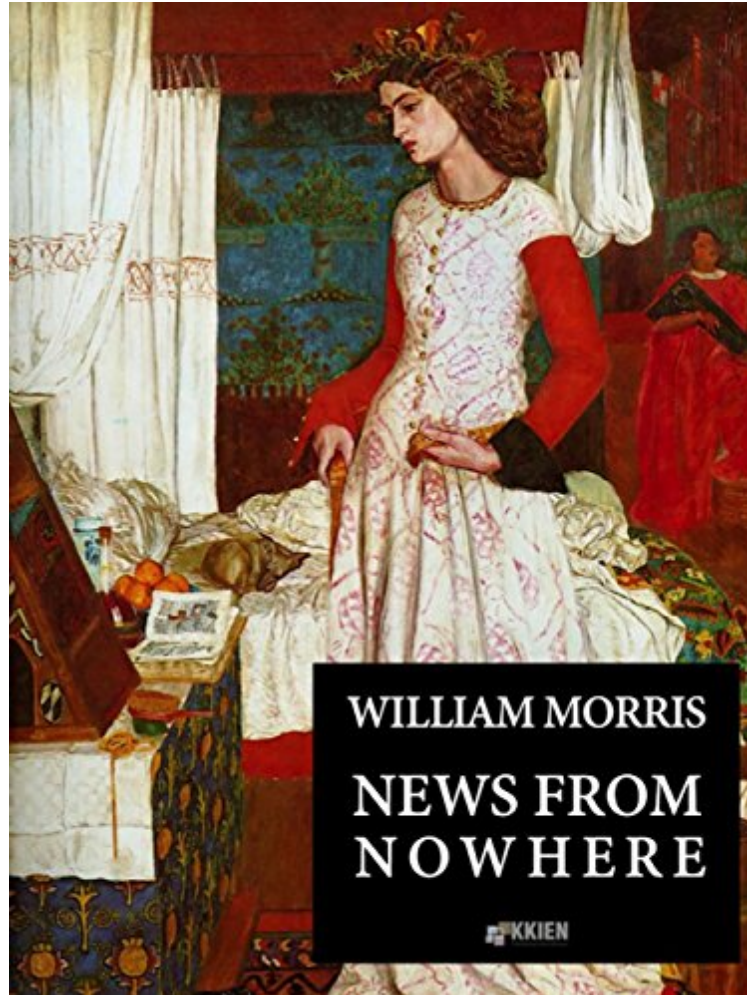


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## News from Nowhere (Maree)

*William Morris*

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**William Morris : News from Nowhere (Maree)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised News from Nowhere (Maree):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The more things change..By Eva KosinskiIf it weren't for the cadence and word choices, this could have been written today. Talking to folks who want to see corporate America and Wall Street disappear, those big on locally sourced food, downgrading the influence of technology, trying to reinspire and tesurrect the arts and artistry of craftsmanship, they definitely would appreciate this world view.As is often the case, however, capturing the dream is so much easier than making it happen in the real world. Morris at least acknowledged that in order for this new reality to emerge, civil disorder, economic deprivation and even civil war would be required. It is, however, a chilling reminder that asks the questions, "What would you sacrifice for change?" "What would the status quo actually do?" "How many people would die to get an ideal future?" William Morris wrote in the late 1800s but was primarily known for his stunning graphic designs, wallpapers and other artwork. Art and

living one's life in artistic and creative ways was clearly something he valued highly, and it shows. While the writing feels a bit stodgy in our era, it's a great story with a lot of concepts to ponder. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like most, it's heavy on the manifesto and light ...By John LockeAs utopian stories go, this one is at least tolerable. Like most, it's heavy on the manifesto and light on the story, but what is intriguing about reading these antique "prophecies" is seeing just how close or far they are from the reality of present times. Morris doesn't predict the rise of Donald Trump, but he certainly describes a scenario where such an anomaly could occur. As for the outcome of a Trump-inspired revolution compared to Morris's "nowhere," well, I think it's safe to say the similarity ends there. Of course, if anything could spawn a socialist revolution, four years of a Trump administration probably could. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun readBy Gentleman of the RoadCommunist and humanist foolishness with a bit of luddism thrown in, but a fun read. There is no plot in the strict sense. It's mainly the main character's journey up the Thames observing and learning about the communist future version of his country that he has found himself in, and a foreboding about waking up back in the "evil" capitalist era that he is from (which ultimately does happen). At least the author doesn't promote statism or even leaders, and instead portrays people in their natural state (when unhindered by "evil" notions of private property) as being good, independent, and eager to work. Here and there the writing style brings up nice imagery so overall the book is enjoyable.

William Morris was highly eclectic: novelist, thinker, artist, politician, trend-setter in various subjects such as architecture, design, graphic and interior design. In this novel, which tones are strongly utopian, Morris tells us about a time and a place transformed not so much by ideology - Morris is a tireless defender of the British socialism - but by the desire of men to regain some of the dignity lost with the advent of the industrial era: for example, for people to spend together better quality time; doing work that is driven by the real needs of the people and not by the logic of profit; educate young people according to principles that go back to the natural development of things; focusing on personal relationships oriented on social acceptance and sharing. Morris is also a firm believer in the recovery of manual labor and the ancient crafts. Not coincidentally he founded the company Arts and Crafts, still in business; its teachings are the basis of some recent Italian examples (Brunello Cucinelli identified Morris in reference to his School of Trades started in Solomeo). Rediscovering Morris and his *News from Nowhere* holds an important meaning: discovering an ideal of life close to the principles that were the cornerstones of the humanistics, reaffirming the value of man over things, taking care in the education of people through knowledge, following the example of the masters and expressing the love that sustains the beauty of "doing things".

As usual, Oxford publications are always of top quality. This edition is a thoroughly fine piece of scholarship, well-structured and presented. From the Back Cover Written in 1890, at the close of William Morris's most intense period of political activism, *News from Nowhere* is a compelling articulation of his mature views on art, work, community, family, and the nature and structure of the ideal society. A utopian narrative of a future society, it is also an immensely entertaining novel. This Broadview edition includes a wide variety of contextualizing documents, including portions of Morris's essays, lectures, and journalism; excerpts from precursor utopian texts; writings on Bloody Sunday, art, work, and revolution; and contemporary reviews. About the Author About the Author: "William Morris (March 24, 1834 - October 3, 1896) was an English artist, writer, and socialist. He was one of the principal founders of the British Arts and Crafts movement, a pioneer of the socialist movement in Britain, and a writer of poetry and fiction. He is perhaps best known as a designer of wallpaper and patterned fabrics. Born on his family's estate of Elm House in Walthamstow, he went to school at Marlborough College, but left in 1851 after a student rebellion there. He then went to Exeter College, Oxford after studying for his matriculation to the university. He became influenced by the work of art and social critic John Ruskin while there." (Quote from wikipedia.org)