



**Absurdist Dystopia in Anders Lustgarten's
If You Don't let us Dream, We Won't Let You
Sleep (2013)**

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تشهد الدراما البريطانية المعاصرة طفرة في الدراما السياسية التي تصور بيئات ومخططات وتقنيات بائسة. تفتقر الكثير من مسرحيات القرن الحادي والعشرين إلى تقليد دراما الخمسينيات والثمانينيات التي تتغير فيها النظم الاجتماعية والتي يمكن أن تحرك فيها المسرحيات جمهورالسمة المميزة للدراما الجديدة هي الجمود. تلعب علاقات القوة غير المتكافئة دورًا رئيسيًا - إما في التسلسل الهرمي للحكام والمحكومين أو بين الشخصيات المنغلقة في صراعات على السلطة. يتم تصوير السلطة الظالمة على أنها غير قابلة للتغيير وأي محاولة لإحداث تغيير لا تؤدي إلا إلى المزيد من الاضطرابات والأزمات.

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Abstract

Contemporary British drama witnesses a surge of political drama that depicts dystopian settings, plots and techniques.. A lot of 21st century plays lack the tradition of the drama of 1950s - 1980s in which the social systems are changeable and in which the plays can move the audience. The defining characteristic of the new drama is immobility. The unequal power relations play a major role- either in the hierarchy of rulers and ruled or between characters locked in power struggles. The unjust authority is portrayed as unchangeable and any attempt to create a change leads to nothing but more unrest and crisis. **Key Words: dystopia , absurd, power, immobility.**

Introduction

In order to recognize the term "Dystopia" , it is necessary to understand the term " Utopia " . In Greek, The word utopia paradoxically means "no place". This word was used by Thomas More in 1516 and it represented the first modern utopia (Gordin , Tilley, and Prakash 1). Although the ideal world is impossible in many aspects, physically and socially, but the writers use the Utopian thoughts in their works to present that ideal world for their characters . In Merriam - Webster Dictionary , dystopia is defined as " an imaginary place where people lead dehumanized and often fearful lives . this dehumanization is to strip one of human integrity , and to " treat them as though he or she is not a human being " . (Merriam – Webster).A dystopia is a future world that extends and distorts modern day issues into an inexhaustible and dehumanized state in which controls have been forced upon society and its inhabitants through social and physical limitations that restrict many aspects of life (Cart 103 , Spisak 55). In dystopian works, there are several different types of heroes / protagonists . One of them senses that something is wrong with society and tries to correct it, believing that overthrowing the dictatorship or simply escaping the agony is feasible. Usually, the hero's view point differs from those around him which results in Conflict. Drama has a stronger tendency to deal directly with current Political topics . Drama has provided some of the most interesting and inventive dystopian pronouncements in all of Contemporary literature , from George Kaiser's expressionist drama to Bertolt Brecht's epic theatre to Eugene Ionesco's absurdist plays.The playwrights began to incorporate dystopian elements more frequently in the early 2000s. They used these elements in combination with techniques originating in the theatre of Absurd, such as stripping characters of their distinct identities , abandoning traditional plot structures, and working with a gradual disintegration of language. Spaces, also became undefinable , purpose fully " unreal" but were nevertheless designed to feel theatrically near to the audience. Despite their total reworking of the prominent features of dystopia, the plays might possibly construed as delivering " political messages. – (Sierz and Tönnies, p. 22) The Absurd Theatre is a place where human action is trivialized and life is viewed as a never - ending series of similar events. The final scene is identical to the first one which means that no development in the lives of the characters (and people in general) and that leads to the unchangeability of life like Althusser who says that the RSAs and ISAs, their main role is to keep people in their places, subject to the ruling class and unable to bring about any change because they will face oppression by these apparatuses . (Althusser, p. 244)Although the dystopian hero tries to rebel, revolt, and confront in order to change this dystopia, but his attempts are futile. He is confronted by what Althusser called Repressive State Apparatuses. The main role of the Repressive State Apparatus is to secure the

political conditions of reproduction of relations of production, which are in the end resort relations of exploitation through force (physical or otherwise). RSA does not only participate in its own reproduction (the capitalist state includes political dynasties, military dynasties, etc.), but also it secures the political conditions for the action of the ISAs by repression. (Althusser 247).According to Althusser, new generations are intellectually prepared to be subordinates of the dominating powers in Ideological State Apparatuses through their education. All the authoritative institutions function to facilitate the ruling class , and at the same time, they obstruct the ways of the common people in the state. Thus, the ruling class can maintain its place in the state and impose its domination on the common people, which leads to no change in the society (Althusser, p. 151) "*If you Don't let us Dream, we won't Let You Sleep*" (2013), is one of the most important plays of Anders lustgarten , Aleks Sierz described it as "political play about austerity and protest is perceptive and provocative, but too short" . He added that None of this is likely to convince either Cameron or Osborne, but that is precisely the point. Lustgarten is arguing that the policy of austerity is a political coup whose purpose is to open up more areas for the privatisation of everyday life. And these new Markets in the health service, child care and prisons - will enrich the few while the many will only get poor wages. With pardonable exaggeration it is an acute vision of what is already gradually happening . (<https://theartsdesk.com/node/64416/view>

