

## **RICOCHETS OF SURVEILLANCE AND SEDATION: RE-IMAGINING DYSTOPIA BEYOND ORWELL AND HUXLEY**

**Dr. Uma Rajmohan**

*Ed-Tech Director, NedX Academy*

### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper examines the evolution of dystopian imagination through the dual lenses of George Orwell's 1984 (Orwell, 1949) and Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (Huxley, 1932), two foundational texts that continue to shape contemporary understandings of authoritarianism, technological control, and the erosion of individuality. While Orwell envisions a world governed by fear, surveillance, and the violent suppression of truth, Huxley imagines a society pacified by pleasure, conditioning, and the systematic numbing of human desire. This study argues that modern dystopian narratives increasingly merge these two paradigms, creating hybrid worlds where citizens are simultaneously watched and sedated, manipulated through both coercion and comfort. Through a close reading of the themes of surveillance, memory, emotion, language, and the politics of the body, this paper explores how contemporary dystopian thought extends, complicates, and reinterprets the anxieties articulated by Orwell and Huxley. The analysis concludes that the most compelling modern dystopias arise not from the dominance of one model over the other, but from the convergence of both: a world where the mechanisms of control are subtle, seductive, and deeply internalized, making resistance both necessary and profoundly difficult.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Surveillance, Thoughtcrime, Telescreen, Newspeak, Epistemic control, Memory manipulation, Ministry of Truth, Fear as governance, Psychological conditioning, Hypnopaedia (sleep teaching), Genetic engineering/decanting, Soma (drug of sedation), Manufactured happiness, Erasure of deep emotion, Pleasure as pacification, Desire manipulation, Loss of individuality, Manipulation of reality, Politics of the body, Collapse of authentic human experience, Internalized control, Hybrid Dystopia (Contemporary Echoes), Surveillance capitalism, Algorithmic control, Emotional engineering, Digital distraction, Erosion of truth, Misinformation/deepfakes, Internalized power, Seduction + coercion, Self regulating citizen, Black Mirror, The Hunger Games, Westworld, The Handmaid's Tale..*

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