

News from Nowhere (English Texts)

William Morris



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"News from Nowhere (1890) is a classic work combining utopian socialism and soft science fiction written by the artist, designer and socialist pioneer William Morris. In the book, the narrator falls asleep after returning from a meeting of the Socialist League and awakes to find himself in a future society based on common ownership and democratic control of the means of production. The remainder of the book explores a number of aspects of this society, including its organisation and the relationships which it engenders between people. The book offers Morris' answers to a number of frequent objections to socialism, and underlines his belief that socialism will entail not only the abolishment of private property but also of the divisions between art, life, and work.

In the novel, Morris tackles one of the most common criticisms of socialism; the supposed lack of incentive to work in a communist society. Morris' response is that all work should be creative and pleasurable. This differs from the majority of Socialist thinkers, who tend to assume that while work is a necessary evil, a well-planned equal society can reduce the amount of work needed to be done by each worker. News From Nowhere was written as a response to an earlier book called Looking Backward, a book that epitomizes a view of Socialism that Morris abhorred." (*Quote from wikipedia.org*)

Table of Contents:

Publisher's Preface; Discussion And Bed; A Morning Bath; The Guest House And Breakfast Therein; A Market By The Way; Children On The Road; A Little Shopping; Trafalgar Square; An Old Friend; Concerning Love; Questions And Answers; Concerning Government; Concerning The Arrangement Of Life; Concerning Politics; How Matters Are Managed; On The Lack Of Incentive To Labour In A Communist Society; Dinner In The Hall Of The Bloomsbury Market; How The Change Came; The Beginning Of The New Life; The Drive Back To Hammersmith; The Hammersmith Guest-house Again; Going Up The River; Hampton Court And A Praiser Of Past Times; An Early Morning By Runnymede; Up The Thames: The Second Day; The Third Day On The Thames; The Obstinate Refusers; The Upper Waters; The Little River; A Resting-place On The Upper Thames; The Journey's End; An Old House Amongst New Folk; The Feast's Beginning—the End

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