

THOMAS MORE

He thought that if religious unity amongst Christians was undermined, the result would be disaster for Europe and civilization. So he came to believe that Protestants were **heretics** who had to be eradicated

He wrote "Utopia". Utopia contrasts the contentious social life of European states with the perfectly orderly, reasonable social arrangements of Utopia and its environs (Tallstoria, Nolandia, and Aircastle). In Utopia, there are no lawyers because of the laws' simplicity and because social gatherings are in public view (encouraging participants to behave well), communal ownership supplants private property, men and women are educated alike, and there is almost complete religious toleration (except for atheists, who are allowed but despised). More may have used monastic communalism (rather than the biblical communalism in the Acts of the Apostles) as his model, although other concepts such as legalizing euthanasia remain far outside Church doctrine. Hythlodæus asserts that a man who refuses to believe in a god or an afterlife could never be trusted, because he would not acknowledge any authority or principle outside himself. Some take the novel's principal message to be the social need for order and discipline rather than liberty. Ironically, Hythlodæus, who believes philosophers should not get involved in politics, addresses More's ultimate conflict between his humanistic beliefs and courtly duties as the King's servant, pointing out that one day those morals will come into conflict with the political reality. Also in his book people elect their government annually by secret ballot; wear the same kind of clothes and only work for six hours a day. There is no money or private property on the island. Free education and health care is available for all. All goods are stored in large storehouses. People take what they want from the storehouses without payment. Both men and women can be priests. People are able to hold whatever religious beliefs they want.



Supported the banning (and burning) of books by Martin Luther and those which supported Lutheranism and Protestantism.

He did not believe the king to be above church.

More was an intellect who remained a steadfast Catholic. He believed that areas of the Catholic Church did deserve to be reformed and modernized. But More believed that any change to the Church had to come from the Catholic Church itself. He saw the Protestants as being too undisciplined both in doctrine and practice

More set out three key principles of Utopian religion:

- a. The soul of a person is immortal
- b. God has designed the soul to be happy
- c. God has appointed rewards for good and virtuous acts and punishments for vice. These rewards and punishments are distributed after this life

These principles shape the attitudes and behavior of Utopian citizens, who seek happiness in good and honest pleasures. To be virtuous is to live according to nature and the dictates of reason.

Utopians believe that reason:

- a. Kindles in us a love for the Divine Majesty
- b. Keeps our minds cheerful, free from passion, and committed to the happiness of others as well as to our own pleasure
- c. Inclines us to enter into society and seek the public good

More was also a Christian humanist. Humanism was a movement began in the Renaissance that placed emphasis on human potential and achievement. Christian Humanist took this ideal and put a religious slant to it. More's Christian humanist views can be seen in his book *Utopia* and how humanity has the potential for greatness if they are right with God. More believed in the individual achievements of man as long as they realized that it was all from God and for God.