

**The Effect of Social Status and Social Class in a World that Aims to  
Achieve Peace: Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* Series**

تأثير المكانة الاجتماعية والطبقة الاجتماعية في عالم يهدف الى تحقيق السلام: سلسلة  
قصص "ذا هانجر جايمز" لسوزان كولينز

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**Department of English Language and Literature**

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## Authorization

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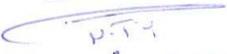
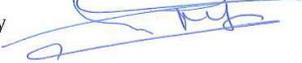
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## Thesis Committee Decision

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## **Dedication**

I dedicate this work to my dear husband and loving family; To my amazing husband, Obada Al-Gharib, who always stood by me and supported me through this journey. To my beloved father, Isam Suleiman, who always believed in me. To my inspirational mother, Diana Al-Quwaie, who taught me valuable and important lessons in life. To my darling younger sister, Shorooq, and my delightful younger brothers, Zaid and Abdelrahman, who showed me great love and joy. To my affectionate mother-in-law, Nadia Ateih, who was kind and caring. I thank you all very much for being there for me and encouraging me to complete this thesis.

## Table of Contents

Title.....	i
Authorization .....	ii
Thesis Committee Decision.....	iii
Acknowledgements .....	iv
Dedication.....	v
Table of Contents .....	vi
English Abstract.....	ix
Arabic Abstract.....	x

## Chapter One

1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.1.1 <i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collins.....	3
1.1.2 <i>The Hunger Games: Catching Fire</i> by Suzanne Collins.....	5
1.1.3 <i>The Hunger Games: Mockingjay</i> by Suzanne Collins.....	6
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	8
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	8
1.4 Questions of the Study.....	9
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	9
1.6 Limitations of the Study.....	10

1.7	Limits of the Study.....	10
1.8	Definition of Terms.....	10

## **Chapter Two**

2.0	Review of Literature.....	12
2.1	Introduction.....	12
2.2	Review of Theoretical Literature.....	12
2.3	Review of Empirical Literature.....	16

## **Chapter Three**

3.0	Methods and Procedures.....	20
3.1	Introduction.....	20
3.2	Methodology of the Study.....	20
3.3	Sample of the Study.....	20
3.4	Procedures of the Study.....	20

## **Chapter Four**

4.0	Discussion and Analysis .....	22
4.1	Marxist Approach to <i>The Hunger Games</i> .....	23
4.1.1	Political and Economic System .....	24
4.1.2	Relations in Communities .....	28

4.1.3	Social and Class Conflicts .....	36
4.2	Marxist Approach to <i>The Hunger Games: Catching Fire</i> .....	38
4.2.1	System Awareness .....	40
4.2.2	Reactions of Communities .....	41
4.2.3	The Limit to Exploitation .....	47
4.3	Marxist Approach to <i>The Hunger Games: Mockingjay</i> .....	49
4.3.1	A New System to be Carried .....	50
4.3.2	Reconstruction of Communities .....	52
4.3.3	Effects of War and the Road to Recovery .....	61
4.4	International Relations Theory related to <i>The Hunger Games</i> trilogy .....	62
4.5	The Ideology of <i>The Hunger Games</i> trilogy .....	64

## **Chapter Five**

5.0	Introduction .....	66
5.1	Conclusion .....	66
5.2	Recommendations .....	67
	References.....	69

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Peace: Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* Series**

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**Abstract**

This thesis aims to understand the effect of social status and social class in a world that aims to achieve peace. The trilogy of *The Hunger Games*, written by Suzanne Collins, helps create a better understanding of the oppression between classes and the reasons that prevent peace by analyzing and applying different theories that take place in the novels. The Marxist theory is one of the prominent theories that take place and through this theory, political, economic, and social problems are analyzed to show how several issues, including discrimination and class separation, can affect people and their mentality to make right decisions in their search for peace. The 'International Relations Theory' is also applied to make sense of the world's pursuit of peace by representing different theoretical perspectives. These theories include realism, liberalism, and constructivism. People were and are separated by different classes and statuses in society, but in the midst of it all, they seek some form of happiness. The novels of *The Hunger Games* clarify the connection between separation of people and the peace they pursue. In addition, the ideology of the author is included to present the main ideas and concepts that helped create an awareness through the entertainment of reading.

**Keywords: Marxism, Capitalism, Communism, Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism.**

# تأثير المكانة الاجتماعية والطبقة الاجتماعية في عالم يهدف الى تحقيق السلام: سلسلة "ذا هانجر جايمز" لسوزان كولينز

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## الملخص

تهدف هذه الرسالة الى فهم تأثير المكانة الاجتماعية والطبقة الاجتماعية في عالم يهدف الى تحقيق السلام. تساعد ثلاثية "ذا هانجر جايمز", التي كتبها سوزان كولينز, في تكوين فهم افضل للاضطهاد بين الطبقات والاسباب التي تمنع السلام من خلال تحليل وتطبيق نظريات مختلفة التي تحدث في الروايات. النظرية الماركسية هي إحدى النظريات البارزة ومن خلالها يتم تحليل المشاكل السياسية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية لظواهر اثر العديد من القضايا كالتمييز والفصل الطبقي على الناس وعقليتهم في إتخاذ قرارات صحيحة في حياتهم لإيجاد السلام. يتم ايضا تطبيق "نظرية العلاقات الدولية" لفهم سعي العالم لتحقيق السلام من خلال تمثيل وجهات نظر مختلفة. تشمل هذه النظريات النظرية الواقعية والليبرالية والبنائية. كان الناس وما زالوا منفصلين بين طبقات واطراف مختلفة في المجتمع ولكن في خضم ذلك, كل ما يبحثون عنه هو شكل من اشكال السعادة. توضح روايات "ذا هانجر جايمز" العلاقة بين الفصل بين الناس والسلام الذين يسعون اليه. بالإضافة الى ذلك, تم تضمين ايديولوجية المؤلف لتقديم الافكار والمفاهيم الرئيسية التي ساعدت في خلق الوعي من خلال ترفيه القراءة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الماركسية, الرأسمالية, الشيوعية, الواقعية, الليبرالية, البنائية

## Chapter One

### 1.0 Introduction

This study aims to demonstrate how the social class and social status of people can affect the world due to their desire of power and their negligence of the needy. World peace has been a goal to our world but a great population in the world has been showing greed and aiming for higher ranks in society. Throughout time, they have been ignoring and looking down on people of lower status. The trilogy of *The Hunger Games*, first published in 2008, reveals how power can be abused when separating two classes and deleting a third class. It shows how people seem to forget that the world is held together by the three classes and that the way to achieve peace is not through separation and discrimination, but rather through communication and understanding.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The social status and social class of a person are two different things. Social status is mainly about how greatly a person is valued, respected, and honored amongst groups of people, and organizations within society. The social class, however, is how people are divided into society based on their socioeconomic status. There are mainly three main classes. The first class, which is known as the highest class, is the upper class. It is known to hold people of the highest social status, the wealthiest members of society, and the most powerful of all. The second class, also known as the middle class, seems a bit vague. It holds people based on terms with their income, occupation, and/or social status. Basically, “it includes people who are not extremely rich to be part of the higher class but not extremely poor to be part of the lower class” (Jones, 1975). The third class is known as the lower class and/or working class. This class usually includes people with low income, low status, and no power. The classes exist together to help resolve several

political, economic, and social differences but since the great evolution of technology, people of high status seem to aim for world peace by forgetting that the road to peace and success is a journey rather than a fast machine and the way to get there is by the coexistence of mankind of all classes and statuses.

