

From the Perfect Republic to a Just and Wealthy Society: Models of Utopia from Early Modern to Contemporary Times

Anna Di Bello

The idea of utopia has been defined in different ways according to different historical contexts, cultural environments, and the intellectuals involved. If, in the early modern period, utopia is seen as the realization of the kingdom of God on earth, the achievement of complete human happiness, or the construction of a society that is perfectly balanced between personal freedom and public justice, from the nineteenth to twentieth centuries, it often becomes the fulcrum of socialist theories, which call for a general reform of society and the state to affirm social justice and the socialization of economic resources. Beyond European borders, it becomes a pivotal model in a new transcontinental dynamic that favours well-being in the newly independent South Atlantic states (Servier, 1991; Andreatta & Vattimo, 1995; Claeys, 2020).

The following three papers aim to illustrate the connection between the concept of utopia and the idea of a perfect society. They highlight this relationship in its evolution at three stages between the early modern and contemporary age, through analyses of the utopian theories of Antonio Brucioli, Council Communism, and Domingo Sarmiento. The three contributions show that, even if these models are distant in time, they have many similarities and there is much that they continue to say and teach us today.

Works Cited

Andreatta, Alberto and Gianni Vattimo (1995), "Utopia", in *Alla ricerca della politica. Voci per un dizionario*, ed. Angelo D'Orsi. Turin: Bollati Boringhieri, pp. 101–40.

Claeys, Gregory (2020), *Utopia: The History of an Idea*. London: Thames & Hudson.

