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**- Parshu Ram Chapagain**

**Chaos and Disorder in Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother***

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English  
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**By:**

**Parshu Ram Chapagain**

**University Campus**

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## **Abstract**

Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* explores the worst possible scenario of San Francisco and highlights the sense of fear, horror and terror caused due to the excessive abuse and misuse of scientific and technological inventions. Technologies infringe on the basic and fundamental human rights of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. The so-called advanced and sophisticated inventions like Xnet, Xbox, CC camera, gait recognition camera make the situation devastating, dehumanizing, terrifying and horrifying. The central story is concerned with the teenage students of Chavez High who, dissatisfied with the overall system of school, bunk the school and fight against the tyrannical, authoritarian and totalitarian school, government and Department of Homeland Security. As a perfect dystopian novel, *Little Brother* presents an imaginary futuristic society of San Francisco of 2022, where people live a degraded, cursed and tarnished life resulted due to the failure of the government and its concerned agencies. Moreover, general concept of the government to suspect each and every citizen as a possible terrorist is also interrogated, critiqued and criticized.

## Table of Contents

	Page No
Letter of Recommendation	
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgement	
Abstract	
Chapter I. Cory Doctorow and His Concerns about the Misuse and . . .	1-13
Chapter II. Investigation of Complete Chaos and Disorder in <i>Little Brother</i>	14-44
Chapter III. Dystopia: Representation of Problematized and Traumatized World	45-47
Works Cited	

## **I. Cory Doctorow and His Concerns about the Misuse and Abuse of Technology**

This thesis entitled “An Investigation of Complete Chaos and Disorder in Cory Doctorow’s *Little Brother*” excavates the consequences of misuse and abuse of scientific and technological inventions thereby showing the dangers and threats posed to human beings by these inventions. Due to the power blessed by science and technology, the government and other institutions like schools, prisons and police force become completely totalitarian, authoritative, suppressive and oppressive. Instead of maintaining peace and order in the country, they are headed towards spreading disorder, chaos, anarchy and lawlessness. Excavating the internal realities of the government and its institutions, the novel shows the bad and harmful consequences of excessive use of science and technology in the country where government is run by selfish and unsuccessful leaders.

The present thesis endeavours to prove the hypothesis that the excessive use of scientific and technological inventions without moral values, ethical principles and code of conducts are counter-productive and self-destructive to human beings themselves as they provide limitless, boundless and infinite powers to them to which they are unable to utilize and as a result they are changed into over arrogant, egotistical and overconfident.

Buttressed by the power and supremacy offered by the science and technology, human beings and different organizations cross their boundary and forget ethics and morality. They are intended to cause harm and damage to others. Marcus Yallow, the narrator of the story fights against the wrong system in his school, in the prison and even against the wrong system of the government. The school full of CC camera surveillances and other advanced and sophisticated technology to find out each and every activity of the students irritates him and he tries to find out the ways to

take advantages of the lapses of technology. Marcus is very much critical about the system of the government he even vows to fight against the tyrannical and oppressive police force.

Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* represents the purest example on the list—modern technology meets classic dystopic elements. Exploring the harmful consequences of extreme development of science and technology, this project revolves around mainly three key areas of concern viz. abuse and misuse of scientific and technological inventions, weak state mechanism, and devastating and dehumanizing situation of life. To explore the extremely pathetic condition of life, the research has made a deliberate choice to view the text from the perspective of dystopia as a critical apparatus. In such situation, the theoretical modality called dystopia is, perhaps, the best one for the better analysis of the text to pay due and sincere tribute to it. So, it will incorporate the dystopian ideas put forward by various theorists and critics including Krishan Kumar, John Huntington, R. Carter, Andrew Feenberg, Stancu a Ramona, and others.

Born in Toronto Canada on July 17, 1971 to Trotskyist teachers, Cory Doctorow was raised in a Jewish activist household. His father was born in a refugee camp in Azerbaijan and Doctorow became involved with nuclear disarmament activism and as a Greenpeace campaigner as a child. He received his high school diploma from SEED School, an anarchistic 'free school' in Toronto, and attended four universities without attaining a degree (Patten 229).

Cory Doctorow is a science fiction novelist, blogger and technology activist. Doctorow believes that copyright laws should be liberalized to allow for free sharing of all digital media. He has also advocated file-sharing. He argues that copyright holders should have a monopoly on selling their own digital media, and copyright

laws should only be operative when someone attempts to sell a product currently under someone else's copyright. Doctorow is an opponent of Digital Rights Management, claiming that it limits the free sharing of digital media and frequently causes problems for legitimate users including registration problems that lock users out of their own purchases and prevent them from being able to move their media to other devices (Grossman 53). He has published four science fiction novels and a short story collection and also writes for magazines like *Wired*, *MAKE*, and *Popular Science* as well as freelancing for various publications and websites.

His first novel *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* (2003) thematizes the struggle between classical and modern culture as the milieu for his story. It is the fascinating picture of the future that presents a post-human society where mortality and money are things of the past and "Whuffie" is the cornerstone of a global reputation and economy. Apparently in the future, there has been a cure for death, and people can be altered to look any age. Something called "Free Energy" has basically eliminated scarcity, while the ability to make computer backups of the self and download them into cloned bodies has eliminated death. Their brains are also like computers, where memory needs to be backed up in case of death so the body can be regenerated. Also, brain or computers are interlinked on a type of network, so someone can mentally call someone else's brain to talk (Huang 75). Thus it presents the consequences and evils of the excessive use of technology.

*Eastern Standard Tribe* (2004) presents the prospect of a semi-chaotic high-speed digital future where power, status and wealth were all a function of one's dexterity with technology and information. The book features net-based conglomerates of people who all live in a single time zone, regardless of where they live on Earth. It takes that concept that people use computers and other

communication technologies more often in their personal lives than in previous generations, and takes them to an extreme conclusion. Since most communication is done via email and most people work from home, it's perfectly easy to do so. It is set in the near future of 2022 A. D. The novel takes place in a world where online "tribes" form, where all members set their circadian rhythms to the same time zone even though members may be physically located throughout the world. It is a reaction to the impact of instant global communication in which it is hard to tell whether the phenomena being reacted to have actually been observed or are the consequences of his imagination. Instant wireless communication puts everyone in touch with everyone else, twenty-four hours a day. But one thing hasn't changed: the need for sleep. The world is slowly splintering into Tribes held together by a common time zone, less than family and more than nations (Huntington 126).

*Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* (2005) tells the story of a Middle-aged entrepreneur Alan whose mother is a washing machine and father is a mountain. He moves into one of Toronto's more interesting neighbourhoods. The brother Alan and his other brothers killed years ago has returned to hound the family. A next-door neighbour has wings that her boyfriend cuts back regularly so she can pass for normal. In the midst of such ordinary oddness, getting involved in a scheme to provide free wireless Internet to the neighbourhood and eventually the city seems reasonable, even when it's masterminded by a hard punk whose gear comes from Dumpster diving. The combination of Alan facing up to his family and their strangeness, the damage his dead brother will do to everything Alan cares about, and Doctorow's inescapable technological enthusiasm are included in a lovely and satisfying tale. The story alternates between the present and a recounting of Alan's past. The past gives us insights into the current dangers Alan is facing and serves to



increase the tension as well as setup the book's climax (Huntington137). There are a number of reoccurring themes such as “ things are not always what they seem”, but the major theme involves embracing your past to move forward.

*For the Win* (2010) is a science fiction novel which was released in May 2010. The book is centered on massively multiplayer online role-playing games. Even though the novel is targeted toward young adults, it takes on significant concepts such as macroeconomics and labour rights. It covers the new and fast evolving concept of virtual economy. Set in the near future and in locations across the globe primarily China and India, the story involves a sweeping cast of characters making a living especially by the teenagers. Then these brilliant teens are brought together by the mysterious Big Sister Nor, who has a plan to unionize and bring these virtual worlds—and real-world sweatshops, too—to a screeching halt. Once again Doctorow has taken denigrated youth behaviour and recast it into something heroic. He can't resist the occasional lecture—sometimes breaking away from the plot to do so—but thankfully his lessons are fascinating.