Synopsis of the play *If You Don't Let us Dream, We Won't let you sleep* premiered on the Royal Court's main stage in February 2013. It was staged with no decoration , a stripped down, asset - free scenography that reflected the context of austerity.Part one of the play consists of scenes depicting ordinary people being put under undue strain by neoliberal forces as they acquire momentum in everyday life . For example, in scene Two, a workman installs an electricity meter in Joan's pensioner home , causing her to pay a hefty (debt tax) . Scene Three takes place in a jail holding cell where a young man named Ryan who has been arrested for participating in a riot or street protest , he is questioned by an employee of " Competitive Confinement Ltd" a privatized Company whose officers are paid to reduce rates of reoffending by coercing those who are disposed to rehabilitation to plead guilty to crimes they did not commit Joan is refused admission to a hospital in scene four after she was injured while attempting to demolish the meter. The hospital's Administrator does not want to risk extending waiting lists . Joan takes out her rage on an African man called McDonald Moyo, who she sees being brought to the hospital and she says "What gives you the right to jump over me? what gives you the right to bloody be here at all?" (108) In scene five , Ryan appeared again but this time with his two friends, Jason and Ross . They are watching football and drinking in Wetherspoon's pub when a bottle is accidentally smashed. McDonald, who is now working as a pub cleaner , enters with a mop to clean up the mess . Jason attacks McDonald with racist slurs, asserting that he is stealing their jobs, "Every one , everyone's got a piece of the pie except for us and I am sick and fucking tired of it" , (111) McDonald throws a bucket of water over Jason, resulting in a physical altercationIn the concluding scene of part One, Joan sits in her frigid, candle - lit home (The electricity has now been cut off) , enjoying a mug of tea with McDonald, she has invited him to join her. She apologizes for her earlier racist outburst at the hospital and assures him that " I'm not that kind of person " (123) McDonald introduces himself as a Zimbabwean structural engineer with a university education and says "This is the first time any English person has invited me into their home" (124). Joan's offer of a cup of tea She serves as the play's first, tentative sign of optimism Part Two contains references to current protests and activism, for example, one of the group's middle - aged members Called Jen, remembers the Reclaim the street movement and the environmental protests at Twy ford Down (125) . She also mentions the anti - Capitalist riots of j18, Seattle and Genoa (133) . Kelly, a former anthropology student in her thirties (125) who describes herself as "new to the movement " (125), says she became political after viewing Ian Tomlinson's death at G20 protests in London in 2009 (126) Zebedee, the group's veteran activist, wears the Guy Fawkes mask from the 2005 film *V for Vendetta* which has become associated with the So - called " Anonymous" hacktivist network and has been adopted by street protectors all over the world McDonald enters the courtroom near the end of the play to inspect the premises in his new job as a health and safety officer. His arrival casts doubt on the protest's sustainability, but it also brings him back into contact with Ryan whom he last saw during the racist assault at the pub. There is a chance of reconciliation between the white working class Young man and the older black immigrant in the play's last Scene When Ryan Communicates with McDonald, he highlights the significance of being able to imagine something whether it's something different or not. In the last line of the play, Ryan offers McDonald to join him in chat about the coming riot.The play sets in a dystopian

version of today's world , where to the tune of David Cameron's plummy adulation of the market, all Social Services have become enterprises, and it quickly Spray paints a picture of extreme despair and ruin. prisons are run on market principles, hospitals are profit - driven, and the government wants to privatize the air that its people breathe. Most of the Characters are victims of austerity. By the end of the play , all the characters are brought together . They want to challenge the system by asking pertinent questions, but these dreamers are let down.

Discussion

The title of the play, "If you Don't Let Us Dream, We Won't Let You Sleep", was taken from a Slogan that is adopted by the "Indigandos" which means "the outraged ". " Indignados" is an anti- austerity movement began in Madrid in May 2011 In the opening scene of the play, Lustgarten presents some city types get together to plat new ways to make money.Taylor's social dysfunction Addiction Depression.Violent Crime. They Cost this country tens of billions every years expenses we Simply can't afford in these austere times. The endless futile trek through courts, prisons, Social workers, rehab and A & E. The pointless cycle of deprivation and dependency Mclean The Culture of dependency .

That's What we want to eradicate .

Thacker Mmm. That ' I – want - Something
- for – nothing' disease

Taylor But what if there was a way to turn those burdens into opportunities ? unity Bonds . Unity Bonds transfer the costs of Social repair from tax payer to the Private sector at a healthy return. problem families can now be monetized, at a profit to investors and no cost to the public . Mclean It's an incentive structure . The fewer people receive a treatment for the problems , and or the greater the reduction in offenses, the higher the returns .

Taylor It really is a game Changing

Solution.

