

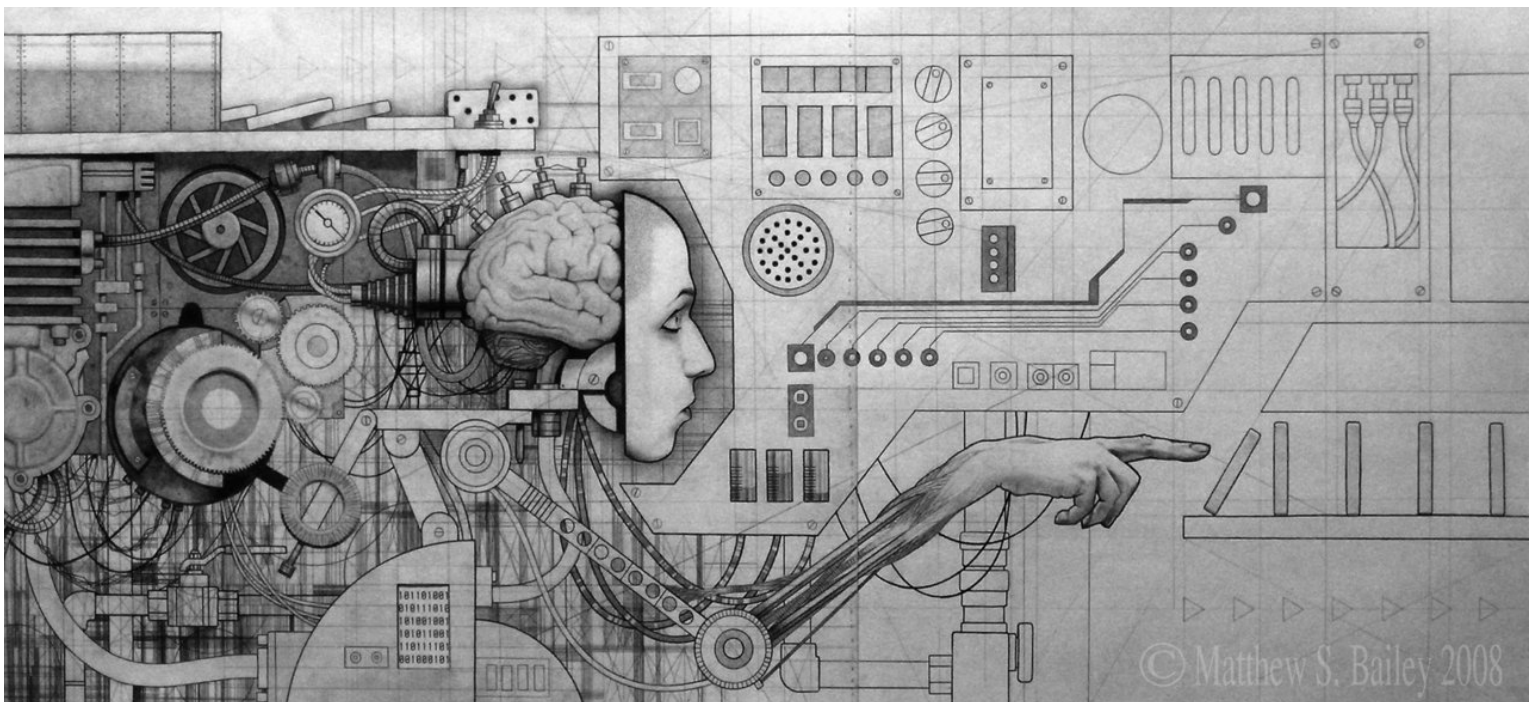
Jonathan Gomez

Mr. Quintero

AP English Lit, Period 5

25 January 2017

Visual Connection

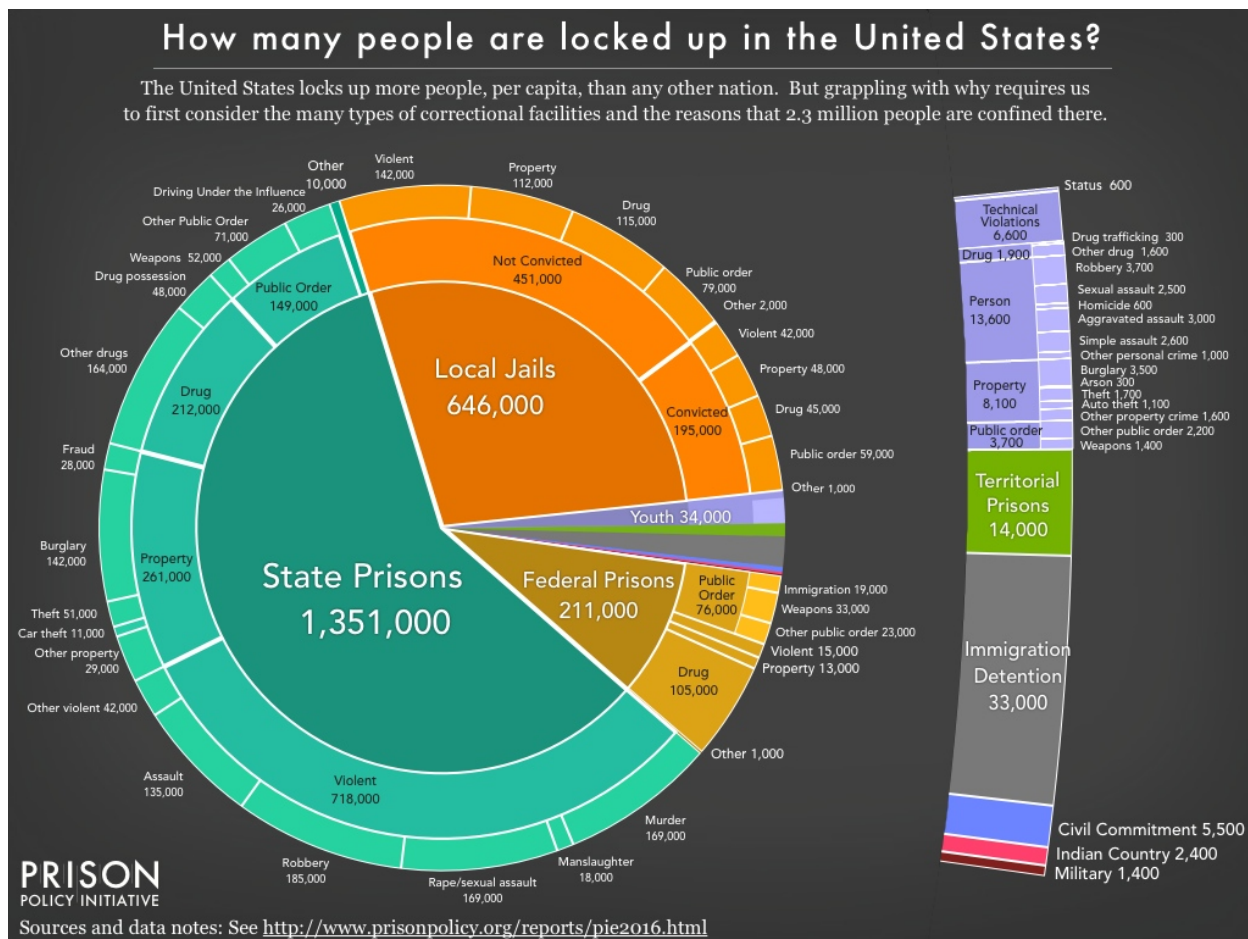


Bailey, Matthew. "A Portrait of Determinism." *matthewbaileyart*. web

The drawing by artist Matthew Bailey, "A Portrait of Determinism" depicts the determinist ideology that states humans do not have free will, and every decision made, is based on all other past experiences. Therefore, no human ever makes a choice, because their decision was predetermined by their DNA, and their past life experiences. This theory directly contradicts

the idea that humans have free will. In , “A Clockwork Orange” the themes of determinism and the lack of free will are shown. The title, “A Clockwork Orange”, comes from a deterministic idea that views humans as precise machines, that operate only based on previous experiences, starting a “domino effect” of decisions in the future. This is also shown in the picture by Bailey, where the human is part machine and knocking down a row of dominoes. Although no theories can be proven, Anthony Burgess plays with the ideas of both free will and determinism in the novel.

Non fiction Connection



Prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2016.html. Web.

