

Jonathan Ramirez

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Essay #2

The Wizard of Oz: A Utopian World

Baumann, Steven.L. *Wisdom, Compassion, and Courage in The Wizard of Oz: A Humanbecoming Hermeneutic Study*. 4. 21. New York: Sage Publications, 2008. 322-329. Print.

Baumann's article portrays some of the qualities needed to reflect those of a utopian society along with questioning how they relate to human society. He questions "what is wisdom, compassion, and courage as humanly lived?" (Baumann 322) in which he determines the qualities of each of the characters in the story and how they relate to modern society in a way that society itself may be utopian as well. Using other sources to support his idea of thought, Baumann implies that these qualities seek out necessary components that make up a utopia in the eyes of a fantasy world that exhibits it, and yet the characters within this society display other meanings to what a utopia is. As well as listing other sources, he implements works from others to relate how these qualities fit into what Baum wanted to achieve and how his experiences made him create a society where everything is highly desirable and sought out while leaving the main character to see a world beyond she ever realized. In Baumann's journal, his topic implements sources that relate to his idea and how he manages them to follow a step by step process on how each of these terms play into human society.

Baumann's approach plays the same role as the other sources in a way that he focuses more on the qualities of self-being to relate to the setting of Baum's story. The source itself offers rich information that briefly relates the story to others and comparing them with the qualities that he seeks in the story itself. Baumann successfully transitions each of his goals into sections while comparing the story to others in order to reinforce his idea of these qualities and how they tie into a utopian setting. Rather than speculating on what Baumann is trying to imply, he approaches it with an comprehensible tactic of perspective, life experience in some cases, and relations from one work to another. Overall, Baumann approaches his point with precise analyzation of texts and not only the story, comparison to seek out the qualities needed to prove his position, and being productive in which the source itself can

easily describe what qualities are needed to reflect a utopia.

Culver, Stuart. *Growing Up in Oz*. 4. 4. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992. 607-628. Print.

In Culver's article, he portrays utopian society through Dorothy, the main character who arrives in the land of Oz desperately trying to back home to Kansas. Culver's approach differs in which he first talks about the main character but then focuses to another who has similar experiences as Dorothy. Putting more emphasis on the other character, Culver describes the various settings in the land of Oz and how some of them portray some dystopian qualities, which is the opposite of a utopia. Only by also analyzing the characters he encounters, he shares the same approach to collecting what qualities they have in order to understand the living one has in the land of Oz. Culver analyzes the other character the same way as Dorothy, but puts it in a different perspective where the other character, known as Tip, has a different approach to Oz where he is actually native to the land, and this approach makes his search more reliable in which he analyzes the setting of Oz through another person's perspective.

Culver approaches the source with an almost story-like feel that talks about Dorothy for a moment then shifts to an entirely different character that is native to Oz. Unlike the other sources, Culver developed this one in a way that he would get more information through a person living in Oz than one that has barely come into the land, and develops this character that reflects the qualities that could present a utopian being. Other than shifting perspective, he compares Tip to other characters in the story the same way Dorothy encountered them and deeply analyzes their viewpoints to Tip where their behavior is different from when they saw Dorothy and helps reinforce the boundary between modern society meeting utopian society. His method of comparison also reinforces his idea in which Tip follows the same guideline as Dorothy by having a specific goal needed to achieve what he really desires where Culver portrays this as utopian because he seeks out something that he wants the most in a perfect land. His approach is effective in which he compares two different perspectives and sets both to the same guideline Baum used but with a more analytical approach to the topic.

Griswold, Jerry. *There's No Place but Home: The Wizard of Oz*. 4. 45. Yellow Springs: Antioch Review. Inc., 1987. 462-475. Print.