*Little Brother* is a speculative fiction that imagines a society where people are over dependent on technology. It excavates the evil and harmful consequences of the misuse and abuse of science and technology. It is the story of Marcus Yallow, a teenager living in San Francisco. At the beginning of the novel, there is a terrorist attack on the BART travel system, destroying one of the city's busiest bridges, killing many people, and sending the city into a state of panic. Homeland Security moves in and effectively turns San Francisco into a police state, subverting constitutional rights to privacy to ensure that another attack does not take place. Using homebrew applications and personally-moulded electronics, Marcus and his three friends

engineer a guerrilla campaign to undermine Homeland Security's unconstitutional occupation.

Technology in the novel is a tool of empowerment, connection, and agency. Marcus and his friends fight against Homeland Security because they have a stake in the fight that is deeply personal. After being branded as terrorists, deprived of their rights, and even tortured, the kids incite a technological revolution. Thus, *Little Brother* shows what happens when the foundational ideas on which the country was built are eroded in the name of increased safety and government oversight, and it also allows us to see what happens when the youth of that nation use their unique powers to take them back.

Upon its publication in 2008, *Little Brother* has got a lot of attraction from the readers and critics. It is reviewed differently by different persons. It is mainly described as a seminal piece of counter-cultural fiction. It is a product of its time - not merely in terms of its theme, but also in the way everything is described. Doctorow includes a lot of details that place it in 2022, and he makes a big deal of the technologies, websites and political institutions current in that year. However, while it's strongly dated in the sense that it relates very definitely to a certain period, it deals with subjects that have an enduring appeal. It's a hard-hitting cautionary tale about the way technology can be abused to erode privacy and freedom. Philip Steele describes it as the novel with wise use of scientific and technological inventions:

I can talk about *Little Brother* in terms of its bravura political speculation or its brilliant uses of technology -- each of which make this book a must-read -- but, at the end of it all, I'm haunted by the universality of Marcus's rite-of-passage and struggle, an experience

any teen today is going to grasp: the moment when you choose what your life will mean and how to achieve it. (5)

It has made wide and profound use of science and technology in the future of human beings where everything will be controlled by the technology, where human life and human activities will be decided by human thereby transforming human beings as mere statues and idols. Commenting on the book, McCarthy says, “This is a collection of short stories [that] mixes technology and cyberpunk themes with acute political observations and zombie mayhem” (151). Marcus questions the policies and plans of the government. The nature of the government is not that of people friendly. It grabs everything from people. Even their elementary and basic rights of people like life, liberty and pursuit of happiness are not provided. Carl Rollyson, describes *Little Brother* as “a rousing tale of techno-geek rebellion, as necessary and dangerous as file sharing, free speech, and bottled water on a plane” (6). He shows hinds towards the dangers caused by the misuse and abuse of technology.

*Little Brother* is a scarily realistic adventure about how homeland security technology could be abused to wrongfully imprison innocent Americans. A teenage hacker-turned-hero pits himself against the government to fight for his basic freedoms. This book is action-packed with tales of courage, technology, and demonstrations of digital disobedience as the technophile's civil protest. Throughout the story, Marcus Yallow tries to fight against the torture, suppression and oppression caused by the DHS of San Francisco:

An entertaining thriller...*Little Brother* is also a practical handbook of digital self-defence. Marcus's guided tour through RFID cloners, cryptography and Bayesian math is one of the book's principal delights...*Little Brother* is a terrific read, but it also claims a place in

the tradition of polemical science-fiction novels like *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Fahrenheit 451* (with a dash of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"). It owes a more immediate debt to Brian Wood and Riccardo Burchielli's comic book series *DMZ*, about the adventures of a photojournalist in the midst of a new American civil war. (Grossman 53)

The book terrifies common readers about how the technology can be misused and it also shows what do to safeguard ourselves in the technologically advanced world. Marcus Yallow is a typical teen having good knowledge of the latest technology. He and his friends escape school to hunt down a clue to an online treasure hunt. The game is changed forever when terrorists attack their city and four of them are taken by DHS i.e. Department of Homeland Security for questioning. They are hidden tortured and interrogated for days. When they are released, the world they left no longer exists, replaced by a police state fuelled by pervasive surveillance. Everyone is watched. Marcus is determined to bring down the DHS, holding them responsible for fear and terror in a much higher degree than the terrorists themselves. Andrew Huang, in the Afterword describes that the book makes us aware about the life in the future technological world:

*Little Brother* is a reminder that no matter how unpredictable the future may be, we don't win freedom through security systems, cryptography, interrogations and spot searches. We win freedom by having the courage and the conviction to live every day freely and to act as a free society, no matter how great the threats are on the horizon. (291)

*Little Brother* is terrifying because Cory Doctorow isn't really going in for futurology in a big way. A lot of the tracking and data mining technologies he mentions are with

us today. He also hits very close to home when it comes to the political changes that took place in the aftermath of the September the 11th attacks, and the controversy over Guantanamo Bay. Doctorow brings the civil rights movement of the 1960s into the mix, as well as echoes of the paranoia of Germany in the 1930s when people were encouraged to spy on their neighbours. It's a novel that's brimming with history, just as much as it's a stark warning about the future.

*Little Brother* is a genuine representation of dystopian society. Everything is in the state of disorder, chaos and confusion in San Francisco. Nothing is certain – even the life of people is also in danger due to excessive use of scientific and technological inventions. Like the school and the government, students too are also following. The system of the school and the government is being controlled by these inventions as a result people are not getting any sort of security –even personal information and secrecy is abducted by the government.

The main character is an IT genius for whom technology is the tool of an energetic young subculture rather than something that's the preserve of the unpopular loner. The battle for freedom takes place both on the streets and in the classroom. It's no accident that Marcus is clever. His intelligence is more than a quirky character trait. Knowledge is power, and we see that by intervening in the classroom the government is attempting to take away yet one more freedom from people. The character of Marcus stands in opposition to the anti-intellectualism of the Bush regime. Mary Quattlebaum takes the novel as excess of technological inventions as the technology is used to engender security and peace in the country but to terrorize people and loot their basic rights:

This novel brims with new and evolving technology, which may fascinate some readers and bog down others. But the well-integrated

explanations, plot twists, humour and romance between Marcus and a "h4wt" (translation: "hot") geeky babe will keep this thriller humming along even for techno-duhs. Cory Doctorow tackles timely issues, including the erosion of civil liberties in the name of national security. Hopefully, teens will pass this cautionary tale on to parents, teachers and government officials. (Quattlebaum 12)

It shows the technology which is used to create terror, horror and fear in the country. Marcus is paying attention to technology to the extent that finds fooling with his school's pervasive surveillance systems to be child's play. So when he skips class with a few friends to play a game, he effectively falls off the school's radar. After being taken to the prison and questioned and tortured there, he vows to break down The DHS of San Francisco. DHS is doing nothing except grabbing the inalienable rights of people as Karl Patten says; "*Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow is a criticism of the termination of human rights in the name of national security" (229). His analysis is suitable as there is not any security in the country. People are arrested, taken to the custody, kidnapped, suppressed, oppressed, tortured, and even killed by the police in the name of maintaining peace and order in the country.

Generally, *Little Brother* represents a great step forward in the burgeoning subgenre of dystopian young-adult SF. It brings a greater degree of political sophistication and civil disobedience to a genre that was already serving up a milder dose of rebellion. It clearly shows the consequences and harmful effects of the misuse and abuse of scientific and technological inventions thereby warning human beings to be alert about the excessive development of them. So, *Little Brother* is a good example of dystopia as the society which is full of disorder and chaos is presented in

the novel and even the government and its agencies are completely unsuccessful to take the grip over the situation.

Dystopia is the idea of a society in a repressive and controlled state, often under the guise of being utopian. Dystopian societies feature different kinds of repressive social control systems, and various forms of active and passive coercion. Ideas and works about dystopian societies often explore the concept of humans abusing technology and humans individually and collectively coping, or not being able to properly cope with technology that has progressed far more rapidly than humanity's spiritual evolution. Dystopian societies are often imagined as political states, with unlimited power over the citizens. The word dystopia represents a counterpart of utopia, a term originally coined by Thomas More in his book of that title completed in 1516.