(part one, p.3-4)

During this conversation , Lustgarten shows that those people devise a strategy in which problem families can be monetised by harnessing the market's incentivizing Power . To put it another way, they intend to profit from changes in crime levels, both up and down, by this way, society appears to be unraveling while the suited plutocrats revel in their own smugness . Althusser classified the political apparatus as one of the Ideological State Apparatuses . He explained that all ISAs Contribute to reproduction of the relations of production , for example , capitalist exploitation. he added that the agents of exploitation are the capitalists and the managers. Althusser also suggested that the ideology of the ruling class holds the state power, so it is clear that the ruling class uses their own ideologies and strategies to get more benefit for themselves. So, Lustgarten presents the politicians who call for austerity because of their obsession with money and being driven by banks' greed:

Lucinda Sorry, I just ... I know it's ...
what actually is a bond ?

Taylor What is it ? what do you
mean ?

McLean Lucinda is one of our
RegeneratorInnovators.

Taylor ohhh .

Lucinda We're donating Some money to -
Taylor I've heard of the scheme , yes.

McLean She's at Trailblazer level, no less

Lucinda Once you've made a bit of money
you want to do something with it,
don't you ? Something you can
be proud of it .

Taylor I think that is how we all feel, yes

McLean A bond, Lucinda, pays off when
a certain threshold is achieved . If
the number of people who commit
Crimes or receive treatment
for Drug addiction goes down

- to a certain levels investors get a return If not, they don't. It is all about harnessing the incentivising power of the market
- Lucinda I see. No, that Sounds very ... sensible. Why doesn't the state pay for it?
- McLean Sorry ?
- Lucinda From , you know, taxes.

(part one p.5.6)

It is clear that Lucinda is not quite tuned to the frequency of capitalists who everywhere sniff out opportunities for privatization and profit. When Lucinda offers the state to pay from the taxes , she does not recognize that the state as Althusser explained is a "machine of repression which enables the ruling classes to ensure their domination over the working class , thus enabling the former to subject the latter to the process of Surplus - value extortion " . (Althusser , p. 72) .

The Two World Wars. and the traumatic experiences for the whole world, made the world as an absurd place, especially after World War II which broke all the beliefs and the values. In such a world, there is no humanistic structure for the persons.

Lustgarten presents the character of Joan who is a retired nurse recalling the customary welfare state tasks to which she was previously accustomed :

- Joan To be treated as human beings. To think of ourselves as human beings We weren't used to it, y, see .
- Joan A place to call home. Food on the table. Why shouldn't we have them things ? What's a Society for unless to make sure people have them things? It's the way we treat each other now. Like threats. That's what I can't bear. We treat one another. Like threats

(part one p. 7).

It is clear that Joan describes the life in Britain after the war. She recalls Thatcher's deliberate rollback of the welfare state, as well as Blair's rise to political hegemony. She feels sorry for the way that people treat each other in the current time which is described by her as " threats". By using the word "threats" , Lustgarten presents the decline of values in the modern societies established after the World Wars. He presents the individual's basic situation and shows concrete images of reality and everyday life .One of the most important problems in modern life is employment opportunities and the restriction in employment, the writer reflects this idea during the play :

Workman Eighteen months. Eighteen months tramping in the rain and standing in line, nothing . There's a way people look at you now when you're out of work , you'd think with more of us there'd be more Solidarity, but it's the opposite (part One, p.9) It can be observed that the writer here describes the post - war man's situation in the bleak post-war atmosphere. This man was doomed to alienation because the illusion that there existed commons values and rights in society was broken. When the Workman mentions that " there'd be more in Solidarity, but it's the opposite", he means that in such a universe man was doomed to isolation because there was no common and secure basis on which they could stand to gather safely . This ground which had looked stable and safe, had been shattered, and one was forced to stand alone, cut off from his peers. As a result, there is a lack of communication, sympathy and affection among people Lustgarten gives another example to show this sense of alienation when he presents the character of McDonald , a structural engineer from Zimbabwe who since moving to London, has found low-Wage labour for which he is overqualified :McDonald It is very strange. Only ashort while ago I was with my wife and children. I held them and breathed them. And now I can only remember them through a haze, as if they were images on screen from someone else's life . I cannot remember what my children feel like, what my wife Smells like. How can a man forget his wife smell? what he has held in his hand ?

of all the humiliations here , the stopping and the begging for things that should be mine by rights, to forget the feeling of Something that came of my body, that is my body is the worst. (part One, p. 32)

Lack of services, especially health services, is one of the most important features of dystopian society:

Joan Mrs. Thompson. Administrator I'm afraid we can't make provision for you at this hospital, Joan.

