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KEY TERMS

- Apocalyptic Vision:** It is the vision of the author, who depicts a catastrophic image. It can be understood as 'a way of escape'. Apocalyptic fiction concerns with the end of the world.
- Doomsday Vision:** It is Ballard's depiction of the annihilation of the world through the process of solipsism.
- Dream Fantasy:** This can be understood as those situations which are unlikely to take place following the accepted natural laws.
- Dystopian Vision:** It is a dark vision of the future. It usually depicts a future world with bleak prospect. If utopian writers depict a better future, dystopian writers depict a far more sinister world than the contemporary world.
- Entropy :** Entropy may be described as 'a measure of the unavailable energy in a closed thermodynamic system that is usually considered to be a measure of systems' disorder'. In general terms, entropy suggests a process of degradation in a system which has a greater impact on the humanity. It can also suggest a steady and

inevitable deterioration of a system or society.

Hard Science Fiction: It is one of the prominent branches of Science Fiction which deals with the use of technology and space shuttle explorations into the sky.

Military Apocalypse: It is another type of Science Fiction which focuses on interstellar war. These texts suggest the end of the world through the intervention of military weapons.

Narcoma Syndrome: Basically, narcoma syndrome is a stupor which is caused by drug abuse. It is a sleep disorder, characterized by sudden and uncontrollable episodes of deep sleep. As the person affected with this syndrome falls asleep, his consciousness dissolves into the universe's great stream of radiation. As employed by Ballard in his fictions, narcoma syndrome implies the termination of the universe.

Psychological Fantasy: It is the depiction of the fantastic world wherein the protagonist's behavior becomes apt case for clinical studies.

Science Fantasy: Science Fantasy is a fiction wherein one may find elements of both

‘science’ and fantasy. In Ballard’s fiction, use of advanced technology and depiction of weird world emerge predominantly.

Sexual Fantasy:

Also known as erotic fantasy, sexual fantasies exist in a person’s mind. It creates an image that stirs a person’s sexuality.

Soft Science Fiction:

It is another type of Science Fiction that deals with the impact of diverse fields of human activities such as sociology, psychology and biology.

Space Age :

It denotes a period in the history of Science Fiction when writers began to depict space travels with the help of rockets and spaceships.

Technological Dominance:

It is Ballard’s vision of the future society where the citizens would be completely controlled and dominated by science and technology. It also suggests the impact of all-pervasive technology on the unconscious mind.

Technological Mentality:

This phrase may refer to the power of superhuman technological properties that curb rational thinking among the people.

Totalitarian Government:

In Ballardian terminology, this phrase may refer to the future society which is closely regulated and monitored by

communication technology which attains the symbol of oppression.

Voyeurism:

Voyeurism has been described as the sexual interest in or practice of spying on people engaged in intimate behaviors, such as undressing, sexual activity or other actions. Medically speaking, it is a psychosexual disorder. A person with this disorder will derive pleasure from looking at the naked bodies and genital organs or observing the sexual acts of others especially from a secret vantage point.

JG Ballard's stuff divides fairly neatly into three phases: 1) 1956-64 - At first he was writing actual science fiction, and he was really cranking it out. There are some beautiful ones in this early part, probably my favourites - "The Sound Sweep", "The Concentration City", "Billenium", "The Voices of Time". The stories here are so much better than anything I've read in The New Yorker in the past five years. Many are short enough to be read in fifteen minutes or less, so if you're a train/subway commuter with an e-reader, and can read on the way to work, they'll stick with you all day. All damn day. ...more. flag 10 likes Like see review.