The first known use of dystopian, as recorded by the Oxford English Dictionary, is a speech given before the British House of Commons by John Stuart Mill in 1868, in which Mill denounced the government's Irish land policy: "It is, perhaps, too complimentary to call them Utopians, they ought rather to be called dystopians, or caco-topians. What is commonly called Utopian is something too good to be practicable; but what they appear to favour is too bad to be practicable" (Huntington 132). Many dystopias found in fictional and artistic works present a utopian society with at least one fatal flaw, whereas utopian society is founded on the good life, a dystopian society's dreams of improvement are overshadowed by stimulating fears of the ugly consequences of extreme development of science and technology or the oppressive government. People are alienated and individualism is restricted by the government.

Dystopia- literally, a bad place, often used as a literary device in which authors warn readers of the dangers of society's present course if continued in the future. A futuristic or imagined universe is presented in which oppressive societal control and the illusions of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst- case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system. In dystopian fictions propaganda is used to control the citizens of society; information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted; it tells the story of a war, revolution, uprising, spike in overpopulation, natural disaster or some other climatic event which result in dramatic changes to society. The dystopian protagonist often feels trapped and is struggling to escape; questions the existing social and political systems; believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives; helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective. The society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots or scientific means.

As an antonym of utopia, dystopia is an imaginary place where people lead dehumanized and often fearful lives. In dystopian fictions, there is the glorification and justification of violence, where technology replaces humanity. Moreover, in dystopia, negative social trends are taken to nightmarish extremes due to totalitarian dictatorship and misuse and abuse of power by the powerful people. In such fictions, the protagonist questions the society, social system and the evil things that he or she thinks are bad. Dystopias present fictional and futuristic society which resembles contemporary society. Thus, dystopias serve as warnings to contemporary men and plead them to be aware of the evils, fears and forebodings of the society.



Thus, *Little Brother* is a science fiction describing the abuse and misuse of scientific and technological inventions thereby exposing the dark future of human beings in the age in science and technology. Each and every activity of human beings is being watched without considering their basic rights of secrecy. The government becomes totally totalitarian and doesn't provide any freedom to its people instead it spread the reign of terror by arresting the people, taking them to custody, interrogating them and even killing them. All the power holders are not responsible to their duties and responsibilities but they misusing their power and authority to suppress, oppress and terrorize people. To explore this extremely devastating and dehumanizing situation, the research depends on the theoretical modality called dystopia, which examines the worst possible situation highlighting the sense of terror and fear in order to show that science and technology are not always beneficial to human beings. It divides the research in three chapters. The first chapter is the overall introduction of the research including hypothesis, objectives and literature review. The second chapter is a thorough analysis of the text including theoretical modality in embedded form. Similarly, the third chapter is the conclusion of the research, which briefly summarizes the overall project.

## **II. An investigation of Complete Chaos and Disorder in *Little Brother***

Taking place in the very near future of 2022 A. D., *Little Brother* follows the account of Marcus Yallow, an ordinary, tech-savvy, seventeen-year-old high school senior whose hobbies include Harajuku Fun Madness—a Japanese Alternate Reality Game (ARG)—LARPing (Live Action Role Playing), computer programming, building gizmos from everyday materials—a spy-cam detector using a toilet paper roll, a pinhole camera out of Legos, etc—and hacking. Of this last, Marcus takes particular pleasure in defeating his school’s security systems which includes gait-recognition cameras, Radio Frequency ID tags—arphids—and issued laptops that log our keystrokes, watches for suspicious keywords, and keeps track of the websites we visit. Then, in the wake of the ‘worst terrorist attack ever committed on American soil’—the bombing of San Francisco’s Bay Bridge—everything changes. Marcus becomes identified as a potential terrorist threat by the Department of Homeland Security, his privacy violated; a second PATRIOT Act is passed; a new proactive enforcement program instituted where anyone can be detained for ‘nonstandard’ activity; his school becomes an outlet for propaganda rather than teaching; and to top it off, Marcus’ best friend is missing, either dead or a prisoner of the DHS.

*Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow dramatizes the abuse and misuse of scientific and technological inventions thereby projecting a frightening and terrifying vision of scientifically and technologically advanced civilization. The central story is concerned with Marcus, a seventeen year school student, who fights against the suppression, oppression and domination of the DHS in particular and the government in general who are responsible for creating extremely unbearable, miserable, dehumanizing and devastating situation. As a perfect dystopian fiction, *Little Brother* explores the worst possible scenario, highlighting the sense of terror and fear in order

to show that a perfect society is not possible due wrong government system. Moreover, it crystallizes the condition of the government agencies when all the so-called secret information is captured by the hackers. Thus, it interrogates the worship and deification of science and technology as the harbingers of civilization and development, highlighting the abuse and misuses of advanced science and technology which are used only to gain power and control over others.

Seventeen-year-old Markus and three of his friends are cutting school when terrorists blow up the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Caught out on the streets, they're picked up by the Department of Homeland Security, and detained and questioned for days under suspicion of being involved in the attack. When Markus is finally released, he finds his city on lock-down, with the DHS having ramped up surveillance in every sphere of daily life. But Markus isn't willing to let the government strip away his freedom without a fight, and he eventually becomes the figurehead for a new counterculture rebellion.

In the wake of a devastating terrorist attack on San Francisco, the Department of Homeland Security detains hundreds of Americans, interrogating and intimidating them. Unfortunately for the DHS, one of the people they seize is Marcus Yallow, a seventeen year old kid who's a little too smart and bored for his own good. Marcus takes things apart, builds new things in his bedroom, and he lives another life online as "w1n5t0n" (an Orwellian nod). After detaining Marcus and his friends for days, the DHS lets him go. That was their second mistake. Soon Marcus finds himself as the leader of a new online movement to thwart the government's draconian civil rights crackdown. His friends are terrified, his father is happy that the government is trying to keep them safe, and Marcus is rapidly learning that revolutionary is often synonymous with martyr.

This is a well-paced young adult novel, with a sympathetic protagonist, and most readers in the intended audience will be able to identify with him: a little too smart, a little too weird, and more than a little fed up with being told about things happening to them for their own good. The story is set in the immediate future, with very near-future tech like a new Xbox system; the bibliography provides a good background for the tech that sounds like near-future but is actually here. Dissonantly prophetic in hindsight, a scene that could have been pulled straight from the Anonymous protests of Scientology earlier this year. The details make this book very real-to-life and current. Marcus could be any kid who makes the presence of the monsters technically humans, but only just that much more frightening. We can enjoy *Little Brother*, especially those who hang out on websites like ours, and only one or two details stand out as "teen lit" versus "adult lit," so pick up a copy for our favourite teenager and ourselves at the same time.

*Little Brother* is not a light-hearted book. In the course of this book Marcus and his friends, and others they don't know of, are tortured, and each time Marcus comes up against the mentality that official suspicion must rest on *something*, that people must have done *something* or they wouldn't be in trouble. Marcus has to deal with betrayal from some of the adults in his life, and the discovery that not all his friends can or will follow him. He learns some hard truths about his own privileged position as he realizes that this war against youth is also a war against non-whites. He discovers that the America he understood as historical is not a consensus, that there is no consensus America, only one that has been bitterly contested time after time and is safe only if people fight for it to be safe. Even his victory will be partial, as he discovers that there is no way he is going to be allowed to think of himself as wholly innocent.

