

The Summary of “Aspects of Imperialism
in Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*”

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Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* has been read as a dystopian novel which describes the degradation of human nature in the setting of a scientifically civilized future. Especially, Huxley deals with the themes of the industrial mass production associated with Henry Ford, and the disappearance of individuality. However, while recognizing such major themes, we come up with another aspect—that is, colonialism and imperialism, which have been explored in some British novels since the end of the nineteenth century. Though Huxley wrote this work in 1931, he deals with other minor subjects which he thought about in his essays in the 1920s as well as the major subjects. Even if the British Empire was declining in the 1920s, colonialism and imperialism still existed. Then, doesn’t *Brave New World* include the aspects of colonialism and imperialism? This question is our starting point.

In chapter 1, we discuss two essays which demonstrate the possibility that *Brave New World* can be read in terms of colonialism and imperialism. The first one is Pascal Gross’s essay which insists on the importance of the second part of *The Origins of Totalitarianism* by Hannah Arendt. In his essay, Gross focuses on Arendt’s idea that imperialism had been the matrix of totalitarianism. As evidence of our interpretation of *Brave New World*, we apply the theory of the role of imperialism as the prerequisite for totalitarianism. The other is *Jesting Pilate* (1926) which is one of Huxley’s essays. This essay is a travelogue of his first visit to India. Since he describes his impression of India and the native people, this essay is very useful for us, because Huxley does so being conscious of his identity as a Westerner. From this travelogue, we try to abstract his idea about colonialism.

In chapter 2, we discuss the practice of racism described in the novel, considering Arendt’s idea about the relationship between British imperialism and racism. The visual difference of each caste, the discriminative words used to describe lower castes, and the racist plot of the ‘feely’ or popular film in the

World State correspond to the way in which Westerners saw Asians, Africans and black people as inferior in the real world. We discuss how such practices of racism in the novel reflect the relationship between white people and black people, and between the colonizing and the colonized.

In chapter 3, we focus on various territories, cities and nations referred to in the novel. Like London (the setting of the headquarters of the World State) and New Mexico (the setting of the Savage Reservation), this story includes some names referring to parts of our world. So, we examine such places in relation to colonialism. For example, these places include Cyprus, Singapore, Kenya and so on. Also, in this chapter, we examine the appearance of colonialism and imperialism in the novel, considering the relationship between John the savage and his native place the Savage Reservation, and between the rulers and the ruled in the World State. At the same time, we refer to the theory of Homi Bhabha who is a postcolonial critic.

In conclusion, we can say that Huxley describes colonialism and imperialism as one of the prerequisites of *Brave New World*. While dealing with the major themes of the novel, Huxley sets aspects of British imperialism in his work. Though it is hard to say that these aspects form the major plot, such a minor appearance itself seems to imply the presence of the declining British Empire in the 1920s and 1930s. From this point, we conclude that Huxley skillfully describes colonialism and imperialism in *Brave New World*.