*The Hunger Games* is a trilogy, a series of three novels, that shows how a group of people struggle to survive within a nation that already believes that they are in state of happiness, satisfaction, and freedom. In the trilogy, it is noted that there are only two classes that exist, the upper class and the lower class. The author, Suzanne Collins, wanted to portray the negative things that are being disregarded by people by creating an illusion within the books where people believe that this is as good as it gets. The books show how unwilling candidates of the lower class must fight to the death in order to survive. It is not until a ray of hope sparks from the main character of the trilogy that leads them to believe that there may be more to life than being poor, unhappy, and disregarded. Throughout the trilogy, a journey occurs where these people defy their nation and overcome several obstacles. They try to unite people of the lower-class in order to defy the upper-class people and to try and achieve peace and freedom. We later see that a middle class appears and it helps unite the people of the other classes. The upper-class becomes noted for people who have fought through their way to achieve their dreams. The middle-class becomes noted for people who are still fighting to achieve their dreams and the lower-class becomes noted for people who have no desire to pursue what they may desire but they can still live in their own reality of peace and satisfaction. It isn't until the end that it is realized that to live in happiness and satisfaction is not by separation of people based on class or status, but by being prepared to pursue your dreams to achieve true peace and harmony.

### 1.1.1 *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

*The Hunger Games* is the first novel in the trilogy. It was first published in 2008. The novels are set in a world of realistic fiction in a dystopian society. Realistic fiction is a narrative form that creates imaginary characters and situations that depict what could happen in our world and society (Genre Definitions, 2008). Its main focus is about the evolution of mankind and confrontation of one's own personal and/or social problems that lead characters to understand themselves and others. "In realistic fiction, the characters are believable, the plot is fresh and original, and the problems are portrayed honestly by the characters" (Russel, 2009). A dystopian society is an imaginary society where people are unhappy and usually afraid because they are not treated fairly (Merriam-Webster, 1828). The events occur in a plausible setting and the theme is not given away by the writer but naturally grows throughout the action and characters. *The Hunger Games* contains all these qualities many readers enjoyed that lead Stephen King, an American author, to say that it was, "A novel of nearly constant suspense... I couldn't stop reading it." *The Hunger Games* trilogy mentions the review of Anthony Horowitz, an English novelist and screenwriter also said that it was, "One of the best written and most thought-provoking books I've read for a long time." *The Hunger Games* lead people to understand that there is more to life than wealth and power, but there is also love, friendship, and compassion.

The first novel centers around twelve districts in a nation. The twelve districts are poor, confined to their district, and considered operational by the Capitol. The Capitol is the city where the nation's wealthiest and most powerful citizens live. Each year, the capitol held a 'Hunger Game' for two unwilling candidates, between the ages of twelve and eighteen, of each district where they would fight to the death with only one victor surviving. The victor would be then awarded with wealth and luxury. The Games were held to remind the citizens of the districts that

they were basically failures and that the Capitol was better. They were also held for the entertainment of the Capitol where citizens would place bets on the winner. There was clearly a separation between the people of the same nation based on class. There was the Capitol, which was considered the upper-class, and there were the districts, which were considered of lower-class. The ironic thing about this separation was that the citizens of the districts believed that this was the only way that they could live in peace even though they were truly disturbed inside.

*The Hunger Games* novel begins when Katniss Everdeen, a citizen of district twelve in the nation of Panem and the main character of the novel, volunteers to be a candidate for the Games in order to save her sister, Primrose. The other candidate is Peeta, a baker's son, who once helped Katniss from starvation by tossing some bread to her. The novel slowly evolves as we learn that Peeta has feelings for Katniss while Katniss is unsure of her feelings. This creates a 'star-crossed lovers' promo throughout the nation, thus leaving several citizens feel sorrowful that one of them will have to die and that they can never truly be together. Throughout the Games, Katniss helps another young candidate that was meant to die and she and Peeta help each other survive until everyone else in the arena dies. That is when they come to the realization that one of them will have to kill the other so that a victor is announced. When they both refuse to kill each other, Katniss hands over some poisonous nightlock berries to Peeta and they both agree to eat them together, thus leaving no victor for that year's Hunger Games. When the Head Gamemaker realizes what they are about to do, he announces them both victors and they both get to return to their district as winners where they would be provided with wealth and luxury. This proved that the low-class people can change the rules and be treated better when they choose to take action.

This may seem as a happy ending for the two victors but the twist is that when Katniss handed over the berries, she seemed to defy the Capitol and the president of Panem. This first

novel of *The Hunger Games* depicts how people can desire to pursue what they feel they truly deserve. The citizens of the districts slowly begin to realize that they were never in peace and they may have been blinded by these Hunger Games leading to their own self-deprecation. The novel creates a dilemma for the characters thus leading the readers to read the second novel of the trilogy, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.

### **1.1.2 *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins**

The second novel of the trilogy, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, was published in 2009. The first novel of the trilogy expressed love, friendship, and oppression but the dilemma was meant to be solved in the second novel, *Catching Fire*. In the second novel, we notice how the upper-class people seem to believe that peace was already achieved when the lower-class people were suffering and working to provide for them. We begin to realize that maybe by the silence of the lower-class people, their oblivion of peace was inevitable but after hope sparked from Katniss, their acts of rebellion might be the way to happiness. This creates a theme of how maybe fighting and taking action may be their true way to achieve true peace.

After almost a year since Peeta and Katniss return to their districts as victors, the next Hunger Game is about to start. Katniss goes home and finds the president of Panem, Coriolanus Snow, in her house. He had come over to tell Katniss that after she defied the capitol by threatening to eat the nightlock berries, several citizens in the districts had considered it an act of defiance towards the Capitol, thus leading them to create riots and fight back. President Snow threatens Katniss to stop these rebels by declaring her true love for Peeta and to tell them that they should stop these uprisings or else he would kill the people who are dearest to her. She agrees to do so but even after her efforts, she does not seem to convince them to stop. When it is time for the candidates

to be chosen, the president decides that the candidates will be chosen from the victors themselves. This creates an awareness to Katniss that she will be returning to the arena where she will be fighting to survive. At that point of the story, it is very obvious that President Snow's main goal is to annihilate Katniss due to the fact that she was becoming the face of the rebellion.

After Katniss and Peeta go to the arena, they create an alliance with several of the victors. Some of the victors even die in order to save Peeta and Katniss from being killed which seems a bit confusing. At the end, we realize that there had been an alliance with the fallen district thirteen and with the new Head Gamemaker in order to help start a rebellion towards the Capitol with Katniss being its leader. Katniss and several other victors are saved from the Games but Peeta is stolen by the Capitol. The book ends creating more suspense of what the Capitol intends to do with Peeta, and whether Katniss will accept to be the new face of the rebellion.

### **1.1.3 *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins**

The final novel of the trilogy, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay*, was published in 2010. It is meant to solve the dilemmas that lie upon the characters through the suspense of reading. It shows how the radical actions of the Capitol led the lower-class people to a certain rebellion against the upper-class people. It shows how peer pressure and oppression can push people to their limits and how they are supposed to act during these times in order to find a resolution and live in peace. As Katniss Everdeen says in this novel, "If we burn, you burn with us" (Collins, 2010, pg. 111) These words are the words that Katniss said when she was pushed to her limits. They symbolized the hope and change that the districts were desperately in need of.