Dystopia is an imaginary place where everything is as bad as it possibly can be. It is an imaginary, often futuristic society where the condition of life is extremely unbearable, miserable and dehumanizing due to suppression, oppression, destruction, violence, terrorism, poverty and so on. Dystopia dramatizes the worst possible scenario thereby fathoming out the impossibility of ideal and perfect utopian world. Highlighting constant warfare, violence, destruction, repression, rebellion, terror, horror, fear etc; dystopia explores the extremely pessimistic and pathetic condition of life. Alternatively called as cacotopia, anti-utopia or counter-utopia; dystopia is an ironical way to display the dark side of utopian construct as:

It [dystopia] can manifest itself in all ages, in all manners of guises. . . . Its tones are variously satirical, mocking, and minatory – all of which can be effective foils to human pride and vanity. It presents itself as the sum ripe old human wisdom, a storehouse of cautionary but essential truths about human nature and human strivings distilled from the collective experience of mankind. Its principal target is hubris: the insolent pretensions of humanity to mimic the gods. (Kumar 103)

Excavating the innate hubris of human beings to compare themselves with gods, dystopia destabilizes humanity from the supreme power of nature. “Dystopian fiction reflects a new society in which the principal social cleavage divides the masters of the modern technical system from those who work and live within it” (Feenberg 42). Science and technology are always not useful and beneficial to human beings sometimes they can be proved as disastrous and destructive to them. Dystopia presents the dehumanizing and debased life of people who are forced to live a cursed life due to suppression, oppression and torture imposed upon them by the ruling class people or their opponents. Dismissing the false promise of utopian ideals, dystopian

fiction draws out the everlasting pain and sorrow of human beings. Krishna Kumar brilliantly elucidates the difference between utopia and dystopia as:

Utopia and anti-utopia are antithetical yet interdependent. The anti-utopia is formed by utopia and feeds parasitically on it. It depends for its survival on the persistence of utopia. Utopia is original, anti-utopia is copy – only, as it were, always coloured black. It is utopia that provides the positive content to which anti-utopia makes the negative response. Anti-utopia draws its material from utopia and reassembles it in a manner that denies the affirmation of utopia. It is the mirror-image of utopia - but a distorted image, seen in a cracked mirror. (100)

Utopia and anti-utopia i.e. dystopia are not exactly opposite, though they are antithetical and different. They are interrelated concept. Anti-utopia is born out of a sense of disturbed and disillusioned utopianism. It is generally recognizable as a distorted manifestation of utopia as the utopian promises of happiness and progress are reversed in dystopia. Thomas Mautner defines dystopia as "a fictional account of bad political and social conditions the story is often one of social and political movements or development which promise utopia and inspire hope, but end up as a utopia in reverse" (119). Dystopia is often presented under the guise of false utopia. Thus, dystopia is an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one. It is an imagined universe usually the future of our own world in which a worst-case scenario is explored. It is especially influential on postmodernism as the dystopian writers imagine the effects of various aspects of our current postmodern condition, for example, the world taken over by machines; the social effects of hyperrealism; a society completely run by media commercialism; the triumph of late capitalism; bureaucratic controlled system

and so on. The technocratic society devaluates and underestimates human beings and as a result becomes adversary force to them.

*Little Brother* vividly describes the disorder and chaos in the school at first and then in the prison and in the nation at large. Marcus Yallow is against the corrupt and bad system that does leave any place. Throughout the story he fights using the tools that are available to him, namely his brains, his hacking abilities, and the righteousness of youth. There is a battle for freedom involving everything from Xboxes, cryptography, rave parties, and camera phones to blogs, memes, Player vs. Player video games, and LARPing. Even though the book is set in a future - almost everything utilized in *Little Brother* is stuff that's actually in use today like Gait-recognition cameras, The Onion Router, arphids, the Great Firewall of China, Fast Passes/FasTraks, ARGs, face-recognition robots, tunnelling etc. the extreme development of science and technology are not beneficial to human beings rather they are giving untold and unending suffering and torture to them.

Science and technology are generally taken as the vehicle of progress and success. It is believed that "the world is technologically driven but its trajectory leads to favourable destinations" (Winner 1000). Technology is generally considered as panacea for almost all problems. "Technological advances are the best way to improve the human condition including permitting greater individual freedom" (Lewis 163). But, dystopia digs out the problems and threats posed to human beings by the excess of technology. Technology is not only useful to human beings; it can be even cause the death and destruction of people. Technological excess may result in destruction, dehumanization, devastation, calamity and disaster. Instead of providing happiness and felicity to human beings, technological advances rather deprive human beings from these ideals.

*Little Brother* castigates human beings' passionate longing for technological advancement. Technology if is not handled properly may be detrimental and harmful because “the conditions of life have been worsened by technical development” (Williams 203). There is excessive use of technological inventions. The school has used all the newly invented scientific and technological inventions without considering the psychology of the students. Outwardly it seems to be full- facilitated having ‘gait-recognition cameras’ and ‘face-recognition cameras’, ‘Reflexology system’, which can identify the wrong doors. The technological excess is observed in the following remarks:

Gait recognition software takes pictures of your motion, tries to isolate you in the pics as a silhouette, and then tries to match the silhouette to a database to see if it knows who you are. It's a biometric identifier, like fingerprints or retina-scans, but it's got a lot more "collisions" than either of those. A biometric "collision" is when a measurement matches more than one person. Only you have your fingerprint, but you share your gait with plenty other people. (24)

The activities of the people are completely controlled by the inventions. In a sense, people have lost almost all their personal and individual things. Everything is public; nothing is secret. These inventions have snatched everything from the people. Though these scientific inventions have brought a great change and progress in the life of human beings, what value they have if they are developed compromising everything.

In the school, the so-called advanced and sophisticated machines are used to “track of who’s where and when” and to inform the administration about the activities of the students (26). The students have not got the natural environment of learning. They are feeling as if they are the puppets to be handled and managed by the experts



or other people. The environment of Chavez High School is completely conditioned and artificial with CCTV surveillances and spy-cameras which help the administration to observe the activities of the students. The students are treated not as human beings but as machines – who have no sense of feelings, emotions, passions and sentiments. They are mechanized and time-bound. They are taught in the strict environment and are not allowed to do anything against the school administration. The creativity, originality and inventiveness of the students are ruthlessly killed by the school administration.

The novel presents the highly-technological school system of schools in America in the year 2022 A. D. and the bad system in which anyone who pays too much to the surveillance machine is normally taken as a terrorist. Marcus Yallow, the main character of the book is a genius and creative student in the school having extraordinary knowledge of computer system. He is always against school system of using all these advanced and sophisticated machines to observe and control the activities of the students. He carefully finds out the loopholes and flaws of the technology and tries to get advantages of the situation. For him "skipping school isn't a crime. It's an infraction (28). He leads his group of bonkers who leave the school and perform different things against the rule of the school. Here is an instance in which Marcus Yallow finds out the weaknesses of the school surveillances:

An onion router is an Internet site that takes requests for web-pages and passes them onto other onion routers, and on to other onion routers, until one of them finally decides to fetch the page and pass it back through the layers of the onion until it reaches you. The traffic to the onion routers is encrypted, which means that the school can't see what you're asking for, and the layers of the onion don't know who

they're working for. There are millions of nodes — the program was set up by the US Office of Naval Research to help their people get around the censor ware in countries like Syria and China, which means that it's perfectly designed for operating in the confines of an average American high school. (25)

Marcus Yallow can't tolerate the over strict environment of his school and decides to go against it. Utilizing his superb knowledge on computer system, he breaks the rules and regulations of the school. Sometimes he goes out of the school without giving notice to the CCTV camera or gait-reorganization system. Though the school has a finite blacklist of naughty addresses which the students aren't allowed to visit, and the addresses of the nodes change all the time — no way could the school keep track of them all but Marcus becomes able to see it using Firefox and TOR together which make him invisible man, impervious to Board of Ed snooping, free to check out the Harajuku FM site and see what is up there. In these sense there is the excess of scientific and technological inventions. These inventions are misused by the government, school and even by the students in order to fulfil their vested interests and selfish motives.

Dystopia is a futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system. The overall system of San Francisco controlled by science and technology is totalitarian and bad because it doesn't provide any confidence, security and peace to the people rather it increases turmoil, disorder and confusion. The concept of science as great deliverer of progress and civilization is questioned, interrogated and critiqued

in the dystopian novels. When technology turns against human beings themselves, it is out of control and out of command of them and as a result it proves itself as a curse.

