

This master's thesis examines Adorno's concept of Utopia. Throughout this work I argue that Adorno is a utopian thinker and his conception of Utopia is a constellation or montage of negative, messianic-materialistic, formal, and individualistic definitions of Utopia. I elucidate my argument by reconstructing Adorno's conceptual constellation of Utopia in different chapters and sections of this work in the form of an interpretive constellation. In the first chapter, I explain how Utopia got lost, by investigating the causes of the failure of Enlightenment's utopian goals such as rationality, freedom, progress, and establishment of the whole society as humanity. This failure necessitates a radical reconsideration of all fundamental principles of thought and society. In chapter two I analyze Adorno's conception of negative Utopia as the determinate negation of Dystopia. His negative dialectics is the recognition of what is non-identical to thought's concepts and categories. The non-identical is the condition of the possibility of Utopia, because it indicates that there is something 'more' than what our conceptual system of knowledge can comprehend, this 'more' is the utopian. I continue this chapter by discussing Adorno's inverse theology as messianic materialism which maintains that there is no transcendent standpoint which is detached from the concrete context of this world, thus redemption is an immanent emergence from the rifts and crevices of the damaged life itself. I argue that in the dystopian context of here and now there are utopian moments of 'the metaphysical experience' in language and art. This is what I consider as Adorno's formal Utopia which I analyze it in the third chapter. In chapter four I explain Adorno's notion of reconciliation, and his articulation of Utopia as the state of reconciliation of object and subject, body and mind, and individual and society. I conclude this work with a discussion about Adorno's notion of happiness and his definition of Utopia as the state of eternal peace. My final argument is that all definitions of Utopia in Adorno's thought make a constellation for illuminating the idea of the eternal peace, i.e., the state of real happiness for all individuals in a society which is established as humanity.

Keywords: Adorno, Utopia, Negativity, Form, Suffering, Redemption, Reconciliation, Happiness, Humanity