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The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not just determine the end of World War II, it was the catalyst for a new ~~proposition~~ era of the identity of humanity. The product of this was a new approach ~~to~~ in literature, to enable the profound reflection of the new values in society and to communicate the deviation from traditional paradigms and values. It was the ability to cater for the fallen state of man that rendered literature of the time transcendentally relevant.

Society after the event of the atomic bomb was irrevocably altered. In a time of atomic paranoia, and ~~a~~ a fallen state of humanity, ~~the~~ new ~~for~~ channels of literature ~~were~~ arose, centering on the plight of the every man. ~~To~~ To be able to indicate to the

audiences of the Western world, authors developed the plight of the Everyman in defining and understanding his relevance in the foreign atomic age. The exposure of the economic, religious, scientific and philosophical paradigms as no longer able to cater for the state of man was crucial to rendering texts such as 'Hiroshima' by John Hersey, 'Catch 22' by Joseph Heller, the 1974 film 'Star Wars: A New Hope' and George Orwell's '1984' of pivotal relevance in this new atomic society.

A new age of consumerism arose from the society after the bomb. The destruction caused by Oppenheim's bomb signified the expendable nature of life and ~~exist~~ the economic paradigm mirrored this nihilistic quality of human thought. This is illustrated in Hersey's 'Hiroshima' through the documentary journalistic style, which infers in the last

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chapter the rapid expansion of the consumer industry. This is echoed in 'Catch 22' through the absurd characterization of Milo Minderbinder. This character is one of two constants in the novel and as such the narrative revolves around his rampant, ~~amoral~~^a amoral consumerism. This mirrors the state of society and exposes the economic paradigm as the new religion. This reaffirms to the reader how consumerism was a familiar constant ~~and~~ within the atomic era.

this new era of

The identity of consumerism is personified in 'A New Hope' through the character Han Solo. ~~This~~ The complete nihilism and hedonistic nature of the global trade market are encompassed in this character and for the duration of the film he is only concerned about himself. The reflection of consumerism in '1984' by George Orwell is, like all channels of society, through

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Start here. the Party. The facelessness of the 'Victory Gin' and 'Victory Cigarettes' are indicative of the new nature of the corporate world, as opposed to the small family run businesses of the Pre-war era. Orwell emphasize the disgust and inedible quality of these products which exposes how the war economy during WWII expanded into the atomic age. Products were more about profit than quality. This exposal of the new consumer age, as drawn from the dropping of the bomb, renders these texts eternally relevant.

Religion was obliterated by the dropping of the bomb. Since scientists had now achieved omniscient power a new lack of faith incurred. In 'Hiroshima' Hersey exploits language forms and features to create explicit biblical parallels with the plight of the six protagonists. The helplessness of ~~the~~ Reverend Tanimoto and

Father Kleinsorge in the first chapter 'A Noiseless Flash' ~~is~~ is indicative of the useless position religion holds ^{in the new age}. This is a key ^{theme} ~~understanding~~ in the novel and positions the audience to fully understand the nature of the new ways of thinking. The affirmation of this in Heller's 'Catch 22' is through the Chaplain, and Heller's application of third person. This allows the audience to identify with the Chaplain's struggle to determine the position of religion at Pianosa. The ~~is~~ comic suspicion the main authorities have with the chaplain due to his ~~the~~ position as an Anabaptist further emphasizes this.

Religion is seen to be of pivotal importance ~~is~~ ⁱⁿ the plight of the Everyman, 'Luke Skywalker', in 'Star Wars: A New Hope'. The Jedi 'Religion' is portrayed as being extinct and only when Luke

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has discovered "the Force" can he destroy the Death Star. This is directly drawn from the religious status in American society at the time of construction. The character of Darth Vader is seen as all powerful due to his absolute understanding of the Force, and he has absolute faith. The line "I find your lack of faith disturbing" as spoken by Vader becomes a metaphor for the religious state of the world. In Orwell's novel, religion is not present. It has been replaced by activity groups and participation in Party-driven societies. It is this prophetic nature of these four texts that is indicative of the post war society and ~~it~~ ~~shows~~ shows that the texts of the time were constructed in order to divulge the deprivation felt by humanity.

The most crucial paradigm discussed in After the bomb

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Literature is the philosophical paradigm. This is elucidated in the recurring question that is positioned to the audience in 'Catch 22', "what else is there?" There is no understanding of humanity's position in this new era which is epitomised by position of Miss Toshiko Sasaki in 'Hiroshima' at the time that the bomb hit. "For the first time in the atomic age, a human being was crushed by books." The weight of society is indicated by this quote, and also by the state of the robots in 'A New Hope'. Philosophy is seen as "mindless" when attributed to C3PO and it is this ~~prop-2000~~^{profound} reflection which exposes how texts respond to the unknown of the atomic era. Philosophy is again reshaped in Orwell's '1984' and the new identity is seen purely as a political tool.

Texts arise from the new ways of thinking of the atomic age by confirming that traditional paradigms are no longer useful.

The emphasis ~~of~~ ^{on} the degraded state of humanity is defined by the plight of the Everyman, or epic hero. Both 'Hiroshima' by John Hersey, and 'Catch 22' by Joseph Heller epitomise the way in which a text can earn significance by responding to the paradigms of society. This is reflected in both '1984' and 'Star Wars: A New Hope' to confirm that a text that enables the audience to understand the nature of thinking in a society will earn an enduring relevance.

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