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### Different Feminism

Feminism is a strong topic for discussion within any piece of work. There is always going to be a role that women play in the story, whether that is a big role, or a small role. In every book women are portrayed differently. A literary critic Douglas states, "This reaction of feminists is due to the consequential spread of narrow traditionalist preconceptions on the capacities of marginalized groups through the long, yet deliberate process towards techno-globalization..." (Douglas 1). Feminism is changing constantly, and Huxley does an amazing job of giving us the best of both worlds. Huxley describes women in many different ways through a *Brave New World* such as, the class system, the role of women, and the controlling of women.

The class system to me is the most important when it comes to feminism. This is because right away you can tell the role that a women plays by the class system. This is weird through a *Brave New World*, because women are not seen as lower class citizens. They work just like the men within the World State. The only thing about the class system is that they work on the same level that there genetic code allows them to be with the men. They can't work on a higher level or a lower level, because their genetic code doesn't allow them to when in the World State. This is different because women are usually degraded through society and seen as a lower class. However, when outside of the World State at the Savage Reservation it is interpreted as the women being the lower class. The women are seen as mothers, and that is their job. They don't

work on the same levels as the men, they work lower. Huxley gives the reader the best of both worlds when it comes to the class system.

The role of women through the book is huge. It can again be interpreted from the World State side, and the Savage Reservation side. Within the World State Huxley describes women's roles to be the same as men in some way. They go to work, with the men and then go home from work. Although, their work is the same they serve a little bit of a different purpose. This purpose is to sleep around, and to not have any serious relationships. Yes, men are supposed to sleep around too, but even in today's society that isn't frowned upon like if a woman was sleeping around. The women's role is to give it up to the man. This is why when the students were asked if they ever had to wait for something a student responded by saying, "I once had to wait nearly four weeks before a girl I wanted would let me have her" (Huxley 45). The male student couldn't believe that he had to wait this long, which leads the reader to believe that women are supposed to sleep with tons of men. Within the Savage Reservation when John's mother tried to sleep around it was thought of as disgusting. No women in their society should do that. They are supposed to build relationships with their companions, and make a family together. The Savage Reservation has mothers, not just sex partners. They care for their children, whereas in the World State they don't have kids due to the contraceptives.

Women are very different from men. They have to go through completely different things than males, and when in the World State they control everything for women to make them more similar to men. Contraceptives are the most important part of this. When in the Savage Reservation they don't have contraceptives, which mean that sex means something more than just personal satisfaction. They have a connection with that person because they are going to have a kid together. The mother child bond is something that is unbreakable. When you take this

opportunity away who cares who you sleep with, and it doesn't matter because women won't ever be able to have that bond with a child. Another example of controlling women is the soma. The women used soma like a drug to hide their feelings, and pains. An example of this is when John's mother is returning to the World State, and it states her mindset, "The return to civilization was for her the return to soma, was the possibility of lying in bed and taking holiday after holiday, without ever having to come back to a headache or a fit of vomiting, without ever being made to feel as you always felt after *peyotl*, as though you had done something so shameful anti-social that you could never hold your head up again" (Huxley 154). This is a perfect example of how they hide their feelings, and is able to suppress whatever their problems are. The soma messes with women's minds. They don't care about anything else other than soma and sex. This is shown when Lenina is taking her soma, "...[I]n spite of the second gramme of soma, Lenina did not forget to take all of contraceptive precautions prescribed by the regulations" (Huxley 77). Her mindset is completely thrown off by the soma suppressing her feelings. What if she forgot to take her contraceptives? Would she have been ostracized by the World State? This just shows how trying to control one in one way can almost ruin oneself in another way.

Feminism is a huge topic for any type of work, but for a *Brave New World* it is one of the most important topics. Huxley shows how women would live within the World State, and the Savage Reservation. This shows us the proclaimed feminism and the future type of feminism. Could this be where women's roles for life are heading? This is amazing to see how Huxley portrays women in the future. Huxley describes women in many different ways. He shows us how women are controlled, the role they play, and how the class system affects them.

Works Cited

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