

No paper about Utopia should start without mentioning Thomas More. This 16th century humanist was the first to coin the term and in his book he describes an ideal world, according to his views. It should be noted that Utopia comes from the Greek word outopia, which means no-place-land. Others might argue it comes from eutopia, which means good-place. Either way, it is obvious that Utopia does not exist and probably never will. However, I believe Utopia might borrow elements from present day society. To start with politics, Utopia should be ruled by a democracy, by the people. I agree with Winston Churchill who said that “it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried.” With that I mean there is room for improvement. Not only should the government be chosen by the people, but the government should exist of the best people available and the people should be able to get rid of the government without

the need for a revolution. The government should be there for the people and serve the people, so the people can enjoy their freedom, not only from a foreign country, but also by not being a subject to the rule of their fellow citizens. A head of state, either chosen or hereditary, is needed for ceremonial purposes only. People will always need someone to look up to.

There will be total freedom of religion, believe, opinion etc. Although some might argue religion is archaic (“God is dead”, Nietzsche) people will always believe in something. Religion, or a believe in something, can be good to guide your life. In anyway, there should also be strict separation between state and church.

The government (thus the representation of the people) should have a complete monopoly on (legitimate) violence. This can only be used to enforce civil order and the law. Of course a strict separation of powers (trias politica) should be present. If someone breaks a law, he in fact commits a crime against his peers, so he should be tried by his peers. On a side note, it might be debatable how separated the powers actually are, if they all are mandated by the same entity, the people, but of course, they should not have any influence on each other. The judicial system should be totally aimed at returning criminals back into society. Of course a limited amount of punishment is beneficial, either as a deterrent for potential criminals or as a way to reform the actual criminal and make him repent for his crimes. Jail sentences should be limited to a maximum time (20 years?) so criminals do not totally lose touch with society.

Economically, the state should have a limited influence, only on essential things as healthcare, education and public services (transport, infrastructure, energy). The aforementioned things should be available without limit to all citizens, free of charge or relatively cheap. Marxism (who borrowed a lot from More’s Utopia) is not the right way to divide wealth. People should have an incentive for innovation, and money is a strong incentive. Besides, if you divide all the wealth so everyone would have the same amount, then after one day, 10% of the people already have gained 90% of the money, so a form of capitalism will still be present in my Utopia. Of course, taxes should be divided in

an honest way, which means that high earners should also pay higher taxes.

To sum it up, the government should serve the people as they give them their mandate. Moral values

should be to each his own, as long as they do not force them on others. The judicial system is designed to reintegrate criminals and is only slightly focused on punishment. Public services are provided to every citizen by the government, which is funded by taxes paid by high earners.