Joan why not ?
Administrator It is an insufficiently serious injury to justify -
Joan It's a laceration with subcutaneous hematoma.
Administrator What I mean is , given our exceptionally high
Joan I've always come to this hospital .
Administrator - exceptionally high patient volume you'd be better off looking -
Joan I used to work in this hospital .
Administrator We can't make provision for you.
Joan why not ?
Administrator Unity rejected your application.
Joan I didn't make an application. I didn't make an application' .
Administrator I'm very Sorry, Joan. Please accept my sincere-
Joan why'd they turn me down ?
Administrator I couldn't say, it's a matter of Commercial -
Joan Tell me that . Tell me that and I'll get out your hair .
Administrator Unity incentives are based on the reduction of waiting lists. One rather effective way to achieve that is not to let people on them.

(part one, p. 14, 15).

Lustgarten here presents a government agency devises a plan to privatize the expenses of social break down. An overburdened health system discovers the only way to reduce waiting lists is not to let people on these lists . By this way the writer shows that the government is interested in achieving the targets rather than human needs . Joan was a nurse in this hospital for forty four years, but they refused to provide her treatment. Lustgarten suggests that austerity is a con-trick designed to effect a massive re- distribution of wealth, also he suggests that " Unity bonds" will give the investors a return if the number of people Committing crimes or receiving treatment decreases to certain level, by this way the cost of social repair will shift to the private sector. As Althusser explained, by using Ideological State Apparatuses every institution in the modern capitalist system is dedicated to the re- production of productions relations, thus the ruling class will ensure their domination on working class and get more benefits The writer presents another character which is the character of Jason . Jason is unemployed young man:

Jason Every one, every ones got a piece of the pie except for us and I am sick and fucking tired of it .

(Part One, p. 19) While Jason is a British citizen, he

is upset that there is an African person who has a job in Britain and he is unemployed. As a result of the relentlessness of the economic crisis which eats away at people's optimism, patience, and decency,

characters such as McDonald , Jason , and Joan turn on each other rather than establishing links of Solidarity. As a result, the Characters see individuals who face comparable economic oppression as dangers to their well-being rather than potential partners and Lustgarten thinks that this struggle serves as a useful diversion from the capitalist manipulations that created economic disparity in the first place .

Asset - Smith Social discord seems the safer
bet. An almost guaranteed bet
in fact, It would be a dereliction
of my duty to shareholders not
to make that bet. Short fucking
rape.

(Part One, p. 23)

Asset -Smith is one of the financiers whose moral obligation to the Society in which he lives is painfully outweighed by his responsibility to investors. As a result, in Lustgarten's financial dystopia, businessmen turn to societal discord rather than unity as a source of profit . Althusser mentioned that although the ISAs appear to be dissimilar , but they are linked by a common ideology in service of the ruling class. Moreover, the ruling class must maintain some control over the ISAs in order to keep the Repressive State Apparatus. By this way , Lustgarten presents how the elite harnesses all institutions for their personal interest and benefits. According to Althusser's definition of Ideological state Apparatus which" is a system of defined institutions, organizations, and the corresponding practices. Realized in the institutions, organizations, and practices of this system is all or part of the state Ideology. The ideology realized in an ISA ensures its systemic unity on the basis of an ' anchoring ' in material functions specific to each ISA, these functions are not reducible to that ideology, but serve it as 'support'. (Althusser, p. 77)

After the Two World Wars, people began to see the world as an irrational place, devoid of any meaning or principle.They saw this universe as a chaotic one people who live in present-day are face to face with complex realities, they felt that these complex realities pose a threat to their lives and their identity, so they try to escape from this threat .(Matosoğlu , p. 80)

Lustgarten reflects the idea of escaping and irrationality during his play:

Teacher 2 How do you tell a three-years-old
girl She's the one her mother left
behind ?
Teacher 1 Where's the dad?
Teacher 2 Gone with her, I expect. Lost his
job, didn't he? He was fitting
those debt tax meters .

(Part One, p. 21)

As a natural result of long and brutal wars , the society witnessed the destruction of the established values of life . European people feel locked up in a world of irrationality. They lose the meaning of life and they live with the sense of despair losing understanding of one another and the world around them. The brutal wars also led to the sense of anxiety and emptiness. A person with such conditions will fall under pressure which leads to a loss of rationality, and the behavior of the mother who left her daughter reflects the human condition after the World Wars in European Societies. According to Althusser, Ideological State Apparatuses use techniques other than physical violence to fulfill the same purposes as Repressive State Apparatuses. These organizations are supposedly a political and belong to civil society rather than the state. They try to teach certain ways of looking at and assessing things, events, and social relationships. ISA disseminates concepts that reinforce the dominance of the dominant class. Althusser added that ISAs play a significant function in a capitalist System , disguising and masking the ruling class ideology . (Althusser , p. 239,240)

Lustgarten explains this idea when he presents the conversation between Mclean and Lucinda:

Mclean - turn social problems into an
endless motor for growth . Correct you Spin the grubby Cotton of Common on lives into golden thread .
You give ordinary people, most of whom, let's face it, have no future as consumers in this Society, let
alone as workers, you give those people a purpose .

Lucinda To get arrested To drink . To fail .

McLean You give people back their

productive role. And this their dignity .