When Katniss realizes that Peeta has been kidnapped by the Capitol, she agrees to become the face of the rebellion. She agrees to help unite the districts in overcoming the unjust and

discriminatory rule of the Capitol. After the rebellion began, the rebels have been living underground in the fallen district thirteen in order to protect themselves from sudden attacks. While underground, the president of the rebellion, Alma Coin, takes lead as they construct plans in order to attack. At a point in the story, Katniss and a group of other fighters go to the Capitol to President Snow's mansion in order to kill him and abolish his ruling. They find several rebels attacking the upper-class people and the upper-class people run frantically. Small parachutes symbolizing hope and carrying a symbol of the Capitol then descend upon the upper-class people. The parachutes turn out to be bombs and they explode all over, thus killing Primrose, Katniss's sister. This creates a rage within Katniss and she vows to kill President Snow since she believes that he is the one who sent the parachutes.

After the rebels takeover the Capitol, President Snow is arrested while the citizens of the Capitol and the districts are ignorant of how to adjust to life. When Katniss goes to visit President Snow, he swears that he didn't send those parachutes and that the true sender was President Coin. Katniss becomes confused as to why President Coin would send these parachutes. He answers by saying that President Coin wanted to turn the citizens of the Capitol against President Snow himself by creating the belief that he would bomb them in order to save himself. This leads Katniss to investigate about where these parachutes came from and she discovers that President Snow was telling her the truth. After a while, President Coin is declared as the new president of Panem and President Coin decides to create new Hunger Games but this time, the competitors would be of the previous citizens of the Capitol of Panem. Katniss realizes that President Coin intended to keep the status quo rather than create peace between the people.

On the day of President Snow's execution, Katniss shoots an arrow at President Coin rather than President Snow, thus killing her. After citizens of Panem watch, they attack President Snow

and kill him as he stands. At the end, a new and fair president is voted, President Paylor. President Paylor decides to end all Hunger Games and help all citizens of Panem to adjust to new life together in a peaceful way where people have to earn their status and position in society. Eventually, Katniss and Peeta live happily together in the former district twelve while peace spreads amongst the nation. People are no longer separated by class and the status of a person is earned rather than put down on a person.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The thesis aims at creating an awareness about separation in society. Throughout the series of *The Hunger Games*, the events and misfortunes are linked together and placed upon the characters in order to realize that life is not always fair. The inequality and discrimination placed amongst the people based on their social class is seen. The social status is usually overlooked since the citizens were ignorant that they can rise, even through their setbacks and mishaps. The study shows how separation can affect people negatively and how the co-existence of mankind is not through separation but through unison. Through the violence, inequality, power, peace, and freedom that are expressed in several ways throughout the novels, this trilogy helps show how life is not a burden that is set upon people, but rather a privilege that people choose to shape. They state the importance of communication, acceptance, and independence within a society to lead us to peace.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The main objectives of the study are to advocate these goals through the novels by:

- 1:** Induce an awareness towards the problems of separation, discrimination, and inequality, that prevent world peace.

**2:** Encourage people to make more rational decisions by allowing them to understand the obstacles that prevent the goal of peace.

**3:** Become more capable of communication with other people in order to deliver and spread the message of peace.

## **1.4 Questions of the Study**

To achieve the objectives of this study, the following questions are meant to be answered:

**1:** Why are second class people usually overlooked?

**2:** What is the reason behind separation, inequality, and war?

**3:** What is required from the people to achieve true peace?

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Worldwide peace is a goal that people of power declare they desire to achieve; however, to achieve that goal, there are factors that are meant to be considered. The concept of happiness, freedom, and peace is not something that can be easily achieved without struggle. The trilogy of *The Hunger Games* helps show that there is no shame in making mistakes throughout the journey of life because it is these mistakes that help people learn and rise. As Nicholas Sparks (1999), an American novelist, screenwriter, and philanthropist, once said, “Without suffering, there would be no compassion.” This quote expresses how compassion, a positive feeling of love or concern for others, can only be achieved when others suffer. Similarly, world peace can only be achieved when others struggle. It shows how it is not wrong to be ignorant, angry, or pessimistic because without these faults, there would never be education, repentance, or consciousness. With perfection, there would never be anything left for us to live for. This reassures people that imperfection is a privilege

rather than a burden to carry, thus encouraging people to rise and aim to achieve what they desire. It shows how people can never be placed into a social class or status based on what is expected of them to be. It is the people themselves that fight through these obstacles to become what they choose to be.

## 1.6 Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to the main themes that lie behind the trilogy of *The Hunger Games*. Several themes are included within the novels, therefore the findings cannot be generalized since all people have their own perspectives to perceive the novels.

## 1.7 Limits of the Study

This study will be conducted in Amman during the academic year of 2020/2021

## 1.8 Definition of Terms

**Dystopian:** being an imagined world or society in which people lead dehumanized, fearful lives.

**Marxism:** The belief that the struggle between social classes is a major force in history and that there should eventually be a society where there are no classes. (Merriam-Webster, 1828)

**Capitalism:** a way of organizing an economy so that the things that are used to make and transport products (such as land, oil, factories, ships, etc.) are owned by specific individual people and companies rather than by the government. (Merriam-Webster, 1828)

**Socialism:** a way of organizing a society in which major industries are owned and controlled by the government rather than by individual people and companies.

**Communism:** A way of organizing a society in which the government owns the things that are used to make and transport products (such as land, oil, factories, ships, etc.) and there is no privately owned property. (Merriam-Webster, 1828)

## Chapter Two

### 2.0 Review of Literature

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter of Review of Literature is set to include the theoretical and empirical reviews of literature by using the current knowledge of status, class, and peace. The trilogy of *The Hunger Games* deals with the issues related to the selected topics and many parts of the novels will be explored. The review of theoretical literature helps establish the existing theories and the relationships between them in order to broaden the mind into developing new theories. Then, the review of empirical literature will include previous studies related to the current topics in order to help answer particular questions that may stand out.

#### 2.2 Review of Theoretical Literature

The issue of world peace has been a global goal for a very long time and throughout the process of achieving this goal, other problems have come in the way. Educational, environmental, healthcare, and political problems have been expressed by several activists in order to try and publicize their opinions in several different ways. One of these ways includes protesting against an opinion or ruling which could be done in a peaceful manner and/or violent manner. Writing is another way of sharing an idea or opinion in an entertaining and somehow encouraging manner that would allow a person to think beyond the limits. Suzanne Collins expressed her opinions in several different subjects within *The Hunger Games* trilogy. This led other people to explore different aspects of life and separation, some of which may agree and/or disagree with her.

