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H.G. Wells: The New Republic Study Guide

Steven Alan Samson

Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

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H. G. WELLS: THE NEW REPUBLIC

STUDY GUIDE, 1982-2005

Steven Alan Samson

Study Questions

1. If the surmise of a developing new republic is no idle dream, what kind of control [see C. S. Lewis's *The Abolition of Man*] would be required to bring it about and sustain it? How is Wells's vision comparable to Rousseau's general will filtered through Hegel's idea of an evolving World Spirit or Transcendental Ego?
2. What riddle must the new republic grapple with it is to emerge? What must it overcome? What is the first chapter in the historical of this intellectual development? What fundamental fact did Thomas Malthus discern? What must change before dreams of earthy golden ages can be realized?
3. What makes the humanitarian philanthropic type of liberalism (and socialism) a thing of the past? How must the ethical system be reconstructed? How will the new ethics view life and death and killing? How will deterrent punishments be administered? What change is required in order for sexual questions to become reduced in importance? [Wells's discussion of sexual morality is reminiscent of the political moralism that Bastiat associated with early socialism and Sowell associates with cosmic justice]. Why is making the abyss a hot-bed sterile immorality a positive step? What turns the state into a guardian in the first place?
4. How does Well propose to finance the new republic? What is the greater purpose of the world? Is Wells's vision of cosmic justice really just an exercise in the what T. S. Eliot called the diabolical imagination?

Wells Review

Thomas Malthus	theory of natural selection	sources of revenue
character of H. G. Wells's reconstructed ethical system		present sexual morality
why the state becomes the reserve guardian for all children		the world's greater purpose

- H.G. Wells, Anticipations of the Reaction of Mechanical and Scientific Progress Upon Human Life and Thought. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1902.