It creates the world of fear, terror and horror as:

. . . it was the grotesque to see reason and science as the great deliverers of humanity. If reason and science provided any guide to the future, it was in the nightmare [and brutal] form of their perverted use. The urge to look in to the future remained. That was the complement that anti-utopia paid to utopia. But, it was now a future to be feared.

(Kumar 225)

The world full of technological inventions will be of grotesque, nightmarish and dangerous because these inventions will be abused and misused by the power holders to give suffering to others. So, “the writers who envisage ideal societies have therefore had to consider the expanding role of technology in human life “(Lewis 163). Technology shouldn’t be given prime focus because it kills humanity, love, affection and all kinds of feelings and it turns against human beings and causes their degeneration and even disappearance as "technology is predatory and threatening" (Huntington 137). The school of Marcus seems to be full of facilities and amenities but it not a good place to foster the innate and inborn talent and capacity of the students. It doesn’t arouse the interest of the students rather it kills their interest, motivation and concentration. Dystopia presents a society characterized by poverty, squalor, or oppression. Most authors of dystopian fiction explore at least one reason why things are that way. Dystopian novel usually extrapolates elements of contemporary society and is read by many as political warnings. It is the excavation of the dark sides and unsearched truths of the society which are otherwise neglected, abandoned and deserted. The causes and consequences of these veiled truths are

discussed in the dystopian novel. These unsearched truths have direct or indirect impacts in the society.

The school seems to be a utopia for the managing team because they think that it is completely within their control. They think that the scientific instruments are beneficial to them to control the students and they also think that the students are completely disciplined and have good manners. But, in reality matter is different. Despite the strict rules and regulations, the students are performing different mischievous behaviours in the classrooms as well as outside. Even they are leaving their classes while the teachers are teaching. They are very clever to take the advantages of the loopholes and mistakes of the technology as:

Better not to show at all at this point. I can infiltrate and exfiltrate any room on this campus . . . . It was flawless. We skirted the classrooms, took the back stairs into the basement, and came up the front stairs right in front of the teachers' lounge. Not a sound came from the door, and I quietly turned the knob and dragged Darryl in before silently closing the door. (29)

The so-called full facilitated school is totally in chaos and disorder in reality. The students are not in discipline. They want to find out the weak points of the technology in order to take unnecessary benefits. Marcus, with his three friends in the school wants “to track down the location of the "hidden" access point by measuring the strength of the "visible" one, finding the spot where it was most mysteriously weakest” (33). The school administration is also overconfident about its use of technology and it never questions its technology. So, the students find the loopholes and drawbacks of the technology and take advantages of it. It suggests that too much of technology is not beneficial to human beings.

When the place is attacked by the terrorists, the narrator and his friend are frightened. They don't know the cause of attack. The country has experienced the worst attack ever committed on its soil (59). The terrorists killed many of the people without any reason. Their main intention is only to terrify the common people and to gain control over them. They make all efforts to bring the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice (59). San Francisco is a modern advanced city of the world. It is supposed to be safe and tranquil. It is under the surveillances of advanced and sophisticated technological inventions but the immoral and illegal activities are not decreased. When the narrator is frightened and terrified by the attack of the terrorists, he expresses his fear as:

There were millions of ways that the world could kill me — starting with getting run down by a drunk burning his way down Valencia — that were infinitely more likely and immediate than terrorists.

Terrorists killed a lot fewer people than bathroom falls and accidental electrocutions. Worrying about them always struck me as about as useful as worrying about getting hit by lightning. . . . forth while the bruises swelled up on my head, terrorism suddenly felt a lot riskier.

(41)

Marcus has good knowledge of science and technology. So, he can estimate the threats and dangers that can be caused by the misuse and abuse of the technological inventions. There is completely uncertainty about the life of people – millions may be killed at a time due to these advanced weapons. The kidnapping and killing of the people are increased by hook or by crook in San Francisco as the narrator says, “Why the hell would terrorists kidnap a bunch of high school students?” (41). Even the school children are not safe from the activities of the terrorists.

The system of the government is not in favour of the general people. In the name of maintaining peace and security, it gives pain and suffering to its people. Marcus and his friends are taken to the prison after the terrorist attack in San Francisco in the charge of the attack. Though they are innocent, they get unnecessary torture from the police. In this novel, the security system of the government, The Department of Homeland Security is severely criticized because it, instead of safeguarding the rights of people and providing them peace and security does the opposite i.e. it spreads horror, terror and fear among the people. When the narrator is taken to the prison, he describes his fear and the condition of the prison as:

. . . It wasn't like driving in a truck. The floor beneath me rocked gently and vibrated with heavy diesel engines and I realized I was on a ship! My stomach turned to ice. I was being taken off America's shores to somewhere *else*, and who the hell knew where that was? I'd been scared before, but this thought *terrified* me, left me paralyzed and wordless with fear. . . . The cell was old and crumbled, and smelled of sea air. There was one window high up, and rusted bars guarded it. It was still dark outside. There was a blanket on the floor and a little metal toilet without a seat, set into the wall. The guard who took off my hood grinned at me and closed the solid steel door behind him. (50)

The condition of the prison is also like that of the hell. The narrator is said to be in the “wrong place at the wrong time” (51). All the prisoners are deprived of their basic rights. They are not getting enough food. Furthermore, they are being tortured and penalized brutally and unreasonably by the police force. The narrator hears “other people talking, crying, and shouting” (50). The prisoners are forcefully made to sign in different files, though they don't know the purpose. The narrator says, “They'd

taken everything from me. First my privacy, then my dignity. I'd been ready to sign anything. I would have signed a confession that said I'd assassinated Abraham Lincoln" (60). It means the prisoners have got unnecessary tensions from the police and other authority holders in the prison. They are also being asked "endless and unanswerable questions" by the police officials (60). The environment in the prison is also dystopia in the sense that all the prisoners are compelled to live the life that of lesser than the animals.

Marcus is only seventeen years old, but he figures he already knows how the system works—and how to work the system. Smart, fast, and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school's intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems. But his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco. In the wrong place at the wrong time, Marcus and his crew are apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security and whisked away to a secret prison where they're mercilessly interrogated for days.

The DHS interrogates and tortures Marcus, claiming that his encrypted computer and phone and placement at the scene of the attack make him guilty so far as they are concerned. After thoroughly humiliating Marcus, taking all his passwords and under threat of being locked away for life without trial, DHS releases Marcus and his friends—less Marcus's best friend Daryl. They return home to find San Francisco has been turned into a police state, with the DHS at every corner, interrogating people and making others disappear at will. Scared but angry, Marcus decides to fight back against Big Brother, one Xbox at a time. Marcus discovers that his city has become a police state where every citizen is treated like a potential terrorist. The over-dependency on science and technology merely enslaves and entraps human beings.

Instead of uplifting the existing civilization, "the technological imperative is so ubiquitous and apparently brings with it so many seemingly inevitable and undesirable consequences" (Sibley 272). The technology used in *Little Brother* is worthless and fruitless – it neither helps the DHS to control criminal activities nor it helps the school to make its students nor it is useful in the prison rather it is a kind of "preparing a modern hell," a world empty of all meaning and purpose (Kumar 110). It is good for nothing and nobody mainly due to its abuse and misuse. The school with its all technological inventions like CC cameras, gait reorganization machines, Xnet, Xbox and others is not suitable for the overall personality development of the students. It only terrifies and frightens the students. These things do not support to create conducive environment for learning rather the students become only the machines to be handled by the teachers and the school administration.

DHS is not able to maintain peace and security in the country rather despite its so-called incessant attempt it has done nothing. So, "people were running or walking, white-faced and silent or shouting and panicked. Homeless people cowered in doorways and watched it all, while a tall black tyranny hooker shouted at two mustached young men about something" (37). The pain and suffering of the people is increasing day by day. DHS is accusing people of anything wrong thing happen in the country even the innocent people are being imprisoned and punished in the name of investigating criminals. Marcus is also being accused of causing bomb explosion near the bridge. Vanessa, one of his close friends, makes the point clear as:

We found you [Marcus] and your confederates near the site of the worst terrorist attack this country has ever seen. Put those two facts together and things don't look very good for you, Marcus. You can cooperate, or you can be very, very sorry. Now, what is this for? . . .