In an interview, Suzanne Collins was asked by David Levithan (2018) about what led her to write this trilogy. She simply said, "I'd examined the idea of an unjust war developing into a just war because of greed, xenophobia and longstanding hatreds. I wanted a completely new world and a different angle into the just-war debate." Her answer was very straight-forward and many readers were tempted to understand her perspective. When asked what she meant by just-war, she replied, "Just-war theory has evolved over thousands of years in an attempt to define what circumstances give you the moral right to wage war and what is acceptable behavior within that war and its aftermath. The why and the how. It helps differentiate between what's considered a necessary and an unnecessary war." Her answers in the interview raised the question of whether war was necessary for world peace. War is probably not necessary for world peace but in the novels, it was imperative that the lower-class people fight back especially since the Capitol refused to listen to them. Humans can experience all kinds of emotions and feelings, and sometimes they become blinded by them and act in unjustified ways.

Since the novels encouraged the idea of justice, war, and peace, several readers had different opinions. When the first book was published, Stephen King (2008) said that, "The Hunger Games is a violent, jarring, speed-rap of a novel." It was obvious that violence was a main asset in the series but the evolution of the violence to peace created more complexity into how to perceive the ideas that influenced Suzanne Collins; especially since people were separated based on status and class.

Throughout the years, people were encouraged to think about ways that would help globalize and spread world peace thus leading to the 'International Relations Theory'. The 'International Relations Theory' is a study of international relations from a theoretical perspective. It helps provide a representation of a system where international relations can be analyzed through

several theories. The most prominent theories within the system include realism, liberalism, constructivism, and Marxism.

Hans Morgenthau is one of the founding fathers of realism that emerged during the mid-twentieth century. He helped create realism due to the fact that he placed selfishness and the lust of power as a main factor in human existence. In the theory of realism, an outlook on the competitive and conflictual side of international relations is taken. The main concepts within realist theory are anarchy, balance of power, and national interest. For realists, their main aim is the survival of a state, thus explaining why states act upon the ethics of responsibility rather than the moral principle.

Liberalism began to develop with works of philosophers and thinkers such as John Locke, Adam Smith, Immanuel Kant, and Voltaire. It began to develop in the seventeenth century and slowly evolved. Liberalism is a political and moral philosophy that is based on liberty, equality before the law, and consent of the governed. Modern liberalism issues include women's rights, civil rights, and environmental protection. Liberals believe that with the proper institutions and diplomacy, the states could work together in order to maximize prosperity and minimize conflict.

The theory of constructivism is known to have been developed by John Dewey in the twentieth century. It is a theory that says that learners construct knowledge rather than just take in information. It seeks to demonstrate how international relations are created by processes of social practice and interaction. "Constructivists believe that the interpretation of a research is more important than the explanation of its content in order to build new knowledge" (Sonda, 2015).

Karl Marx and Max Weber, two German theorists, had great influence in theories of social class and peace. Karl Marx (1848) defined social class as "a (social) relationship rather than a

position or rank in society”, and that “the structure and basis of a social class may be defined in objective terms, as groups with a common position with respect to property or the means of production.” To Marx, classes are structured based on work and labor, possession of property, and means of production. In *The Hunger Games*, we notice how the districts were considered of low class since they went through a great deal of work and labor, had low or no possessions, and their means of production were meant for the Capitol rather than themselves. It is very similar to Marx’s definition and theory of social class. Marx’s theories led to the development of Marxism, a social and political theory. Marxism examines the effect that capitalism of labor, productivity, and economic development has. Brock (2021) examines how the struggle between social classes define the economic relations in a capitalist economy that will lead to revolutionary communism.

On the other hand, Max Weber’s analysis on social class is very similar to Marx’s but his definition of social class is more related to the context of social stratification. Social stratification refers to a society’s categorization of people based on socioeconomic factors as wealth, education, race, status, or power. Weber believed that wealth, prestige, and power reflected the interplay towards social stratification and that they can take several forms. To him, class is one part of social structure whereas social status or “social honor” is a different part.

Both social class and social status have a great effect upon world peace but what is peace? Peace is usually defined as “a state of tranquility or quiet” (Merriam-Webster, 1828) From this definition, we can understand that peace lacks any kind of conflict but throughout time, peace has evolved into categories of ‘negative peace’ and ‘positive peace’. Galtung (2013) said that “Any concept of peace includes the absence of direct violence between states, engaged in by military and others in general, and of massive killing of categories of humans in particular. But peace would be a strange concept if it does not include relations between genders, races, classes and

families.” In his mini theory of peace, peace is considered to be a relation between two or more parties. To him, there exists ‘negative peace’ which is “the absence of violence” and ‘positive peace’ which is “positive content such as restoration of relationships, the creation of social systems that serve the needs of the whole population and the constructive resolution of conflict.” It is understood that ‘negative peace’ is shown to be bad for a person but good for the other. ‘Positive peace’ is shown to be good for one and for the other. A third category known as ‘indifferent peace’ is shown to be a non-relation where there is no care for the other. *The Hunger Games* novels show characters aiming for a peace that can result in sacrifice of people but eventually lead to their freedom and welfare. This creates a ‘negative peace’ that can slowly evolve to positive peace.

Theories of peace have come to clarify our understanding of how nations interact, what causes war, and their motivations to establish peace. Causes and can reach a state where, as Thucydides, an Athenian historian and General, stated in 431 BC that peace is not “an armistice in war” (Seldes, 1985). These words can mean many things but Justin Steinberg (2001), connects them to what Baruch Spinoza stated in 1670 when he said “Peace is not absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.” This meaning that in the pursuit of peace, obstacles will always be there. Theorists have marked several obstacles such as the mentality of people, their nature, confidence, and conditions, and literature helped shed light on them but in some cases, the pre-occupation with the matter of peace has led towards more hostile affairs amongst nations and people.

### **2.3 Review of Empirical Literature**

In all the social groups that people belong to, humans are usually set to a social class in order to achieve a social status, but throughout the way, there is a social role. Society and people

expect us to play a social role as members of a social group. Many philosophers and thinkers have differed on the idea of who is accredited on having an active social role. Most upper-class people are not considered to have an active social role especially since they are believed to own power and money and spend their wealth for their own pleasure. This, however, is not true for all upper-class people. John W. Gardner (1990) stated that “the individual’s social role has come to be determined not by who he is but by what he can accomplish.” Also, Bill Gates used his wealth to donate to charities and to help deprived people. Bill Gates once said, “Don’t compare yourself with anyone in the world. If you do so, you are insulting yourself” and “If you are born poor it’s not your mistake, but if you die poor, it’s your mistake” (Wilson, 2014). These two quotes are understood that when people spend their time comparing themselves with the wealth or status of other, they insult themselves by never fulfilling their potential of rising. All people are born different but without their insistence and pursuit of achieving their goals, they have only themselves to blame. In *The Hunger Games*, we notice how these quotes are all applicable since each character was able to fulfill the goal of peace and achieve freedom from the chains of society. Each character ended up in a different living state but they reached as far as their potentials could.

Bourdieu says that social class must not be defined by any particular property but rather by “the structure of relations between all the pertinent properties” (Riley, 2017). However, he does not explain which “structures of relations” produce which classes. Bourdieu's conceptualization is grounded in theories of symbolic power and social reproduction. His work focuses on limiting factors and unequal access to institutional resources based on class, gender, and race. In *The Hunger Games* novels, It is noticed how the lower-class citizens were treated differently and were much deprived of access to the institutional resources. They were treated unequally though they were the main benefactors of all the resources that were used by the Capitol and by them.