Griswold article analyzes the setting of Oz and compares it to the setting of American in the early 1900's. Focusing on the topic "Is this real or is it a dream?" (Griswold 462), he evaluates the realism behind the Americas

back then and compares to the land of Oz whether the utopian idea is established to the Americas during this time or not. Emphasizing the setting through Dorothy's perspective, he also compares the story to the 1939 MGM movie where Dorothy merely dreams of the land while in Baum's story she experiences it, hence the quote stated. He compares both these sources to reinforce the idea whether if modern society exhibits real utopian qualities or if modern society merely exhibits them in their own viewpoint that varies from person to person. Aside from comparison, he analyzes both setting and establishes the idea if a utopian society is unreachable by actual society in which he states how the land of Oz is so far away from modernization that it makes the term valid to making it unachievable.

Griswold approaches his topic greatly by introducing the statement on whether or not a utopia can exist in reality or in one's own perspective. His comparison of the land of Oz to old America makes his source very reliable to those who seek the difference between a perfect land to a perfect land seen in many people's own viewpoints. Griswold's analytical approach also meets his idea where not only does he compares these two settings but he compares both the 1939 MGM film to Baum's work in reinforcing the idea on whether or not people see society as a utopia or that utopia can never be real to society itself. Many qualities are shown to apply to Griswold's statement and a few of them link both settings together in which back then America was described as a far away land that promises happiness and freedom, in which the land of Oz also describes these traits. His fundamental approach makes it very informative to those seeking comparison and describes it in a way that links mental perspective to actual reality.

Karp, Andrew. *Utopian Tensions in L. Frank Baum's Oz*. 2. 9. Pennsylvania: Penn State University Press, 1998. 103-121. Print.

Karp's article depicts the approach to a utopian society in a way that Baum approaches it. The style Baum used to establish a utopia differs very much from what Sir Thomas More describes, and many scholars are against Baum's usage, seeing as it implies a fairy tale rather than actual society. Though Baum may portray a different perspective to the topic than More, Karp relates the story to the other thirteen works he created in which they hold almost the same meaning More states. By analyzing each of the works Baum has written, Karp concludes that most of his works exhibit utopian traits such as there being no rich or poor in the land of Oz. Karp also makes his point by establishing certain perspectives in each of his works to reflect what society each of them portray, and succeeds in

bringing out the qualities needed to meet More's statement. Having a more analytical structure in his article to Baum's works, Karp meets his audience with an informative and academic strategy that compares all of his works to meet the standards that make up a utopian society.

His approach is more objective-based in a way that he analyzes every one of Baum's works and concludes them to meet More's statement. His stylistic way of portraying works within a topic makes it very informative to those who seek comparison towards one goal. What makes it different from other sources is that Karp grabs every work from Baum and compares to one sole topic, with the goal to establish how Baum's way of portraying a utopian society is very similar to what More has described, even though it may consist of only a fairy tale land. Karp successfully meets his topic in which he connects all of the works together and as well analyzes the characters in the works too see how similar they are in terms of quality and experience to the land of Oz. Approaching the topic with a more detailed perspective, Karp informs more through analyzing different works to meet a sole goal and comparing not only the characters in a single work but does it to every work to show how Baum's perspective of a utopia reflects More's in a way that they do not contradict.

Matthews, Gareth. *Philosophical Adventures in the Lands of Oz and Ev*. 2. 43. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2009. 37-50. Print.

Matthew's work states a more comparable approach to a utopian society where it is compared to Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Both works share almost the same setting in have utopian qualities but one of them appears more artificial and the other appears more real and true. Matthew describes both as having these qualities in which they compare themselves to both the setting and characters. Matthew however sees Baum's work as having a more realistic approach because he achieves qualities in certain characters that are actually reflected in daily life in the old Americas, while Carroll's characters focus more on artificial meaning where there traits are not as experienced in the real world and are seen more fictional that what is considered in the old Americans. Matthew relates these two in a way that he looks at setting, characters, other works, life experiences, and also from other sources to fully support his idea.

Matthew's approach takes on the idea on how utopia is seen whether it is real or not. It plays the game of real versus artificial in terms of both the setting and traits expressed in certain characters. Matthew achieves this by stating

a broad opening on how both works relate in a sense to utopian ways yet one is seen more realistic than the other. His analytical approach also relates both Baum and Carroll together to portray their similarities that relate to what More states and how they both differ to the topic. It's similar to some sources stated because Matthew as other authors wants to fully portray the similarities to achieve one goal. His approach informs readers well and the structure itself follows the format he achieved in relating actual utopianism to artificial utopianism.