Lucinda You're making human weakness
into raw material for financial
speculation

McLean Well, what else can you do with

it? At least it's not Casting us money. It's when you give the market it's head that you really start to See a difference, Lucinda. That you have in Your words, Something to be proud of it .

(Part One, p. 28, 29).

Althusser explained that in a class social formation, possession of state power is always possession of state power by a social class or an alliance of social classes, the exploiting class or classes the proletarian class in the transitional phase of the dictatorship of the proletariat that should lead to Socialism , a Social formation dominated by a mode of production without classes.... The Repressive State Apparatus , functions , primarily on repression (Physical or not). The Ideological State Apparatuses function primarily on ideology. The overall unity of the system formed by all the state apparatuses is ensured by the unity of the class politics of the class holding state power and by State Ideology Corresponding to the fundamental interests of the class (or Classes) in power. The object of the politics of The class in power and of the state Ideology (dominant ideology = ideology of the dominant class) is to guarantee the conditions for the exploitation of the exploited classes by the dominant . classes, above all the reproduction of the relations of production in which this exploitation takes place. Since these relations of production are the relations of exploitation of the class Social formation under consideration. (Althusser, p. 92, 93)

Joan's flat In darkness, lit by a few guttering Candles . obviously Cold - Joan and her Companion, McDonald are wrapped heavily in tatty blankets. They hold mugs of tea . over the top, Cameron again, his speech of January 2012 :

Cameron (recorded) ' I believe that open markets and free enterprise are the best imaginable force for improving human wealth and happiness. They are the engine of progress , generating the enterprise and innovation that lifts people out of poverty and gives people opportunity. And I would go further : where they work properly, open markets and free enterprise can actually promote morality .

Joan Comfy ? (part one , p. 30)

Cameron's speech has been included in the play by Lustgarten. Lustgarten presents the character of Joan who was a nurse for forty - two years , but now she couldn't pay the taxes:

Workman your debt tax has been set at -
Joan Five hundred and thirty-three
pounds and sixty - three Pence .

Workman When that's paid
Joan Ninety - six pound fifty .

Workman I'll be -
Joan That's my pension. Ninety Six

- fifty. a week. I was forty - two years a nurse. Looking after people .

Workman When that's paid, I'll be right
back to take the meter off again. Quick as you like. Call any time.

Joan What if I don't pay?

Workman Please Call Number's on here look.

(part one , p. 9)

Lustgarten here shows the suffering of an old woman who spent her life taking care of people. Now she couldn't pay the taxes and her pension is not enough for her daily life needs which leads to cut off the electricity of her house by the government. As a sarcastic situation, the writer merged Joan's position with Cameron's speech to criticize the political situation. While Joan doesn't have the simple requirements of life, Cameron calls for opening markets and free enterprise to improve human wealth and happiness. These markets, as he claims, will lift people out of poverty and give new opportunities. As Althusser explained before " The object of the politics of the class in power and of the state Ideology is to guarantee the conditions for the exploitation of the exploited classes by the dominant Classes". (. Althusser, p. 93).

The court and the police , according to Althusser, are Repressive State Apparatuses. He defined the RSA as " a repressive apparatus that makes direct or indirect use of physical violence". (Althusser, p. 78) .

Lustgarten shows the function of The Regressive State Apparatus when he presents the character of Jens :

Jen I was on trial here.
 Kelly Serious ?
 Jen Twyford Down, I think it was. '91?
 Kelly I was nine.
 Jen Or Reclaim the Streets. We were the
 last batch before they shut it down .
 Jen How long did you get ?
 Jen Three months. 'Assault on a policeman
 Kelly Did you do it ?
 Jen I did, yeah .
 Kelly why ?
 Jen Because she'd been stamping on

my face Two big buggers held me down in a choke hold and she stamped for a good few minutes. Broke my nose in four places. When they let me go, I got up. wiped the blood off my face, and smacked in the teeth .

Kelly Wow. Ok .
 Jen It was all worth it for the surprise in
 her eyes.
 Kelly I've never hit a girl .
 Jen She wasn't a girl.
 Kelly what did the judge Say ?
 Jen He didn't believe me . Nobody ever

believes me what the police do until (a) they've been battered on a demo, or (b) they've Seen footage of Someone else being battered on a demo .

Kelly That's what got me into it. Watching
 the Tomlinson killing on YouTube .
 Jen The best protection against pro –

Corporate police isn't Amnesty International, it's a mobile phone with a camera in it . Made by a Corporation. The world, Kelly, is a complex place ow .

