



Altered book, "Things to Come" by Anastasia S. Weigle

The Shape of Things to Come by H. G. Wells is a work of science fiction published in 1933. It speculates on future events from 1933 until the year 2106. In the book, a world state is established as the solution to humanity's problems by embracing science and technology, not religion and corporatism/capitalism. Written as a future history, it is considered an alternate divergent history where we see the failure of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and Hitler's failure to revive the German economy. The worldwide economic crisis continues for thirty years, concurrently with a world war. The story is split into five separate sections or "books"

Part I: Today And Tomorrow: The Age of Frustration Dawns – The history of the world up to 1933.

Part II: The Days After Tomorrow: The Age of Frustration – 1933–1960.

Part III: The World Renaissance: The Birth of the Modern State – 1960–1978.

Part IV: The Modern State Militant – 1978–2059.

Part V: The Modern State in Control of Life – 2059 to New Year's Day 2106.

The altered book I created is an adaptation of the FILM VERSION made in 1936 for Wells book The Shape of Things to Come, now retitled Things to Come. The dialogue and plot were devised by H. G. Wells as "a new story" to show the social and political forces and possibilities based on his 1933 story. The film was greatly influenced by Wells early works including his 1897 story: A Story of the Days to Come and his 1931 work on society and economics in The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind.

I chose this story because of its historical similarities including



H. G. Wells (1866–1946)

WWII, chemical warfare, and one-world government ideology and a technology drive world. The visual story represented in each signature of my book spans an entire century as we see the end of the world through the stories of three generations between 1940 and 2036. I use imagery recognizable to us including images and documents taken from WWI, WWII and the Vietnam war as well as retro sci-fi images

Each signature in my altered book represents a time and place in H. G. Wells film Things to Come. It follows first Christmas 1940 in the metropolis of Everytown, a city threatened by world war. John Cabal, pacifist intellectual, try to turn the tide. But Cabal's efforts go unheeded and war arrives with tanks, airplanes, and gas bombs. Everytown is destroyed by air raids and the war continues for thirty years, its original purpose long forgotten.

Civilization degenerates, "the Wandering Sickness" and devastation accelerate until 1970, the world has crumbled into a dark age. Everytown is ruled by a barbaric warlord and the war continues on a Medieval scale throughout the Pestilence Years.

Wings Over the World, an enlightened society of scientists and engineers comes along scouting the land to observe the savage tribal communities that have replaced civilization. This group promises people a new,

superior civilization "of law and sanity" where science and technology bring about a new order. The evil ruler is destroyed and a new age of science prevails and a desire for space travels ensues. We see the revitalization of society through science, medicine, and technology. But a new fear is born among artists artists who worry about the dehumanization of mankind through technology. The story ends in 2036 with a rocket to the moon. Man desire to conquer moves him to see other worlds.



Reference/Cite: Detailed information about film taken from Mark Bourne's blogspot. If you want to get an excellent overview of H. G. Wells film adaptation. please read his excellent review, go to: <http://markbourne.blogspot.com/2010/11/things-to-come-1936-hg-wells-explains.html>