Throughout generations, people's social class or social status may change depending on a person's social role. A lower-class person may rise to become a person of very high social status and part of the higher-class community. Similarly, a higher-class person may stop to care of his/her fortunes that may lead their social status to worsen and cease to become a part of the higher-class community. It is stated that, "Social roles dominate people's lives, and people largely perceive themselves and each other in terms of their roles" and "The value people attribute to various social roles tends to decisively shape their behavior toward persons whom they see in valued or devalued roles" (Wolfensberger, 2013, p105). What is understood is that people usually perceive themselves according to the role they are set to take. For example, a mechanic's son may be expected to follow upon the trail of his father and become a mechanic, but if the son is encouraged by other inspiring or successful people, he may change his fate and set a different role and direction for himself.

The way societies perceive people may affect their psychology, motivation, and goals. The world supposedly encourages people to live in their own peace by being willing to fight and pursue what they desire but people are also being pressured by the world to do nothing and accept the status quo. Herbert Spencer (1863) created the phrase, "Survival of the fittest", which was originated from Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection to mean that "Survival of the form that will leave the most copies of itself in successive generations." The phrase has come to evolve to mean that people who are willing to fight and pursue their goals will be the ones who can survive in this world.

According to Johan Galtung (2013), "By providing an image of harmony and interests, the term peace may also help bring about such a harmony" and that "it provides opponents with a one-word language in which to express values of concern and togetherness because peace is on anybody's agenda." From what he said, it is noticed that peace can be understood by several

different perspectives but it is the main idea that encourages people to at least try and pursue world peace by first achieving their own true-peace.

To achieve the peace that people aim for, several factors must be put into consideration such as political factors, psychological factors, factors of social inequality, and many others. This leads many people into believing that peace may just be too hard to be achieved leading them to live in violence, war, discrimination, and anger. It becomes forgotten that all they aim for is not something that can be achieved easily, but rather through many processes and steps that require an effort from people.

It is known by people that for one person to achieve his/her own peace or happiness, they must be willing to cross the distance and work for it. But no matter how much people do pursue their goal, the main goal of the world to achieve world peace is never accomplished. Anna Cleary (2018) said "Peace cannot exist without war, just as death is a meaningless concept without life." Her words do provoke a person to think about the peace that is being pursued. Maybe war is not such a bad thing because it creates the way towards peace. World peace may be a hard goal to achieve but true or inner peace is not. As George Herbert (1640) said, "Where there's a will, there's a way." This means that desire and determination can help accomplish our goals.

## Chapter Three

### 3.0 Methods and Procedure

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter contains a brief description of the methodology used and the novels within the trilogy of *The Hunger Games*. It ends with a demonstration of the procedures that were applied in order to achieve its purpose.

#### 3.2 Methodology of the study

This study uses the descriptive-analytic methodology in order to investigate the contents within the novels that are related to the selected issues of social class, social status, and world peace. The three novels are examined in two basic steps. First, the plot and theme of each novel are introduced. Second, the relationship between the novels and the selected issues is examined. The techniques help highlight the ideologies and analyze the behavior of the characters and the settings within the novels. The Marxism theory is mainly used and the ‘International Relations Theory’ is included in the study.

#### 3.3 Sample of the Study

The sample of the study consists of the three novels written by Suzanne Collins in *The Hunger Games* trilogy: *The Hunger Games*, *Catching fire*, and *Mockingjay*.

#### 3.4 Procedures of the Study

The study is conducted through the following procedures:

- 1: Reading all three novels within the trilogy and locating main items related to issues.

- 2: Reading previous and current studies related to main topics of the study.
- 3: Collecting interpretations and analysis of the study.
- 4: Identifying the objectives and questions of the study.
- 5: Reviewing the related theoretical and empirical literature studies.
- 6: Presenting conclusions and recommendations.
- 7: Listing references according to APA style.

## Chapter Four

### 4.0 Discussion and Analysis

In this chapter, each novel from the trilogy will be examined according to the Marxist approach, including the capitalist point of view in relation to communism and socialism. The Marxist theory begins with capitalism and it slowly evolves. They will be discussed and analyzed in order to understand the political, economic, and social issues that affect the world and its goal to achieve peace. *The Hunger Games* trilogy shows how an entire nation came to rise from deprivation to unison, therefore each novel will be analyzed to show the courses of action and the characters that develop in a way very similar to the Marxist theory that was developed by Karl Marx. The first analysis is about the main issues of Marxism existing within the first novel and how each issue came to awareness to the citizens of Panem. The issues include the political system, the economic problems, and the social and class conflicts that existed and affected the nation of Panem. The second analysis is about the actions they were forced to take in the second novel in order to create a just society. It explains the conflicts within the characters, their need to be powerful, and the limits that pushed the citizens to take action. The third analysis is about the resolution that takes place in the third novel between the upper-class and lower-class people and the changes and sacrifices they were forced to make in order to live in peace. It is about the revolution that took place, the effects and the impact it had on the people, and their way of adapting to a new life. The last section helps understand their journey and it uncovers the ideology in each novel in the trilogy and in the trilogy as a whole. In conclusion, the Marxist theory relates the actions within the novel to Marxism itself and to several parts of the 'International Relations Theory', thus presenting the truth behind the effect of social status and social class in a world that aims to achieve peace.

## 4.1 Marxist Approach to *The Hunger Games*

The first novel in *The Hunger Games* creates an awareness about the difference of status between the citizens of the lower-class people and the upper-class people. It shows how the people from the Capitol are treated very differently from the people that live in the districts. In the novels, capitalism is represented in many ways. The capitalist society is made of only two classes. The first class consists of the bourgeoisie who control the means of production: they are considered the upper-class people. The second class consists of the proletariat who are the workers: they are considered the lower-class people. Marxism examines how capitalism affects labor, productivity, and the development of society from a political, economic, and social manner. It shows how the struggle between both classes would inevitably lead to revolution in which the lower-class people would rebel against the upper-class people in order to seize control of the means of production and eventually abolish capitalism. According to Henri Chambre (2020), instead of making abstract information about problems such as human nature, knowledge, and matter, Marx examined each problem in its vital relation to the others and tried to relate them with historical, social, political, and economic realities. Marx predicted that capitalism would be replaced by socialism and then communism, and as a final stage in human development, social classes and class struggle would no longer exist. In *The Hunger Games*, we notice how parts of this theory take place when the districts realize they do not have to be degraded by the capitol. Katniss provided them with hope when she pulled out the berries, thus turning the Capitol's weapon back on itself and making them look weak. The districts then realized that the Capitol needed them for supplies and resources and if they worked together, they could create a better environment and living state for themselves and resolve any unresolved matters with the other party to at least have a chance to obtain true freedom and happiness.

### 4.1.1 Political and Economic System

The nation of Panem is a totalitarian society and police state that controls the citizens using police force or military. As a totalitarian society, the government is centralized and dictatorial where complete obedience to the state is required. In *The Hunger Games*, the supreme power of the Capitol over all districts is the prominent factor of Marxism. The Marxist theory first formulated in the 1848 pamphlet called, “The Communist Manifesto”, by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It lays out the theory of class struggle and revolution.

