Beatty tells Montag that he must adhere to government policy or he will begin to face the consequences. They examined literary pieces in addition to historical and modern philosophies. In this case, it is reasonable for citizens to abide by the rules and policies of the government. Everyone needs to follow that. These beliefs spread in a fashion that was antagonistic to liberalism and humanism.

People change even in an atmosphere where ideology is constantly changing. When he speaks with his wife again, they talk about this incident. When he saw the woman burning, he closed the woman from the book. Having listened to the news, even Mildred needs to be addressed by it since it upholds its own political and scientific philosophy. She also says that is good since the government should eliminate nasty things. We live in an ideological age when people need to think about their independence, liberty, or social ties rather than unthinkingly follow the idea of the state.

The exercise of repressive state apparatus is explicitly offered in the form of a police state represented by the firefighters and the hound. In addition to that, the ideological state apparatuses play a significant role in the imaginative world of the anti-intellectual, obedient, and shallow culture of Fahrenheit 451. The ideological state apparatuses function in harmony with repressive state apparatuses. This fact is evident either in the statements of some characters such as Beatty, Faber, and Clarisse, who are informed about older generations (thereby providing comparison), or in the lifestyles of some characters such as Mildred and her friends who stand as the representatives of that society. (Koç 111)

Authority and Administration: The public must accept a government to stay in power. Most countries use various sorts of propaganda and population control to try to keep power. These governments think they must employ various tactics to maintain social order and prevent any potentially deadly opposition movement. While some governments use brutality and force to stay in power, most governments progressively sway their citizens by making false promises of benefit and further influencing them in various ways to impose their self-serving beliefs.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury is a dystopian tale in which the government uses mind-numbing television broadcasts and education programs to control the public in place of books and other forms of mental stimulation. The novel's characters and depiction of government control mirror Karl Marx's notion of social classes, reflected in the government and media's authority over the populace. Thomas Pynchon wrote Fahrenheit amid the 1950s Red Scare. At the time, there was worry among Americans that communism may infiltrate the government and society.

In Fahrenheit 451, ideology is embedded in archives that transcend the written and preserved record; people's attitudes and actions are held. Therefore, Bradbury's work highlights the possibility that governments and corporations may utilise television programming to deny people their right to free speech and private life.

5. Conclusion

Fahrenheit 451 is a cautionary tale representing futuristic eras of human life in the future, where there is an authoritarian government and no place for liberalism in society. Ray Bradbury's limelight towards the real enemy these days and thought to control freedom of speech by the government. Technology and the government's ideology are anti-liberalism, as presented by the author. This book highlights how our lives will be controlled by technology and ideology and remove our individuality and our liberalism.

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