(Part Two, p. 33, 34)

Jen is a veteran activist in her forties. She was imprisoned for three month after assaulting a policeman, but in fact, the policeman was the one who started assaulting her in a brutal manner by stamping on her face which led to a broken nose and severe bleeding in this way. The writer shows the work of the police as a repressive apparatus that functions through physical - violence. As Althusser mentioned before when he said that Repressive State Apparatuses are working Primarily by repression and violence In scene three Ryan is seen seated in a prison holding – cell and a character with the name Man holding a file sitting across from him. According to the stage direction, Man wears a black leather jacket with the logo ' Competitive Confinement Ltd' across the back of it. (p,10)

Man starts to interrogate Ryan about the protests telling him, " Our Job, what they pay us for now, is to reduce rates of reoffending." (p,11)

Man accuses Jason, Ryan's mate, of being , " a serial offender" and there is , " no chance of him stopping." (P, 11). Then Man tries to convince Ryan to plead guilty as a way to help him reduce his custodial sentence:

Man If you plead guilty
 Ryan They weren't my-
 Man If you plead guilty, bearing
 in mind the relatively minor
 nature of the crime, I'd see you getting a

very short Custodial sentence. Three month maybe
 Ryan Fuck off ! Three months.

(Scene 3, p. 12)

Later Man threaten Ryan:

One more thing. If you do take up our offer and I see you
Back in here, I will come to your cell one night when you are
sleeping, and I will pour battery acid over your face. OK?
(Beat.) There 'll be someone along to take you upstairs in a few
minutes.
He leaves.

(Scene 3, p. 12)

It is obvious that Man represents part of the state apparatuses that are used by the state when they are needed to oppress any kind of demonstrations and protests.

Another repressive apparatus was presented by the playwright which is the court . For Althusser "The court" functions directly by physical repression. He adds that "But we have also seen that the law is necessarily bound up , first with a specialized repressive apparatus that belongs to the Repressive State Apparatus, and, Second, with bourgeois legal-moral ideology". (Althusser, p. 167, 168). Because the court is one of the Repressive State Apparatuses, the judge didn't believe Jen when she said that the policeman assaulted her first , she said that "He didn't believe me. Nobody ever believes what the police do". (p.3.4), and that's why she was imprisoned for three months.

Althusser suggested that:

“ But, precisely, since we have just invoked revolutions, we can spell out what we meant by "granting" in the ISAs. We may say that the "stuff" of which the ISAs are made is such, and that they "function" in such a way, that we must consider them to be relatively fragile apparatuses, given the shocks of the class struggle which affect them through the ideological sub-formations anchored in certain aspects of their practices" . (Althusser, p. 89) .

Althusser also suggested :

“ that without the seizure of state power, without a dismantling of the Repressive State Apparatus (What Marx and Lenin Called "Smashing the machine of bourgeois state"), without a long struggle to Smash the bourgeois Ideological State Apparatuses, revolution is unthinkable, or can only triumph for a time, as was seen in Central Europe in the 1920s. (Althusser, p. 109) .

In part two , Lustgarten displays a single protracted scene including all the eight characters as they work together to stage and occupy style demonstration in protest of austerity measures :

Jen Easy. You keep plugging away and
you never give up and you keep fighting. I'm not special, Kelp Anyone can do it. I'm just lucky I enjoy it,
I suppose. The Criminal Justice Bill, that was it. "A succession of repetitive beats" .

(Part Two, p. 341 35)

Ray Solve some real crimes, ya fat plod
fucknuts!The true crimes of the
modern world, the ones that rob
millions of people not just ones or
two.

(Part Two, p. 39)

Joan It gives everyone a chance to
speak Not just the men with the
loudest voices

Zebedee changes the power balance.

(Part Two, p. 43)

Kelly Real democracy is boring, slow, probably the most inefficient way to
achieve social progress – and, it's the thing that I makes us different.

(Part Two ,p. 44)

Jen So we decided to do itourselves.
Put it on trial: not just bankers,
the whole system .

(Part Two, p. 45)

Jen And it's the action. The action of

doing this , of. doing something, not just moaning . Things change because people do things. Ideas come mainly from actions. It's actions that give people the sense things can be changed.

(Part Two , p. 51)

Zebedee All an indebted government has

to do to get out of trouble is make sure it's debt grows more slowly than it's tax base. The tax base grows, the debts fade away . It's what the Americans did after the Second world War.

Zebedee But the main reason we don't
have to pay these debts is they're
not ours to pay .

Zebedee Held that if the debt was incurred

For specific rather than national interests , and the lenders knew that "this debt is not an obligation for the nation, it is a regime's debt, a personal debt of the power that incurred it.

(Part Two, p.58)

It is clear that Lustgarten when brings all the characters together they occupy The Court of public opinion to make a protest movement. They aim to put not only the bankers on trial , but all the discredited financial system. Each one of those characters has his or her personal suffering from the government policy, but all of them share the same problem which is "austerity". They try to revolt against the financial system because they see it as a source of benefit for the ruling class, but at the same time it causes a big damage for working and ordinary people . Zebedee who is one of the protesters and he is a professional activist mentions that the debt is not a personal debt that belongs to ordinary people, but it is the regime's debt, So there is no reason to pay it. All of them agree to do something in order to make change, they Suggest that in order to change their life for better , they should face and correct the whole system When Lustgarten presents the idea of changing and suggests the whole change in all aspects, he reflects on dismantling Althusser's Theory of Repressive State Apparatus and smash the Ideological State Apparatus in order to achieve the protests' targets in making a real change. Althusser mentioned that " the state ... is always the state of the dominant class ... because the state is its state, the bourgeoisie's state, in the sense that the bourgeoisie holds state power and exercises it by way of the Repressive State Apparatus and Ideological state Apparatuses" . He added that " This ideology, being the dominant ideology, is that of the dominant class the class that holds state power and directly and imperiously Commands the Repressive State Apparatus".(Althusser p.8)

