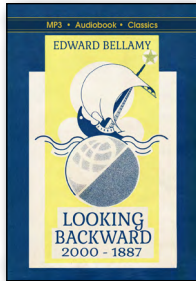


Fantasy Fiction - Dystopia and Utopia

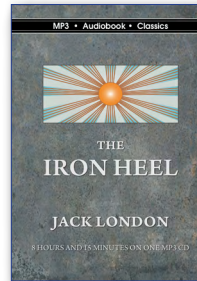


Looking Backward: 2000 - 1887

Author: Edward Bellamy
Read by: progressingamerica
Length: 10 hours and 39 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Political Science, Media Studies, Journalism

The 21st century has produced an exponential growth in the volume and complexity of communications. The growth of social media and decline of mainstream media has given rise to concerns about information “echo chambers”, entrenched partisanship, and disagreement on and even dismissal of fundamental facts. Given this, there is no better time to revisit Walter Lippmann’s *Public Opinion* (1922). Considered “the founding book of modern journalism” and “the founding book in American media studies”, it is an astute analysis of the irrational and self-serving perceptions that drive individual behavior and impede social progress. Lippmann argues that the power of propaganda and the expertise needed to understand public affairs renders traditional ideas of democracy untenable. To combat that, he challenged journalism to engage in the “manufacture of consent”, to parse issues and events as accurately and objectively as possible to help society cope and make more effective political decisions. The message resonates today as much as ever, perhaps even more so.

Catalog: DB-1212
UPC: 0701236969184
MSLP: \$12.99

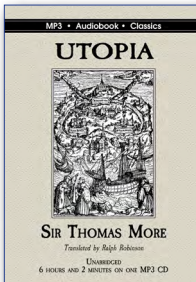


The Iron Heel

Author: Jack London
Read by: Matt Soar
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 8 hours and 15 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Science Fiction

The Iron Heel (1908) is considered the first modern dystopian novel. Set in the distant future, the book is based on a fictional first person narrative of the rise of an oligarchic tyranny in the United States in the early twentieth century. The “Iron Heel” monopoly corporations have forced smaller businesses into bankruptcy and farmers and the middle class into poverty and serfdom. A privileged class of laborers in essential industries arises along with a military caste. It lasts for three centuries until overthrown by the “Revolution”. The “Everhard Manuscript” was written during the First Revolt and tells of Avis Everhard’s privileged childhood, her marriage to socialist revolutionary Ernest Everhard, the fall of the Iron Heel and years of underground resistance. An introduction and footnotes by scholar Anthony Meredith add depth. *The Iron Heel* was a forerunner of later soft science fiction novels and an important influence on George Orwell and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Catalog: DB-1216
UPC: 0701236969351
MSLP: \$11.99



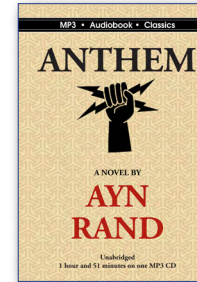
Utopia

Author: Sir Thomas More (1478 - 1535)
Translated by: Ralph Robinson (1520 - 1577)
Read by: Ruth Golding
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 6 hours 2 minutes
Genre: Fiction, Political Philosophy, Satire

Sir Thomas More invented the word “utopia” by blending the Greek words meaning “no place” as a title for his fictional work of political philosophy. Raphael, a voyager, describes the customs he observed during a journey to Utopia, a mythical island in the New World with representative government and no private property. Meals are communal. Everyone wears the same clothes. Men and women are equals.

Catalog: DB-1158
UPC: 0683422134739
MSLP: \$11.99

Everyone works six hours a day. Each household has two slaves. There are no lawyers. Health care is free. Multiple religions are tolerated. Priests can marry, couples may divorce, but premarital sex is punished by lifelong celibacy and adulterers are enslaved. Written in Latin and published in 1516 in Belgium, the book was not published in England until sixteen years after More’s death. Many of the concepts stand in direct opposition to More’s beliefs as a devout Catholic. Most see it as a satirical commentary on the evils of European society and an influence on later works such as Francis Bacon’s *New Atlantis* and *Candide* by Voltaire.

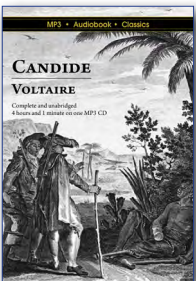


Anthem

Author: Ayn Rand (1905 - 1982)
Read by: Caden Vaughan Clegg
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 1 hour 51 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Political Philosophy

Anthem is set in a dystopian future Dark Age in which totalitarianism has imposed a strict order based on technology and collectivism. The main character is Equality 7-252, who is raised in a collective home and was born with a “curse” that enables him to learn quickly and ask probing questions. He discovers a tunnel in a work area containing metal tracks, a remnant from the Unmentionable Times. He finds sanctuary, and soon steals some paper and begins a journal. He meets a Peasant girl, Liberty 5-3000 and falls for her, dubbing her “The Golden One”. He rediscovers electricity and presents it to the World Council of Scholars, who seek to destroy the invention. Equality escapes to the Uncharted Forest. The Golden One joins him a day later. They settle in a house in the mountains and spend their time reading books discovered in the library. They rediscover the word “I”, grapple with love, rename themselves Prometheus and Gaea, and make plans for a future in which individuality is regained. Published in England in 1938, *Anthem* was re-released in 1946 after the spectacular success of *The Fountainhead* and has since sold more than 3.5 million copies.

Catalog: DB-1149
UPC: 0683422134791
MSLP: \$9.99



Candide

Author: Voltaire (1694 - 1778)
Read by: Paul Adams
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 3 hours 44 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Satire

Is this the best of all possible worlds? The title character in Voltaire’s classic novel, *Candide*, doesn’t ask the question so much as he’s force fed the answer. Raised in a sheltered environment with the words of Leibnizian positivism dropped into his mouth by his tutor, Dr. Pangloss, Candide accepts that all is for the best. Armed with this sunny belief, he leaves the comfort of home and hits the big bad world only to duck and cover as the big bad world hits back again and again. He begins to think that “If this is the best of all possible worlds, then the Creator is an under-achiever”. Subjected to trial after trial and witnessing the many injustices that are the fact and fabric of the world of experience, Candide, as per Voltaire, learns that perhaps the best that one can do is to tend one’s own garden. Written over the course of three days in the middle of the 18th Century (the Age of Enlightenment), this brilliant satire delivers an eloquent argument in a matter of fact voice bathed in the humor that stings with the barb of truth.

Catalog: DB-1052
UPC: 0684758936172
MSLP: \$10.99

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