In the U.S there are 2.3 million people locked in jail. Of this 2.3 million, 40 % of inmates in either a state jail or federal prison, are of African American decent. This number is particularly high when considering that African American people only make up 13% of the American population. In a San Jose Mercury News report in 1996 a journalist named Gary Webb wrote an article linking the CIA to the distribution of crack cocaine in the inner city neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

“For the better part of a decade, a San Francisco Bay Area drug ring sold tons of cocaine to the Crips and Bloods street gangs of Los Angeles and funneled millions in drug profits to an arm of the contra guerrillas of Nicaragua run by the Central Intelligence Agency, the San Jose Mercury News has found...

This drug network opened the first pipeline between Colombia's cocaine cartels and the black neighborhoods of Los Angeles, a city now known as the "crack" capital of the world. The cocaine that flooded in helped spark a crack explosion in urban America - and provided the cash and connections needed for L.A.'s gangs to buy weapons...

While the FDN war is barely a memory today, black America is still dealing with its poisonous side effects. Urban neighborhoods are grappling with legions of homeless crack addicts. Thousands of young black men are serving long prison sentences for selling cocaine - a drug that was virtually unobtainable in black neighborhoods before members of the CIA's army brought it into South-Central in the 1980s at bargain-basement prices.”

The Dark Alliance. Web.

Webb claims that the CIA is partly responsible for the mass incarceration of African American people in the U.S. Another recent article putting the blame on government is, "Legalize it all" by Dan Baum. The article contains an interview with John Ehrlichman, a former advisor for Richard Nixon during his presidential career. Ehrlichman states,

"The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

Although these instances of the government trying to imprison its people cannot be proven and have been denied, the statistics still show that one group is more heavily impacted by the U.S prison system. Whether by fate or by luck, one group is more often locked in jail, where they become more violent and less likely to be able to secure a steady job later in life. The themes of powerful governments and imprisonment are shown in both real life and in the novel. In the novel the police officers and government officials enjoy beating Alex and spitting in his face. An officer says to Alex's parole officer, "If you'd like to give him a bash in the chops, sir' don't mind us. We'll hold him down. He must be another great disappointment to you" (pg.77) . This routine between the officers show that they have been through this before. In the novel the government is struggling with crime in the youth. The problems in their society can be traced to the lack of education, "It is indeed a rare pleasure these days to come across somebody that still reads,

brother”(pg.8), and the amount of drugs taken in their everyday life. Growing up in this broken society, the children grow to be violent and dangerous. Burgess views of determinism can be seen in real life, where statistically a child living in the ghetto has a higher chance of being a criminal than a child who does not. This shows the idea that humans are drastically impressionable and will adapt to fit their surroundings. The imprisonment theme is shown when a government can take advantage of these adaptations.

Media Connection

Kids with guns
Kids with guns
Taking over
But it won't be long
They're mesmerized, skeletons
Kids with guns
Kids with guns
Easy does it, easy does it, they got something to say no to
Drinking out (Push it real, push it)
Pacifier (Push it real, push it)
Vitamin Souls(Push it real, push it)
The Street desire (Push it real, push it)
Doesn't make sense to (Push it real, push it)
But it won't be long (Push it real, push it)
Kids with guns
Kids with guns
Easy does it, easy does it, they got something to say "no" to
And they're turning us into monsters
Turning us into fire
Turning us into monsters
It's all bizarre
It's all bizarre
It's all bizarre
Drinking out
Pacifier
Sinking soul
Where you are
Doesn't make sense to
But it won't be long
Cause kids with guns
Kids with guns
Easy does it, easy does it, they got something to say no to
And they're turning us into monsters
Turning us into fire
Turning us into monsters
It's all bizarre
It's all bizarre
It's all bizarre
Push it real push it push it

Push it real push it push it
Push it real push it push it
Push it real push it push it
Push it real push it push it
Push it,
Push it real,
Push it

The Gorillaz, *Kids with Guns*, Web.

This song describes a place that is full of violent children, who will soon take over. This is similar to the setting of a “clockwork orange”, where the kids are raised to be addicted to drugs and violence. The line “ They're memorized skeletons,” shows that the kids are not choosing to be violent, but instead are being so because of their education and knowledge of what life is. Since the kids know of no other way to live, being violent is normal. The line, “Drinking in, Pacifier, Vitamin souls, The streets desire...” shows the dependency the youth has on drugs in the song, just like in the book. If the children are dependent on drugs, they will be content as long as they have their drug, and will not seek anything further in life. They will not question their way of life because they will be high and happy. “And they're turning us into monsters, turning us into fire, turning us into monsters, its all desire, its all desire...” As the kids grow crazier and more violent, the whole culture will have to change with them, because the children grow to be the adults who make up society. Once the violence kids grow to adulthood, they will pass on their violent ways to the next generation.