You're under the mistaken impression that you've been picked up by the police for a crime. You need to get past that. You are being detained as a potential enemy combatant by the government of the United States. (47)

The common people don't have any sense of security and protection. The so-called advanced and sophisticated science and technology of the DHS is not supportive to investigate the actual criminal rather it further adds pains and suffering to the people. There is not justice, humanity, morality in the country. Ethical concerns are far from the reach of the people. The society this book analyses is a dystopic one, filled with imperfection caused by the government's role in society. It is a society where the police forces rob, rape and terrorize innocent people in order to satisfy their own desires. They represent a menace to the society.

Free will is the highest gift men have been endowed with, as it is the only thing that separates human beings and animals from machines. But, people are deprived with free will, freedom and liberty. They have nothing of their own. The excess of technology has looted everything. The novel can be understood as expressions of ambivalence within the scientific community about its own transformation and that of society at large. There is everywhere terrorism. People are not feeling safe. Many people are dying. Further many people are being accused of being terrorists mainly because of unsuccessfulness of the government. The government and agencies are accusing people in order to mask their inability. When the narrator is arrested as a suspected terrorist by the police force, he expresses his feelings as:

We keep acting like terrorists attack landmarks because they hate landmarks. Terrorists don't hate landmarks or bridges or airplanes.

They just want to screw stuff up and make people scared. To make terror . . . Terrorists don't hate airplanes or bridges. They love terror. It was so obvious I couldn't believe I'd never thought of it before. I guess that being treated like a terrorist for a few days was enough to clarify my thinking (65-66).

In the very near future, when the Bay Bridge in San Francisco is blown up by terrorists, talented teen hacker Marcus and his friends, cutting school to play a game, are arrested by Homeland Security and brutally interrogated for a week. It is a dystopian novel and features mature themes, as well as some violent scenes, including the torture of a teen. This is by far the most exciting, breathtaking, mind-altering, and provocative story, in which raises the issues of free speech, freedom vs. security, the rights of the government and the governed. Frustrated with the activities of the government and its agencies, Marcus and his school friends make grand plans to make the DHS unsuccessful. They choose the way of hacking – they hack different secret information of the government and keep the information in the internet. They don't leave anything. Due to their thorough searching, “the Xnet was full of these stories, and so were the newspapers and the TV news. Husbands were caught cheating on their wives; wives were caught cheating on their husbands, kids were caught sneaking out with illicit girlfriends and boyfriends. A kid who hadn't told his parents he had AIDS got caught going to the clinic for his drugs” (101). The hidden news and secret information are now public. The corrupt and evil-intended aims and works are now commonly available to the public. Due to their advance scientific knowledge, they become successful to make the government completely unsuccessful and paralyzed.

Science and technology which is so-called deliverer of culture and civilization proves to be useless. Great and marvelous promises of science and reason are

completely shattered. Due to the evil and murderous impulses embodied in human beings the science and technology are turn against themselves. The misuse and abuse of science and technology brings multiple harms and evils to human civilization and prepares its doom and destruction. Science and technology become the graveyard of their own civilization.

Dystopian societies demoralize people, deprive them of the ability of taking decisions while their personal desires either good or evil, and are taken over by the state. They control the citizens of society, restrict independent thought, and put them under permanent surveillance.

People fear the outside world; they live in a dehumanized state where dissent is forbidden. The whole society is in fact an “illusion” of a perfect world, illusion which is maintained through corporate or mass-media control, red tape or incompetent government representatives, new technologies like robots or scientific methods and religious ideology. The dystopian “inhabitants” constantly tries to escape this world in which they feel trapped; they do not trust the social and political system, which, in their opinion, promote wrong values and ideas. (Carter 129)

Dystopia is a bitter satire on modern people who unquestionably believe in the comforts and benefits given by science and technology ultimately losing their individual potentialities and capabilities. Moreover it also excavates that the abuse and misuse of science and technology can question the very existence and survival of human beings. As science and technology are misused, there are blood-shed, destruction, devastation and other criminal activities throughout America. Dystopia foregrounds all the hazardous conditions of life like danger, threat, forceful migration,

theft, robbery, crimes, and illegal activities and so on. In short, it presents a parlous situation of life. Dehumanization and mechanization are also striking themes of anti-utopia (Kumar 108). Human norms and values are extremely marginalized and neglected.

*Little Brother* is mainly concerned with the story of internet hackers who get the information of the government and make them public. The students of a school who are dissatisfied with the system of not only the school but also the whole nation are involved in a group of hackers. Marcus is the leader among them. He is known as the little brother and utilizes all his computer knowledge in order to take revenge against the school and the DHS. He with his friends fights against the DHS force and even becomes partially successful to achieve his goal. The narrator describes hackers' activities as:

Hackers blow through those countermeasures. The Xbox was cracked by a kid from MIT who wrote a best-selling book about it, and then the 360 went down, and then the short-lived Xbox Portable (which we all called the "luggable" — it weighed three pounds!) succumbed. The Universal was supposed to be totally bulletproof. The high school kids who broke it were Brazilian Linux hackers who lived in a *favela* — a kind of squatter's slum. (75)

The hackers want universal control of different things. They use different strategies of achieve their goals. Misusing and abusing their computer knowledge and information, they want to assemble different secret information in order to get control over different organizations. So, they call "Internet "the information superhighway" (17). The narrator describes about the technology as, "the best part of all this is how it made me *feel*: in control. My technology was working for me, serving me, protecting

me. It wasn't spying on me. This is why I loved technology: if you used it right, it could give you power and privacy” (76). Technology can be both of beneficial as well as harmful on the basis of the way it is used.

The frustrating environment of the school enforces the students to go against the overall school system. The school wants to take advantages of advanced technology in order to get each and every information of the information. The students including Marcus want to disclose the wrong and evil intentions of the school. It is clear from Marcus’s following remarks:

Cracking my School Book had been easy. The crack was online within a month of the machine showing up, and there was nothing to it — just download a DVD image, burn it, stick it in the School Book, and boot it while holding down a bunch of different keys at the same time. The DVD did the rest, installing a whole bunch of hidden programs on the machine, programs that would stay hidden even when the Board of Ed did its daily remote integrity checks of the machines. Every now and again I had to get an update for the software to get around the Board's latest tests, but it was a small price to pay to get a little control over the box. (21)

Marcus is against the system of the school and the government. He questions the disorder, confusion and chaos caused due to inability of the government. He says, “I can't live my life in perpetual terror” (131). Though he declares informal war against the tyranny and oppression of the government, he is not sure whether he will win – as he says, "I know that's leaving you on your own. I don't want that, believe me. I'd much rather you give up with me. You can't declare war on the government of the USA. It's not a fight you're going to win. Watching you try is like watching a bird fly

into a window again and again" (131). With their incessant practice they become able to destroy the system of the school. Even the secrecy of the examination is destroyed. They become able to get question paper and put them in the internet. Marcus's girlfriend discloses their act of publishing examination papers in order to make them public before the examination as:

"Last year, I —" she broke off. "Last year, I stole the standardized tests and published them on the net. It was just a lark. I happened to be walking past the principal's office and I saw them in his safe, and the door was hanging open. I ducked into his office — there were six sets of copies and I just put one into my bag and took off again. When I got home, I scanned them all and put them up on a Pirate Party server in Denmark." (164)

They create terror, horror and fear everywhere. The school administration is surprised about the leakage of question papers which The Board of Education calls "education terrorism" (165). The terrorist activities in the school challenge even to the DHS and the government. There is not any certainty of anything. The hackers are using internet secretly so that nobody knows their activities. They are even hacking others' computers using free net called Xnet. They have created a different internet society. Their daily routine is to share information to the members of the internet community through SMS. Their activities are being spread and become public as quickly as electric current.