Kim, Helen. *Strategic Credulity: Oz as Mass Cultural Parable*. 33. 1. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996. 213-233. Print.

Kim's article takes a different approach away from the direct meaning of a utopian society. In her article she argues on how the media portray the visual meaning of society known as “masses” where they are different to one another in terms of living and varying traits. She compares Baum's story as part of a media where American culture is reflected and based off a land of prosperity and better continuation of life. Kim establishes various connection with society's media to the variations of the land of Oz where almost no media exists, yet the spreading of rumors such as Dorothy killing the Witch of the East and almost everyone instantly knowing about it shows a form of media that spreads from person to person in a short amount of time. In her article her approach leads her to conclude that the “masses” within the story portray somewhat to those in the early 1900's where the Americas reflected much of what the story shows but in a different perspective. Overall her article explains how media is distributed in a way that Baum's work portrays it as a reflection of actual culture with a utopian society that has an entirely different system and how that culture adapts to this new system.

Her approach toward the article is cohesive and explains utopian society in a more indirect approach. Her use of the media in the story gives a better explanation on how mainstream modernization is very different from the land in Oz where widespread rumors is common. Her direct analysis to media briefly portrays to those of the characters in Oz where their traits differ yet they are seen as the same to real society. The media within the book is seen different due to the fictional

characters that are portrayed but Kim does it so those traits play a part in her main idea of the “masses”. Her explanations best explain her position and her thorough analysis best state the boundary between the actual media and the fantasy world of Oz where media is played but plays a hidden part to it.

McQuade, Molly. *Fair-Y Tale: The Wizard's Souvenir*. 2. 40. Midwest Modern Language Association, 2007. 115-129. Print.

McQuade's article takes on a more perspective outlook on Baum by illustrating and analyzing his life experience. Describing Baum's life as though he were riding a hot air balloon, McQuade tells of his travels being “souvenirs” in which he picked up to create the story where, for example, the Emerald City was created from his visit of the World's Fair. His life experience shows hints of utopian remarks where he visited places highly desired and that in his perspective looked nearly perfect that it would be presented in the land of Oz and reflected upon his travels. McQuade used this tactic to state that Baum was almost beside Dorothy's side while adventuring a new land where his travels were similar to Dorothy's and he presented them in his work as a perfect world where no flaw was made. McQuade's analyzation in his article states his topic that Baum's life travels influenced his mind to create a perfect world based on the places he visited and the people he met to influence his characters portrayed within the story.

McQuade's approach takes a more direct path towards utopianism only he reflects on the life of Baum who created *The Wizard of Oz*. This approach gives McQuade a more knowledgeable outlook on where the story came from and how Baum developed these ideas to create his own fantasy world that is similar in many ways based on the places he met and the people he encountered. Unlike the other sources, McQuade mostly compares Baum to Dorothy in which his travels influenced the way Dorothy saw things where they both came from an ordinary land and then traveled to a different one where everything is extraordinary and seemed perfect to them. This in turn showed McQuade's style to be more direct to Baum and Dorothy's experiences because he compares them to what they want to perceive as a perfect land. Overall, McQuade has best analyzed his sources and proven his position in which he successfully informs his readers through perspective, great and coherent lifestyles, and comparison of two different people that share the same utopian outlook in a mysterious land.

Sackett, S.J. *The Utopia of Oz*. 3. 14. Atlanta: Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on Behalf of the University of Georgia and the Georgia Review, 1960. 275-291. Print.

Sackett's article makes a direct approach the topic of utopianism and *The Wizard of Oz*. Sackett states many qualities that Baum's work has which relate to it being a utopia, yet some people see it differently which distorts their own view of it being one. Sackett in his article states the qualities the story has in which some examples include how no monetary system is used, not many of the lands are vastly explored, and how Oz himself does not realize that the land is based on utopian principles since he only stays in one place where he believes everything is perfect. Sackett best states his views in this article by which he analyzes the main characters on how they play part in the land of Oz and how much of a difference they make setting foot on a new land where their own viewpoints are very much different from the setting they are in. Overall, Sackett states his point in which a utopia exists within the land of Oz because the land itself is yet not fully explored and there isn't much interaction between the separate countries, making the land itself look perfect to foreign beings.