Capitalism, socialism, and communism all have an impact on Marxism. According to Karl Marx (1848), the Capitalist system contained the seeds of its own destruction. Since the capitalist society is divided into two groups, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat (the employer and the employee), it is clear that there is a distinction between two classes. According to him, the alienation and the exploitation of the proletariat would inevitably lead the working class to rebel and seize control over the bourgeoisie. Enlightened leaders of the proletariat would lead the revolution by understanding the class structure of society, thus leading them to unite the working class by raising awareness and class consciousness. According to the prediction of Karl Marx (1848), the result of revolution would cause private ownership of means of production to be replaced by collective ownership. After capitalism, it would go through socialism and then under communism to reach the final stage.

Socialism is a transitional social state that would help in the overthrow of capitalism and create realization of communism. It arises after capitalism where it suggests that extreme economic and social changes would be caused by the working class. As the inequality would grow between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, socialist thinkers would present models for reorganizing society along the line of cooperation and community. Socialism is a system where the people would live

in a democratically elected government. The citizens would be given an equal share of the four factors of economic production. These factors include labor, entrepreneurship, capital goods, and resources. According to Robert Marshall (2012), “Socialism is based on the assumption that all people want to cooperate but are unable of doing so due to the competitive nature of capitalism”. Therefore, the government employs centralized planning to distribute resources based on individual needs and society as a whole. Economic output would be distributed according to the ability of individuals and their level of contribution.

Communism, which is supposed to come after socialism, supports a classless system where all property, resources, and wealth are owned communally by a class-free society rather than privately. It is an ideology and movement with the goal of establishing a communist society structured upon ideas of common ownership of the means of production without the existence of social classes, money, and the state. According to Karl Marx (1848), it results in a society where all people are equal and there is no need for money or accumulation of individual wealth. In simpler terms, a communist society would try to eliminate anything that might create class envy. Therefore, there would be no private ownership of economic resources with a central government controlling all facets of production. Economic output would be distributed according to the needs of people. The central government provides basic necessities such as food, housing, education, and medical care. Clothing would be dreary and uniformed and most cars would be similar. Even the employees’ salaries, regardless of the job they performed, were regulated so that each person would earn almost the same amount of money. The eventual goal of this ‘classless society’ would have no currency and the food, clothing, and shelter would be provided by the government to citizens in equal amounts. In communism, there would be no private ownership of any property since everything would belong to the national government. All workers would be employed by the

government that owns all means of producing goods and services. This allows the government to control the distribution of the products. In reality, a pure communist state has never existed.

Socialism and communism may cause confusion among people since they are both very similar. They both grew out of the opposition of unfair treatment of workers by wealthy businesses. Also, they both assume all goods, and services would be produced by the government thus making the government responsible for all aspects of economic planning. However, they differ in many aspects. First, socialism is based on the premise that people will be compensated and rewarded based on their level of contribution, effort, and innovation. On the other hand, communism compensates people based on what the government considers are their needs. Second, in socialism, people can own property and industrial production as long as it is managed by a democratically elected government. However, in communism, there is no such thing as private property and everything is communally owned and controlled by the government. Third, socialism seeks change through democratic processes within the existing social and political structure but in communism, the leaders are elected by the government itself. The strongest criticism of the communist philosophy is that it removes the motivation for people to work harder. Dan Zimmerman (2020) stated that “It also leads to resentment amongst people who work less hard but receive the same”. Though it may seem great in theory, but it has been proven to be disastrous in practice.

The politics and economics of the nation of Panem in *The Hunger Games* contains some elements of all three societies. Panem is a nuclear state and a democratic constitutional republic that was formed after a series of ecological disasters and a global conflict that almost brought the collapse of modern civilization. Its central government operated everything in the nation. The nation of Panem consists of the Capitol which is surrounded by twelve numbered districts. Each district specializes in and provides different and significant resources to the Capitol and in

exchange, the Capitol provides protection by the Capitol's army of 'Peacekeepers', soldiers that are supposed to preserve the supposed peace. There were thirteen districts but the thirteenth district was supposedly destroyed before the beginning of the series due to a civil war against the Capitol. Before the Hunger Games existed, district thirteen specialized in nuclear weaponry but after an uprising they had against the Capitol, the government put down the rebellion and claimed to have destroyed the district and its residents. After the supposed destruction of district thirteen, they created the Hunger Games in order to punish rebellious districts and discourage future rebellion. The Hunger Games lasted seventy-four years, and every year, each district had to provide one male and one female tribute between the ages of twelve and eleven. The twenty-four tributes would then fight to death with one victor remaining. The districts endured a great time of constant oppression and humiliation by the Capitol throughout the occurrence of the Hunger Games. These Games were mainly created to spread fear amongst the citizens of the districts and to remind them that no matter how hard they tried, they could never destroy the Capitol. Citizens of the Capitol could not be chosen to compete in the Hunger Games. Even though they personally affected the citizens of the districts, the Capitol citizens would only watch for entertainment.

The government that resided in the Capitol had control of resources, materials, and economic planning. The districts surrounded the Capitol and provided them with everything and received little in return. In capitalism, it is known that the bourgeoisie, also known as the upper-class people, live without struggle. The Capitol symbolizes the bourgeoisie. The proletariat, also known as the lower-class people, live their life in struggle to survive. The districts symbolize the proletariat. In the novels, there is a big difference in the way they treat the Capitol and the districts. The Capitol is very respected and wealthy. They are spoiled to a point where they are shallow, have an outrageous sense of style, and have a strange accent. Dodai, Stewart (2012) noted that

some of the Capitol citizens even had gems implanted in their skin. The citizens of the Capitol also seem to remiss the value and source of all their resources. They sometimes drink liquids to vomit so that they can eat more. The districts, however, are the providers of the resources. They work hard, struggle, and go to extreme labor to provide most of these resources for the Capitol and receive little in return. In *The Hunger Games*, the districts receive everything from the Capitol. Though they are free to own businesses and dress as they like, they never seem to do so due to fear of the Capitol. Their clothes are almost always ragged and they do business in the black market, also known as the hob.

Capitalism is clearly being applied since it separates the citizens into the two classes. They give the Capitol supplies and resources that they did not earn while they limit the resources in the districts. Based on Marxism, Thomas Brock (2021) says, “Ultimately, the inherent inequalities and exploitative economic relations between these two classes will lead to a revolution in which the working-class rebels against the bourgeoisie, seizes control of the means of production, and abolishes capitalism”. That is a part of what happened in the trilogy.

#### **4.1.2 Relations in Communities**

In the beginning of *The Hunger Games*, Katniss Everdeen wakes up and she goes out to hunt with her friend, Gale. As a member of the districts and the low-class community, she is forced to hunt for food sometimes. They go to the meadow by crossing barbed wires that are supposed to be electrified twenty-four hours a day, but since they’re lucky if they get two or three hours of electricity in the evening, it’s safe to cross. Katniss lives with her mom and sister and since the death of her father, she provides most of the supplies. She hunts food for them, she trades in the black market, and she takes care of the family. She never had an easy life but she was used to it and it didn’t bother her much. Some citizens of district twelve live homeless in the black cinder

streets and struggle even more to save their lives, but no one seems to complain, thus showing tolerance.

