

Michael Moore: *OWs and that ends well*, from "Dada, where is my country", London 2003, Chapter 3

Dystopia

A **dystopia** (or alternatively **caustopia**) is a fictional society, usually portrayed as existing in a future time, when the conditions of life are extremely bad due to deprivation, oppression, or terror. Science fiction, particularly post-apocalyptic science fiction and cyberpunk, often feature dystopias. Social critics, especially postmodern social critics, also use the term "dystopian" to condemn trends in post-industrial society they see as negative. In most dystopian fiction, a corrupt government creates or sustains the poor quality of life, often conditioning the masses to believe the society is proper and just even perfect. Most dystopian fiction takes place in the future but often purposely incorporates contemporary issues (or even current trends) taken to extremes. Dystopias are frequently written as warnings, or as satires showing current trends extrapolated to a nightmarish conclusion.

From <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dystopia.htm>
(last seen on Mar 24th, 2010)

Tone

Tone is the way in which a writer treats his or her topic, thereby reflecting his or her emotional attitude towards the topic and also towards the reader. The tone can be formal, intimate, solemn, playful, serious, ironic, humorous, angry, etc.

From: *New Context*, Berlin, Germany 2003

TASKS:

1. Apply the definition of dystopia to the text: What social trend is "purposely incorporated" here? What is the warning?
2. Comment on the tone of the text. Give examples.
 - a. What message does the author want to convey?
3. According to the the text, what's the world like in 2067?
 - a. Use your imagination to carry on with the idea of this dystopia. Together with a partner, either make up a typical activity of your life in 2067 (according to the text) or describe a dystopian world in 50 years. Present it to the class.