Conjecturing the depressing and disappointing future world, dystopian fictions show the bad consequences of scientific and technological inventions as well as complete failure of the government. They represent "a very unpleasant imaginary world in which ominous tendencies of our present social, political and technological

order are projected in some disastrous future culmination" (Abrams 218). The negligence as well as weakness of the government leads towards such a situation which is extremely intolerable, unbearable and suffocating. Moreover dystopia presents a totalitarian form of the government is completely careless about the troubles and problems of people. "The totalitarian government tries to control the thoughts and emotions of its subjects at least as completely as it controls their actions" (Kumar 306). Due to tremendous shortage and distress, people are forced to live a extremely harsh and difficult life as:

An anarchic and undesirable society, referring to a bleak future in which things take a turn for the worse and which displays images of worlds more unpleasant than our own may be called a dystopian society. The inhabitants of such a society lead a dehumanized and fearful life; they struggle for survival. The border between friendship and hatred is so thin and blurred, that anyone or anything might represent a threat . . . border between friendship and hatred is so thin and blurred, that anyone or anything might represent a threat . . . Any trial of mechanizing individuals leads to the emergence of a dehumanized world, eliminating thus, all the above-mentioned human traits. (Ramona 42)

Dystopia interrogates the utopian world which is a mere imaginary product and not possible in the real world. People in dystopian world live dehumanizing, devastating, distressing and demoralizing life. There is always stress, turmoil and tension in such world. There is always danger, threat, menace and jeopardy everywhere in the country that is clear from this statement, "We need to be safe, but he needs to know that most of us don't feel safe. We feel endangered all the time. . . . Lots of people died in the

bombings — four thousand was the present estimate — and practically everyone knew someone who didn't come home that day. There were two people from my school who had disappeared” (117). The situation is out of the control of the government. Different people and different groups are performing different activities in order to terrify and frighten the common people. There are different events of bombing, killing, kidnapping and other immoral and illegal activities. For example, “Al Qaeda was definitely responsible for the bombing. Six different terrorist groups had claimed responsibility for the attack, but only Al Qaeda's Internet video disclosed information that the DHS said they hadn't disclosed to anyone” (118). DHS and its entire system is completely unsuccessful to maintain peace and security in the country as a result these activities are increasing by leaps and bounds. The narrator comments the situation as:

San Francisco was ground zero for this. Revolutionary armies were founded here. Some of them blew up buildings or robbed banks for their cause. A lot of those kids grew up to be more or less normal, while others ended up in jail. Some of the university dropouts did amazing things — for example, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, who founded Apple Computers and invented the PC. . . . Suddenly, those lame, solemn, grown-up street demonstrations didn't seem so lame after all. Maybe there was room for that kind of action in the Xnet movement (145).

The activities of the hackers are uncontrollable and unmanageable for the government. The city becomes synonymous to that of hell. Nothing is normal. Nothing is going straight. The narrator says, "It's our goddamned city! It's our goddamned country. No terrorist can take it from us for so long as we're free. Once



we're not free, the terrorists win! Take it back! Take it back!” (156). Terrorist activities are rampant everywhere. DHS is accusing innocent people of causing terrorist activities. It is not justice for the common people to give such kind of torture and pain. The cruelties and atrocities of the government and government agencies cross the boundary and limit. Commenting on the injustice of the government, the narrator says, “In a pool of twenty million people, a 99 percent accurate test will identify two hundred thousand people as being terrorists. But only ten of them are terrorists. To catch ten bad guys, you have to haul in and investigate two hundred thousand innocent people” (107). It is of course not justice to blame common people as terrorists.

The so-called democratic country doesn't have freedom for the people. America has confined its people within the narrow boundary. The whole police force attempts to find out the secrets of people thereby making everything public. There is nothing that the people can claim their own. Though "constitutional rights are absolute”, people have deprived of their basic and elementary rights (168). In the name of maintaining peace and order in the country, the government is spreading disorder and chaos as the narrator says:

Bands played and we talked about freedom, about how we were losing it to these jerks who say they hate terrorists but who attack us though we're not terrorists we're Americans. I think they hate freedom, not us . . . We danced and the bands played and it was all fun and good and then the cops started shouting at us to disperse. We all shouted take it back! Meaning take America back. The cops gassed us with pepper spray. (167)

Terroristic attacks are common everywhere. America has become a living hell. There is not freedom for the people nor there liberty. People are confined within narrow wall of national security and safety. As per the narrator, “governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it” (177). But, the government and its agencies are doing against the will of the common people as “they’re supposed to protect us but they gassed us for no good reason, gassed us like they gas enemy soldiers” (167). They are doing exactly opposite of what they should do.

The government failed mainly because it did not know the value of technology and misused it. Instead of solving the problems of people, it further increases these problems. Xnet is a free and easily assessable network which the crackers have been using. “It’s just a wireless network. It’s what everyone did with those free Xboxes they gave away last year” (167). Xnet is heavily criticized by the people and even the father of Marcus blames it for “providing cover for people who plan on attacking and destroying this country” (167). The people are against the amendment of the constitution which takes away their rights. The Bill of Rights is seemingly good but in its heart it is not in favour of the common people. The users of Xnet are making different plans to warn and threaten the government as:

— these so-called jammers who were on the news this morning. After this city was attacked by people who've declared war on this country, they set about sabotaging the security measures set up to catch the bad guys and prevent them from doing it again. They did this by endangering and inconveniencing their fellow citizens — (169)

They did it to show that our rights were being taken away in the name of protecting them. So, they wanted to prove that they shouldn't be treated like terrorists because "they showed that universal surveillance was more dangerous than terrorism . . . Those people were dancing and listening to music. How is *that* terrorism?" (170). Government itself is spreading terrorism because in the name of maintaining peace and security, the government is capturing people and giving them unnecessary pain and torture.

People are against the wrong doings of the government. The police force attack the people and arrest them without any reason. The pain and suffering of the people cross the limitation. The agitating people and their leaders are captured by the police force and put into the custody in different charges as:

The arrestees were ring-leaders and provocateurs who had led the thousands of impressionistic young people there to charge the police lines. 827 of them were taken into custody. Many of these people had prior offenses. More than 100 of them had outstanding warrants. They are still in custody. America is fighting a war on many fronts, but nowhere is she in more grave danger than she is here, at home.

Whether we are being attacked by terrorists or those who sympathize with them. (174)

American jails are full of the suspected terrorists. Due to the use of excessive science and technology people are always in the trap of the security system of the government. The security system of the government is faulty and defective which can't find out the real wrong doers and criminals. It just suspects the common people in order to hide its inability. There is not any point to sympathize American security system.

*Little Brother* conceptualizes the consequences of the extremely development of science and technology if they are hold by the unsuccessful power holders. Though outwardly they are used to control the criminal and illegal activities in the country, if they are not handled properly, they can even increase these activities. So, science and technology, though they are made for the benefits and supports of human beings, but sometimes they can be turned against human beings themselves.

Dystopian fictions highlight the negative of what utopian fictions point out. In other words, death, bereavement, destruction, devastation, grief, agony and pain are brought to the fore in such novels. Immoral and illegal activities get premium importance in dystopian writings. These things are further clarified by the following remarks:

Dystopian literature refers mostly to the decadence of people reflected in acts of violence, sexual immorality and use of drugs. The protagonists indulge themselves in sin living only in the present. The basic characteristic of the type of society is that the authorities determined an overall paralysis of any aesthetic sense...everything is machine-made, mass-produced, and sterile, and as a consequence, civilization has lost touch with the qualities that once gave life zest, qualities of passion and vitality, of irrationality and excess that was both its peril and its promise. This system destroys human individualism, controls the information that people receive. (Whissen 65)

The individualism of the people is grabbed by the government in the dystopian society. The totalitarian government is all powerful. It controls each and everything of people. All the activities of the people are recorded by the government. Buttressed by

the power of science and technology, such government imposes unnatural and unjust laws upon the people. The narrator is light-hearted and easy-going. He wants to enjoy every moment without thinking about tomorrow. His principle is "Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die" (154). He keeps affair with many of the girls. He has changing personality. He enjoys with many of the girl friends. He never thinks about the future. He is influenced by the *carpe diem* theory. He lives for the present as if he has no concerns about the future. The government and its all system become completely unsuccessful. Despite its scientific and technological system, it becomes failure to provide peace and security to the people. Barbara, one of Marcus's girl friend narrates as:

It sucks, but this is how it has to be. The point is, it's *over*. The Governor has thrown the DHS out of the State, dismantled every checkpoint. The Attorney General has issued warrants for any law-enforcement officers involved in 'stress interrogations' and secret imprisonments. They'll go to jail, Marcus, and it's because of what you did. (274)

This is the clear indications of the failure of the government. There is not harmony in the government's agencies. Due to their own contradictions and paradoxes they become unsuccessful and met failure. They are likely to get punished and even public rejection. Here, Marcus and his friends seem to be successful. Due to their adventurous activities, they are able to throw light upon the wrong and incorrect activities of the government and convince this matter to the people. Though they are also not doing good thing but at least they are able to make the government careful and aware of its mistakes and errors.