The day that Katniss goes to hunt happens to be the day of the reaping, the day they choose two young tributes to go fight in the Hunger Games. As the citizens of the districts live years without complaining, it is that day that usually terrifies them the most, especially because any two of the children between ages twelve and eighteen can be chosen to fight in these horrid games. Since Katniss is the main caretaker of her family, she sometimes signs up for tesserae, which is worth one year's supply of food and grain for one person in exchange for that person's name to be added in the reaping ball. As a sixteen-year-old, her name would be in the reaping ball more times than her twelve-year-old sister, Primrose, who only has her name there once. Katniss never feared that any of their names would be picked, especially since there were other thousands of names in the bowl. Unfortunately, the odds were not on her favor that day. Out of thousands of slips in that bowl, her sister was the one that was picked. To quote Katniss Everdeen:

One time, when I was in a hide in a tree, waiting motionless for game to pass by, I dozed off and fell three metres to the ground, landing on my back. It was as if the impact had knocked every wisp of air from my lungs, and I lay there, struggling to inhale, to exhale, to do anything. That's how I feel now, trying to remember how to breathe, unable to speak, totally stunned as the name bounces around the inside of my skull. Someone is gripping my arm, a boy from the Seam, and I think maybe I started to fall and he caught me. (Collins, 2008, pg. 25)

It was the moment that her innocent little sister's name got pulled out that affected Katniss the most. She felt the pain that other families felt when their relatives would be chosen to fight in the Games. Even though she lived as a natural citizen of district twelve, it wasn't enough. Her world changed that day and a rush of feelings spread into Katniss that led her to volunteer and protect her beloved sister. Throughout her life in the Capitol, Katniss was the one who struggled and gained strength to hunt for her family. She felt more qualified to be a tribute than Prim, whose sweet and innocent personality would be sure to kill her. The moment that she volunteered, the whole nation was surprised. Even when she walked toward the stage and her little sister cried behind her, Katniss tried to control her emotions and stay steady. The injustice portrayed towards the lower-class people increases. She knew that she wasn't supposed to appear weak, fragile, or overly emotional or else she would be viewed as an easy target. District twelve was considered a dull and weak district and no one ever paid attention to it, until Katniss became the first volunteer. She was praised and respected for her action to protect Prim. The citizens of her district touched the three middle fingers of their left hand to their lips and held it out to her, a sign and gesture of admiration. Julie Clawson (2012) reflects upon the fact that Katniss's self-sacrifice makes her unusual among the other tributes in the Hunger Games since she prioritizes her sister over herself. After Katniss volunteers, the baker's son, Peeta Mellark, was chosen as the second tribute of district twelve. However, people paid more attention to Katniss rather than Peeta. This event sets the rest of the plot in motion.

After the reaping, Peeta was emotional unlike Katniss who tried to stay calm. Weirdly enough, at the time of visits, Katniss not only received a visit from her family. She received a visit from Peeta's father, who gave her cookies and promised to take care of Prim. The visit was silent and strange, especially since it would be his son that she would be battling. Another visit was from

Madge, the mayor's daughter. Madge gave her the golden pin with an image of a mockingjay and asked Katniss to wear it in the games. A mockingjay was a mutation of a bird that was created by the mating of mocking birds and the fictional jabberjays. It was that mockingjay pin that made Katniss stand out. After the visits, the tributes were escorted to the Capitol by a train. Their mentor was Haymitch Abernathy, since he was the only living victor of district twelve. They experienced luxuries and delicacies that they have never seen before. Katniss and Peeta did not perceive each other as enemies, but rather as friends. They were kind to each other and they were the only tributes that held hands during the parade where flames came behind their chariot. After all, Peeta did once save Katniss and her family from starvation by tossing her a burnt piece of bread, thus taking a beating from his mother for it. His act once gave her hope and courage to feed her family.

As a part of the journey before they are sent to the arena, the tributes receive training scores and have an interview. Katniss was already surprising people unintentionally. For the training scores, she received an 11/12 by shooting an arrow near the Head Gamemaker's head. The Head Gamemaker was the person who planned and was in charge of the Games and Gamemakers were a specific group of people from the Capitol that assisted him by judging tributes or presenting ideas for the Games. The arrow directly hit an apple in a roasted pig's mouth, thus surprising all Gamemakers. She showed some defiance and disrespect against them that was caused by their lack of consideration towards her because she was the last tribute to be scored. Peeta on the other hand received an 8/12. In the interview, Katniss twirled in her flame dress and became dubbed as 'The Girl on Fire'. Peeta's interview was surprising since he declared that he had feelings for Katniss and shocking everyone including Katniss who wasn't very happy about it. Haymitch explained that what Peeta did was to show that she was a desirable person in order to help gain sponsors. Peeta's action also showed defiance because never in all seventy-four Hunger games, were there

star-crossed lovers. This action showed how horrid the games can be by preventing love to happen between two innocent people such as Katniss and Peeta where one of them would be allowed to come back alive. The night before the Games, Katniss talks to Peeta on the rooftop. They both can't sleep especially since the Games were hours away and Peeta tells her what he feels about the Games. To quote Peeta:

I don't know how to say it exactly. Only...I want to die as myself  
I don't want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind  
of monster that I'm not. I keep wishing I could think of a way to...  
to show the Capitol that they don't own me. That I'm more than  
just a piece in their Games. (Collins, 2008, pg. 172-173)

It is understood that Peeta knows that he is inferior to the power of the Capitol and he does not want to be used by them. The Games were obviously affecting lives in the districts but the citizens of the Capitol viewed their deaths as entertainment. Peeta believes that he would die in the Games but Katniss refuses to believe so. Katniss volunteered to fight for her life in the Games in order to return to her family rather than surrender the fight. The next day, when the Games are about to begin, she wears the mockingjay pin, which later becomes the sign of rebellion. In the Games, many tributes die and some make allies. Katniss survives the first night by climbing and sleeping on a high tree. While atop the tree, she heard some people. They were the tributes from district one and two. They were usually called the 'Careers' due to the fact that they are usually considered the strongest of all districts. To her shock, she hears Peeta with them and helping them find her. It is obvious that the Careers believe that Katniss poses a threat and that they had to annihilate her as soon as possible. After a while, flames injure Katniss and the Careers almost catch her but she climbs a high tree and luckily escapes. As the injured Katniss waits hopelessly

on the trees, Rue, a young tribute from district eleven, draws Katniss's attention to a wasp's nest. Katniss cuts the log carrying their nest and it falls on the Careers, thus allowing her time to climb down and escape, but not before being stung by the wasps a couple of times. She even hallucinates Peeta helping her.

After her escape, she rests for a while. When she feels strong enough to search for food and water, she notices Rue following her. Rue was young and innocent and she seemed to view Katniss as an older sister, probably because she respected Katniss's act in volunteering to save Prim, and they both begin to like each other and trust each other. They create a plan for Katniss to destroy the supply stash of the Careers, which lies in the Cornucopia, the middle of the arena, while Rue would distract them by building three separate campfires. After Katniss destroys the supplies, she searches for Rue but is unable to find her. She then hears her crying out for help but right after Katniss saves her from an entangled net, a spear enters Rue's body and Katniss shoots the tribute. As Rue dies, she asks Katniss to sing for her and Katniss holds on to Rue tightly and sings until Rue passes away. To quote Katniss:

It's the Capitol I hate for doing this to all of us. I want to do something, right here, right now, to shame them, to make them accountable, to show the Capitol that whatever they do or force us to do, there is a part of every tribute they can't own. That Rue was more than a piece in their Games. And so am I.