Literary Connection

The most important thing we've learned,
So far as children are concerned,
Is never, NEVER, NEVER let
Them near your television set --
Or better still, just don't install
The idiotic thing at all.
In almost every house we've been,
We've watched them gaping at the screen.
They loll and slop and lounge about,
And stare until their eyes pop out.
(Last week in someone's place we saw
A dozen eyeballs on the floor.)
They sit and stare and stare and sit
Until they're hypnotised by it,
Until they're absolutely drunk
With all that shocking ghastly junk.
Oh yes, we know it keeps them still,
They don't climb out the window sill,
They never fight or kick or punch,
They leave you free to cook the lunch
And wash the dishes in the sink --
But did you ever stop to think,
To wonder just exactly what
This does to your beloved tot?
IT ROTTS THE SENSE IN THE HEAD!
IT KILLS IMAGINATION DEAD!
IT CLOGS AND CLUTTERS UP THE MIND!
IT MAKES A CHILD SO DULL AND BLIND
HE CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND
A FANTASY, A FAIRYLAND!
HIS BRAIN BECOMES AS SOFT AS CHEESE!
HIS POWERS OF THINKING RUST AND FREEZE!
HE CANNOT THINK -- HE ONLY SEES!
'All right!' you'll cry. 'All right!' you'll say,
'But if we take the set away,
What shall we do to entertain
Our darling children? Please explain!'
We'll answer this by asking you,
'What used the darling ones to do?

'How used they keep themselves contented
Before this monster was invented?
Have you forgotten? Don't you know?
We'll say it very loud and slow:
THEY ... USED ... TO ... READ! They'd READ and READ,
AND READ and READ, and then proceed
To READ some more. Great Scott! Gadzooks!
One half their lives was reading books!
The nursery shelves held books galore!
Books cluttered up the nursery floor!
And in the bedroom, by the bed,
More books were waiting to be read!
Such wondrous, fine, fantastic tales
Of dragons, gypsies, queens, and whales
And treasure isles, and distant shores
Where smugglers rowed with muffled oars,
And pirates wearing purple pants,
And sailing ships and elephants,
And cannibals crouching 'round the pot,
Stirring away at something hot.
(It smells so good, what can it be?
Good gracious, it's Penelope.)
The younger ones had Beatrix Potter
With Mr. Tod, the dirty rotter,
And Squirrel Nutkin, Pigling Bland,
And Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle and-
Just How The Camel Got His Hump,
And How the Monkey Lost His Rump,
And Mr. Toad, and bless my soul,
There's Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole-
Oh, books, what books they used to know,
Those children living long ago!
So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,
Go throw your TV set away,
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookshelf on the wall.
Then fill the shelves with lots of books,
Ignoring all the dirty looks,
The screams and yells, the bites and kicks,
And children hitting you with sticks-
Fear not, because we promise you
That, in about a week or two
Of having nothing else to do,

They'll now begin to feel the need
Of having something to read.
And once they start -- oh boy, oh boy!
You watch the slowly growing joy
That fills their hearts. They'll grow so keen
They'll wonder what they'd ever seen
In that ridiculous machine,
That nauseating, foul, unclean,
Repulsive television screen!
And later, each and every kid
Will love you more for what you did.

Roald Dahl. *Television*. Web.

The theme shared by Roald Dahls, “Television” and “A Clockwork Orange” are the impressionability of children, and the power that technology has on a human brain. They also reinforce the importance of reading and education in a society. While Dahls' poem gives a more straight forward call to action telling parents to read to their children more, Burgess' novel predicts what a future would look like if nobody read books, in a more satirical way. Dahl claims that television is responsible for children losing their imagination, and their mental capacity for deep thoughts. “He cannot think, he only sees” (line 32). This lack of thought is similar to the killer instinct used when Alex is fighting or doing drugs. When fighting Alex describes the physical wounds with great detail, and gives no insight into how it makes him feel, rightfully so because he is a gangster. Since Alex is uneducated and high on drugs for most of the evenings, he becomes a mindless zombie acting violent because he sees violence.