Lustgarten presents the character of Thomas who was a banker. Tom is aware of the working of the financial system which is controlled by the ruling class and how this system is exploited to serve their personal interests. Tom ... Do you really think you're

going to stop all that, change the real ruler of this country, the system that keeps politicians on their knees, with this Tom They will never ever change , because that is the most well-oiled machine for the extraction of value since the a Roman Empire (Part Two, p. 50) By presenting the conversation of Tom about the politicians who are never ever change, Lustgarten shows the unchangeability in the regime, the shows also the unequal distribution of power and resources, while the elite are busy to serve their interests and increase their financial returns, common and working people don't have enough for their daily needs, in addition, they have to pay large amounts of taxes . By this way by exploiting Common people's rights, the ruling class will ensure its dominance and ensure its maintaining high positions. In this way Lustgarten connects his idea with Althusser's clarification when he said that "In production, the functioning of the relations of production is ensured by a combination of repression and ideology in which ideology plays the dominant role". (Althusser, p. 203) . He also said : The whole superstructure is arrayed around the state. It includes the state apparatuses, which are at the service of the representatives of the class (or classes) in Power : the repressive apparatus and the Ideological State Apparatuses. The basic role of the superstructure, hence of all the state apparatuses, is to ensure the perpetuation of the exploitation of proletarian and other wage - workers, that is, to ensure the perpetuation, hence the reproduction, of the relations of production, which are Simultaneously relations of exploitation. (Althusser, p. 203) Althusser mentioned that "This class struggle, however, runs a Squarely up against the powerful weapons of the capitalist class struggles". (Althusser, p.43) . He also explained that "This class struggle pits the proletarian class struggle against the

capitalist class struggle, it is an economic class struggle , but also, from the outset and Simultaneously , an ideological class struggle, and thus a class struggle that has, consciously or not, political import . (Althusser, p.45)

Ray The good news is we've been declared terrorists .

Ray Leak from the plod ; terrorism update for the City of London Business ' Community' . High level terror threats to the city of London . Ray ... LIBOR - rigging . Gas - market

rigging . Google and vodaphone dodging billions in taxes . Mubarak depended on the city of London. So did AIG and Lehman Brothers . Every non dom dictator and Russian klepto - plutocrat rinses their filthy money clean through London stock Exchange-the Jordanian army is listed on the London stock Exchange but oh no, we're the terrorists, get the armed response ba unit down the protest Camp pronto in Case Someone gets stabbed with a sharpened lentil (part Two , p . 39 , 40)

When Althusser explained that the struggle of workers and lower classes is against the will of the ruling class , which means that this struggle can be regarded as a threat to the domination of the ruling class and it's control over the other classes, as well as their personal interests Lustgarten reflects this idea through the play while

"Ray" and the other characters are protesting against the financial system and they want to make a change that fulfills their needs and desires, but the government declares them as terrorists, while in fact they are victims Lustgarten presents the reasons that led those people to protest and revolt against the regime

Jen why won't anyone hold the bankers to account ? Thirteen trillion in bailouts, Six million people made homeless in the us alone, and has anyone been arrested ? Has anyone even been fired?

Tom Yeah. There's been a lot of layoffs , actually . We're not all Fred the Shred . Carry on .

Jen So we decided to do it ourselves . Put it on trial : not just bankers, the whole

It is clear that those people who protest against the system are not terrorists and their revolution is to restore their rights. Many people lost their jobs because of the financial system imposed by the government. Many people don't have the ability to provide themselves and their families with simple daily needs. Taxes have become a heavy burden on them .

Day by day, the rate of poverty and unemployment is increasing for a large group of people, while the ruling class continues to reap profits and benefits, forgetting that it is first assumed that the government, and even the indebted government, provide all the requirements and all services of its people:

Zebedee The principle of force majeure allows for cancellation of international debt on grounds of financial necessity . Under the internationally established principle of the state of necessity, quote, ' a state cannot be expected to close it's schools and universities and courts, to disband it's police force and to neglect its public services to such an extent as to expose it's Community to chaos and anarchy , merely to provide the where withal to meet its moneylenders foreign or national" .

(Part Two, p. 59) Althusser defined Ideology as " an imaginary assemblage, a pure dream empty and vain " .(Althusser, p. 175) .He also said that Ideology ensures :

- 1- the interpellation of individuals as subjects .
- 2- their subjection to the subject .
- 3- the mutual recognition between subjects and subject and among the subjects themselves, as well as the recognition of the subject by himself .

