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Reflection on Atwood and Castillo Poems

*They are hostile nations,* a poem written by Margret Atwood is grounded on the theme of historical background. It also explores the issues surrounding the Berlin Wall as well as the bifurcation of the West and East Berlin, which was initially shared by four nations. From the poem, it is evident that West Berlin was initially under the colonies of France, America, United Kingdom (Atwood). In contrast, East Berlin was governed by Russia. In the first stanza of the poem, Atwood speaks of the fading animals. As such, it symbolized the war as well as the armies that were at the forefront of destroying the many nations. Afterward, these animals vanished and faded only for the other aspects of dictatorship in conjunction with ideologies of individuals like Lenin of Russia. Lenin played a critical role in propagating the idea of a socialistic nation (Atwood). As such, it enabled the government to take good care of the citizens and strived to eradicate the aspect of the have and have not while at the same time upholding equality among people. In other words, I think Atwood makes a comparison of the fears generated by these particular ideologies to the overflowing of the sewers or drainage. Atwood used the concept of sea clogging the air nearing extinction in her quest to describe the world coming to an end following the massive smoke emanating from the bombs or cannons that were essentially used in destroying land, air, and water.

Atwood uses the phrase “we should be kind” in her poem to illustrate the nations that were to be kind to others while at the same time striving to incorporate forgiveness for the purpose of enhancing peace and harmony among nations. Atwood’s narrative has therefore influenced my perception of political matters. It is evident from Atwood’s poem that countries should never be hostile, especially to the people looking forward to leading a peaceful comfortable life. Atwood critically emphasizes the manner in which nations or countries enforce regulations and rules on the inhabitants of different parts of the nation belonging to them in the quest to hurt the ruling nations. For instance, the nation ruling the inhabitants of the bifurcated state enacts or rather imposes their ideas upon individuals longing for peace and harmony when the nations themselves are at peace. Atwood’s poem reveals that the fight for power implies the power politics exercised by the ruling nations, especially on the dependent states, to establish their rule in the land and overpower others. The poem has also identified the desperate decisions that citizens of a given country might make in response to the existing regime. For instance, nations closely watched and attempted to kill people, and from this perspective, the poet asserts that such people promised to surrender to the nation’s powers if they stopped discouraging and watching them.

In her poem “I Ask the Impossible,” Ana Castillo provides unique insights into the world characterized by overflowing with majesty and traditions. She strives to capture the very best as well as the very worst in terms of the fusion of American and Latin cultures (Castillo). I found myself strongly attracted to her unique style of writing. As much as it can be described as low-key, it is enthralling. Throughout this poem, she exhibits a voice that best resonates with the readers. She advocates for women’s rights such as serious consideration and flavor, thereby guiding readers to view the world from a whole different perspective. Even though the poem’s narration flashes the lives of specific people, it is relatable to all. Upon reading the poem, I am compelled to educate myself a little more on matters that pertain to the culture she so aptly describes.

Work cited

Atwood, Margaret. *They are Hostile Nations*

Castillo, Ana. *I Ask the Impossible: Poems*. Anchor, 2001.