Sackett's approach demonstrates that he directly compares Baum's work to the topic of utopianism and how they relate to one another. Unlike the other sources, this one explains the best on how the land of Oz and its characters share the same traits a perfect society would. Stating reasons on why the land of Oz is considered utopian, Sackett not only compares the setting to what he sees in as utopian but he analyzes the direct roles of the characters within and how they adapted to social life in the land of Oz. With traits that express different perspectives of self-being and human emotion, Sackett establishes these qualities into the characters to further reinforce his idea of Baum's work to reflect utopianism among its characters. The source itself is great for a direct explanation relating *The Wizard of Oz* to a utopian society.

Sarat, Austin. *Off to Meet the Wizard: Beyond Validity and Reliability in the Search for a Post-Empiricist Sociology of Law*. 1. 15. Wiley on behalf of the American Bar Foundation, 1990. 155-170. Print.

Sarat's article portrays *The Wizard of Oz* towards more of an empiricism and socialist approach yet still grasps the principles of a utopian society. She states how the interactions between the characters sets the qualities shown to make it seem as society is more geared towards order and reform, where in a utopian society reform is hardly used but order is established since order is needed to create a perfect land. Sarat's idea is to express Baum's

work as one of reform to America and one that expresses these beliefs to be based on the travels of Baum and the characters in the story in which the setting itself changed America in a way that seems opposite to the story portrayed. Her detailed structure compares the story to a “seminar” that interacts with the characters to grasp reform on certain situations and establish them to modern society that can best reflect utopian ideals. Her idea is best supported when she states how empirical reform creates a boundary in which change happens but in a perspective doesn't due to the order established where utopian ideals does not allow change to occur in the fictional land of Oz.

Sarat's approach is more coherent and geared toward the socialist and empiricism perspective of modern society to the land of Oz, yet holds some value in utopianism. It states some utopian values in the article but is mainly focused on the other two topics where order is established and reform is common. However, it still makes a great source to not only specify on a utopian society but to express it with other forms of community life where a utopia does not exist by itself. Her details on change and reform create a viewpoint that holds importance to many of the characters such as Dorothy whose only goal is to return to Kansas or the Tin Woodsman who wants a heart. These examples show reform in a way that they want to be perfect, showing some value of utopianism towards the characters while the other two aspects apply to the land itself and a little towards the characters.

Erisman, Fred. *L. Frank Baum and the Progressive Dilemma* . 3. 20. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1968. 616-623. Print.

Erisman's article states a more one-sided approach to the progressive era where change is constantly happening. In his article, Erisman states how *The Wizard of Oz* doesn't implement this change yet it expresses change in the characters. Some characters like the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Woodsman, and the Scarecrow as Erisman states, have qualities that make them more progressive-based in which they seek to change themselves to a more perfect lifestyle, which also implements utopian ideals. Such change as this Erisman reinforces where he compares the story to another where progression is almost stated, and how both stories reflect various differences yet they share the same common aspect. Erisman concludes with how progression happens in America and how its being more and more different to what Baum expected it to be in his work in which utopianism in reality is more of a dream to many.

Erisman's approach in this article is more towards change and reflects some aspects of utopianism yet it also

portrays itself to that in society. His style of analyzing characters differs from the other sources because he mainly implements his ideas on the characters themselves while the other sources reflect on the land of Oz. He sees that the characters are constantly changing to being their perfect selves such as the Tin Woodsman getting a heart and the Scarecrow getting some brains. Though Erisman does focus out of the idea of utopianism, he still mentions it in which the land of Oz does not change significantly since there is almost no interaction between the neighboring countries, leaving to have their own perfect society away from others. Overall, the source itself is great for having utopianism mentioned and also is great for stating more facts on having progression based on how it can lead to utopianism in some perspectives.