- 4- the absoult guarantee that everything really is so . (Althusser, P. 197) Althusser also suggested that "ideology acts or functions in such a way as to recruit subjects among individuals or transforms individuals into subjects through the very precise operation that we call interpellation or hailing". (Althusser, p. 190)

Zebedee Austerity doesn't work because it's not supposed to work , or rather, it's not supposed to fix things . What it is supposed to do , and this it's doing rather well, is to transfer an overwhelming amount of money and power to a tiny elite . It's a coup , mate . It's the same thing they did to Russia , to Latin America , the Same thing the World Bank's been doing to Africa for decades and calling it "development" It's a heist : the greatest heist in the history of the modern world . (Part Two, p. 50) By presenting the conversation of "Zebedee" , it is clear that Lustgarten describes austerity as an ideology which is used by the elite in order to serve their interests and their main goal is to gain amount of money and power to

them. They don't care if austerity is a solution for ordinary people prior to ensure them a better life, or if austerity will cause more problems in people's lives, but they consider it as a source to increase their profit which enable them to keep their power, and as a natural result of this ideology, nothing will be changed in the society and the unequal distribution of power and opportunities will remain as it is. In part two, Lustgarten collects different kinds of characters like the hardnosed professional activist, an angry Irish man, a redundant banker, an anthropology student, the legalese expert, the disenfranchised youth and the poverty stricken pensioner. Each character has his own personal problems which express the whole problems that many people are suffering. Such characters who suffer from pressure and difficulties in life, are in dire need of change, and they find in protesting a way and a Solution to make change: Jen That is where they Wanna take us, Tom Back to the Victorians: an aristo elite giving charity to the deserving poor and incarceration to the undeserving poor. The basic project of the people in charge of this country is to undo the twentieth century, and we are not going to let them do that. We are going to fight them, brick by brick and bone by bone. (Part Two, p. 62)

It can be noted that the dominated try to take their rights. They refuse to submit to the ideologies of the dominant, so they insist on confronting the system to make change and to achieve justice in society. they use protest and confrontation as a means to express their dissatisfaction with the status quo, when they decide to put the whole system on trial. It is the first step of confrontation, as Althusser mentioned that "The class in power cannot lay down the law in the ISAs as easily as it can in the (Repressive) State Apparatus, not only because the former ruling classes are able to retain strong positions there for a long timer, but also because the resistance of the exploited classes is able to find means and occasions to express itself there, either by utilization of their contradiction, or by conquering combat positions in them in struggle". (Althusser, p. 246). As an absurd play, Lustgarten presents The Court of public opinion as the main setting in the play. He describes it as a beautiful wood panelled Courtroom, judge's bench, witness stand, jury in a state of serious disrepair, a light hangs by wires floorboards are loose and there's junk all over the place, a solid oak door locked, guards the entrance. The court is an old and deserted place, may be, it represents the life in modern world societies. All these details refer to no change occurs for a long time. When the protesters chose this deserted place, it symbolizes their social class which becomes deserted by the ruling class. The deserted place also symbolizes the absurdist man and his feeling of emptiness and meaning less life after the Two World Wars. When the protesters take the court as a place to put the system on a trial, they start to fix the place which gives an impression or a reference that they try to correct and change the society in order to build a new one:

Kelly We're fixing up the place. To hold this trial
McDonald May I ask what qualifications you possess?
Kelly We've made it loads nicer since we got
McDonald Construction qualification.
Jen We're building a new world, if that's any

good to you. (Part Two, p. 53) Although all the characters decide and agree to protest and put the financial system on trial in order to make change, but the play ends without giving a solution for any problem, it ends with general conversation among the characters who explain all the problems that they suffer, as Althusser said "In the domain of ideologization, all this constitutes that multiform arsenal of a power whose centre is and remains the state, that is to say, the (bourgeois) holders of state Power, who exercise their class power through the various specialized apparatuses with which the state is endowed". (Althusser, p. 87) The characters explain their needs, requirements, and their wishes, but the play ends without explaining whether those characters achieved their dreams or not which indicates that their attempts are futile and nothing be changed in this society that is ruled and controlled by the elite who used the Ideological State Apparatus and the Repressive Apparatus State in order to ensure their dominance on other classes. Lustgarten, Anders. *If You Don't Let Us Dream We Won't Let You Sleep*. Bloomsbury Methuen Drama 2013. INSERT-MISSING-DATABASE-NAME <http://0-dx.doi.org/catalogue.libraries.london.ac.uk/10.5040/9781472506733.00000006>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2022. Sierz, Aleks, and Merle Tönnies. "Who's Going to Mobilise Darkness and Silence?": The Construction of Dystopian Spaces in Contemporary British Drama." *Journal of Contemporary Drama in English* 9.1, 2021, pp. 20-42. Spisak, April. "What Makes a Good Dystopian Novel?." *The Horn Book Magazine* 88, 2012, pp. 55-60. <https://theartsdesk.com/node/64416/view>
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