The theme of dystopia is clarified with the help of a famous poem *Howl* which is taught in the English class. The opening lines of the poem are given as:

*I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving  
hyster-ical naked,*

*dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for an  
angry  
fix,  
angel headed hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to  
the starry dynamo in the machinery of night... (177)*

The context of *Howl* is relevant here. The dreary, dark and disastrous situation of *Howl* and the situation of *Little Brother* are similar. This parallelism further highlights the sense of dystopia. Marcus goes to the library and reads a book called *On the Road* which is a semi-autobiographical novel about Jack Kerouac, a druggie, hard-drinking writer who goes hitchhiking around America, working crummy jobs, howling through the streets at night, meeting people and parting ways. He makes friends with self-destructing people like Dean Moriarty, who get him involved in weird schemes that never really work out. It also supports and intensifies the theme of dystopia.

The charges that Marcus and his friends get are ‘Electronic terrorism’, ‘inciting riots’ and ‘theft’. They are always targeted by the DHS and security system. Even the government is no less in misusing technology. Due to the misuse of technology by the government and its agencies, “4,215 of my [narrator’s] neighbors were killed . . . Some of them disappeared into the prison. Some mothers and fathers, children and lovers, brothers and sisters will never see their loved ones again” (284). “Afterword” by Andrew "bunnie" Huang highlights the overall evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of technology. Technology should be handled properly because its advantages and disadvantages depend upon the people who handle it as:

There is a term for this dysfunction—it is called an autoimmune disease, where an organism's defense system goes into overdrive so much that it fails to recognize itself and attacks its own cells. Ultimately, the organism self-destructs. Right now, America is on the verge of going into

anaphylactic shock over its own freedoms, and we need to inoculate ourselves against this. Technology is no cure for this paranoia; in fact, it may enhance the paranoia: it turns us into prisoners of our own device. Coercing millions of people to strip off their outer garments and walk barefoot through metal detectors every day is no solution either. It only serves to remind the population every day that they have a reason to be afraid, while in practice providing only a flimsy barrier to a determined adversary. (291)

Technology is no cure for the existing problems rather it can increase these problems if it is not handled properly. American government and its agencies full of scientific and technological surveillances become too much mechanical to address the complex, complicated and multifaceted problems brought by the extreme development of science and technology. Due to their abuse and misuse by certain power holders and people, the existing problems are even more complicated and become intricate that the government becomes completely unsuccessful to solve them.

Thus, *Little Brother* presents a society of San Francisco which is converted into dystopian society due to extreme development of scientific and technological inventions and their abuse and misuse. The highly advanced and sophisticated technology used in the school makes the students frustrated and irritated and as a result they turn against the tyrannical, totalitarian and authoritarian school but also against suppressive and oppressive system of the government. Due to the failure of the government, the overall situation of San Francisco becomes horrific, terrific, devastating, dehumanizing and distressing.

### III. Dystopia: Representation of Problematized and Traumatized World

After analyzing the text thoroughly, the researcher comes to the conclusion that *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow is a genuine presentation of a perfect dystopian society. It clearly describes the events that take place in the imaginary society of San Francisco in 2022. San Francisco is outwardly full-facilitated society blessed with advanced and sophisticated scientific and technological inventions; but in its heart dystopian disorder, chaos, death and disaster remain as undercurrent forces. Instead of improving life style of people and solving the existing problems, the excessive development of science and technology further problematizes and traumatizes the situation.

Excavating the dark sides of a superficially advanced and modern society, *Little Brother* knells the death bell of scientific optimism and technological determinism. The highly eulogized and well-praised hopes and aspirations of people wither in their bud as the scientific and technological inventions are proved to be a curse to human beings – only adding pains and sufferings to their injuries. *Little Brother* shows how we can get from where we are today to a world where social tolerance for new and different thoughts dies altogether (290). It presents degraded and degenerated life of common people.

The main theme of *Little Brother* is purely anti-utopian as the corrupt and conflict-ridden world is presented. The abuse and misuse of power provided by scientific and technological inventions by the students, school administrative, DHS and the government is not beneficial to themselves; rather it is proved to be counter-productive and self-destructive to them. Scientific and technological development leads to “war, imperialism, and eventually cultural disintegration” (Sibley 259). It further destroys the existing peace and order because "scientific and technological



creativity after Eden almost always leads to death and to social and cultural disintegration” (257). In dystopian fiction, the inevitability and desirability of science and technology are severely questioned as they can't be proved as the key to human freedom and happiness. The government becomes a mere observer of the immoral and illegal activities within its premises.

*Little Brother* is an encyclopedic version of dystopia. It makes crystal clear about the misuse and abuse of scientific and technological inventions on the one hand. Similarly, it shows what happens in the country if the government is completely unsuccessful to maintain peace and security in the country. People are entrapped in the name of keeping peace and order in the country thereby confiscating their fundamental rights as “the concept of dystopia implies the impossibility of escape; in this period, social critique actually foresaw its own disappearance in the face of the mounting success of modern technology” (Feenberg 43). The highly vaunted science and technology are proved to be worthless if they are handled by selfish and narrow-minded people.

Frustrated with the oppressive and suppressive environment of the school, Marcus and many of his friends bunk the school and challenge the system of the school and the overall security system of the government. Their main mission is 'Obstruction of National Security '(250). They perform different illegal and immoral activities. They use all of their energy to turn the government's security system upside down as the narrator says, “I'd been spending all my energies on figuring out how to use the Xnet to organize dedicated fighters so they could jam the DHS” (142). Marcus, little brother of the story, is the leader of his group. In his leadership, they are headed towards to make the government unsuccessful. They are the well-known as well as notorious hackers, who hack the internet and disclose and unveil secret and

important information. The narrator says that “I can turn innocent people into suspects and turn guilty people into innocents in their eyes” (191). It means they can do whatever they like to interrupt the normal functioning of the government.

Due to government’s inability and unsuccessfulness, “American soldiers were dying all over the world” (173). In this context, the narrator rightly says that “because it seems to me that the founders of this country said that governments should only last for so long as we believe that they’re working for us, and if we stop believing in them, we should overthrow them” (148). It becomes only nominal government – without any function, without any value. So, “lots of people said that the terrorists and the government were the same — either literally or just meaning that they were equally bad. Some said the government knew how to catch terrorists but preferred not to because "war presidents" got re-elected” (190). Because of government’s inability, death, destruction, and devastation loom large everywhere and the country becomes like a living hell for the people.

Thus, *Little Brother* excavates the complete disorder and chaos in San Francisco due to extreme development of science and technology and their abuse and misuse to control, dominate and rule over the people. Despite full-facilitated scientific and technological inventions, the overall security of the government becomes inefficient and unsuccessful causing death, destruction and devastation in the country. Many people lose their lives; terrorism spreads everywhere and immoral and illegal activities are rampant throughout the country. Various attempts made by the Department of Homeland Security and the government to restore and maintain peace, security, law and order in the country becomes children’s game consequently the situation becomes even more dangerous, perilous and unsafe causing the life of people devastating, dehumanizing, frightening disturbing and distressing.

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