(Collins, 2008, pg. 286)

After her death Katniss felt compassion and empathy for Rue so she gathers wild flowers and decorates her body with them. She presses the three middle fingers of her left hand against her lips and holds them out in Rue's direction before walking away. Connors (2014) explains that the

revolution may have started with Rue's death because the whole nation got to see the sympathy that Katniss expressed towards Rue, rather than enmity and competition. Later, as Katniss thinks of ways to survive the Games, it is announced that the rules have been changed and that two victors would be allowed to win if they were from the same district. Peeta comes to her mind and she goes searching for him. She later finds him in the river. She tries to take care of him but he was badly injured by Kato, a tribute from district two, when Katniss dropped the wasp nest and Peeta helped her escape. Katniss receives a pot of broth after kissing Peeta and she understands that if she wants to get out alive, she would have to give the audience something to care about such as romance. She then pretends to care for Peeta romantically and he seems to reciprocate her feelings. She even risks her life to get Peeta's medicine by going to a feast in the Cornucopia, where they could get whatever they require or need. After Peeta feels better, they go outside to search for food. Peeta finds a load of berries which Katniss explains to be poisonous nightlock berries. They collect some and keep them in Katniss's pocket in hopes to trick Kato in eating them. After a while, Katniss finds Kato chased by mutations that looked like wild dogs. She escapes with Peeta by following Kato to the Cornucopia. As they lie on top of the Cornucopia, Kato puts Peeta in a headlock and threatens to kill him. Katniss shoots the arrow on Kato's arm and Peeta shoves him to the pack of wild dogs. After Kato's death, Katniss and Peeta climb down and assume that they both won. Unfortunately, the announcer of the Hunger Games then announces that the rule that stated that two contestants from the same district can win had been revoked. Katniss and Peeta feel shocked and Peeta starts to plead with Katniss to kill him so that she can return home. Peeta says, "We both know they have to have a victor" (Collins, 2008, pg. 417), and his words make Katniss think. She begins to see that without a victor, the Gamemakers would have failed the Capitol and probably be executed. Katniss, unable to kill Peeta, takes the nightlock berries from her pocket and presents

them to Peeta as an act of desperation. Just as they both are about to eat the berries, they are stopped from doing so and are both announced as the victors of the Hunger Games. Katniss's thoughts were correct.

A hovercraft then carries them away from the arena and doctors start to treat them separately. After Katniss and Peeta are taken care of, a ceremony is planned to crown Katniss and Peeta as victors. It is also supposed to be the first time they are united after the Games. Before Katniss goes to stage, Haymitch warns her that by her act with the berries, the Capitol is furious with her and that the Capitol has come to appear as the joke of Panem. Teresa Lobalsamo (2017) believes that the berries represented the willingness of Katniss and Peeta to make the dangerous and ultimate decision to sacrifice their lives in exchange for the consequences and possible rebellion that their actions could bring against the Capitol. The only way she could protect herself was to claim that she was so madly in-love with Peeta to a point where she couldn't imagine life without him. Katniss agrees to do so and as she goes to the stage, she notices that Peeta had a prosthetic leg. After accepting her crown from President Snow, she can see in the president's unforgiving eyes that he was angry. After the ceremony, Katniss and Peeta ride on the train back to district twelve. Katniss accidentally tells Peeta that her act of love towards him was all a strategy to help keep them both alive. Peeta felt so used and betrayed and Katniss suddenly realized that Peeta wasn't acting. He was really in love with her. As they arrive, they get off the train and Peeta agrees to keep the act up for the cameras and the audience. After all that happened, it was obvious that the Games were still not over.

This novel begins by showing the tolerance presented from the citizens of the district. Then there is self-sacrifice in order to protect a loved one. It is then followed by portrayal of strength, betrayal, empathy, love, desperation, and defiance. All being qualities that created a strong spark

that would eventually grow to become a fire among the nation of Panem. The main conflict is man vs. society. Katniss doesn't want to survive because society expects her to survive, but because she values her life and the lives of her family and friends. She knew that it would be hard to demand justice from the Capitol especially since she was of lower class and they possessed more power than her. The main problem was that she survived based on her own terms, not the terms placed on her by the Capitol or the Gamemakers.

### **4.1.3 Social and Class Conflicts**

*The Hunger Games* illustrates social conflicts in capitalism, which is highly influenced by Marxism. Coser (1957) states "Conflict leads not only to ever-changing relations within the existing social structure, but the total social system undergoes transformation through conflict." Marxism views conflict by means of social class and the ongoing disputes and disagreements between classes that would eventually end capitalism to create more of a communist society.

Poverty is the first social issue for the citizens of the districts, especially district twelve. The districts are rich with natural resources whereas the Capitol is rich with money and power. In order to live, natural resources are more important than money but the districts allowed themselves to be controlled by the Capitol due to fear of the power they had. They forgot the fact that even the power, whether nuclear or political, was produced by the districts. By separating the districts and giving each district the job to provide different resources, they created separation amongst the people in order to prevent them from realizing that if they united, they could demand a better social life.

The plot shows philosophical issues including moral and social questions, power and authority such as inequality, and a hierarchical society between classes. The main characters are poverty-stricken but are divided into two unequal conditions. Katniss and Peeta were both from a

very poor district but Peeta was a baker's son, and bread and food was more available to him, whereas Katniss had to hunt for food. Katniss and Peeta became an iconic couple but the romance they shared did not blossom out of attraction. Peeta may have always loved Katniss and he makes that clear during the interview, but Katniss being unaware of his love, acts for the audience. Throughout the novels, she grows to love him and she reciprocates his feelings. The duo's bond grew out of the poverty that they both shared due to the separation of classes. They may have been part of the lower-class citizens but when they are forced unwillingly to fight each other to the death, the idea of star-crossed lovers and the death and murders of children being used by a corrupt leader helps enact the future of the whole nation. Everything that occurs in the Games is broadcast across the nation, including the deaths of the innocent teenagers. It is considered unethical and it may not seem like a way to cultivate political support but it is used to advertise the consequence of any rebellion.

Martha J.B. (2001) stated that the cause behind imbalanced societies is the control of the capitalist class over the working-class. The novels express many things such as the effect of division and control, social inequality, and appearances. They display an accurate representation of social-conflict and show how conflict ultimately leads to deviance. As you read it, people begin to understand the reasons and messages that were meant to be understood. However, in the film version of *The Hunger Games*, many important components of the novel had to be summarized in order to deliver these messages. For example, there is a scene where President Snow asks the Head Gamemaker about the reason of having a winner in the Hunger Games when he could easily wipe out all the tributes. Snow answers his own question by saying, "Hope. It is the only thing stronger than fear. A little hope is effective; a lot of hope is dangerous. A spark is fine, as long as it's contained. So, contain it" (Ross, 2012). In this scene, President Snow began to realize that Katniss

Everdeen was actually very strong and that she might be the great spark of hope that would lead the districts to rebel.

It is understood that the Hunger Games were not only to intimidate the districts but to contain them. By sending two tributes from each district, hope was created amongst the citizens that they would eventually retrieve a victor. That was the way they viewed the Hunger Games. One of the important factors of the trilogy is about the fate of a world where all hope seems lost. Through small acts of love and kindness, hope can be sparked and that spark could turn into a blaze, hence Katniss' name, "The Girl on Fire". Katniss came as an embodiment of hope to a better world. Author Julie Clawson (2012) said "*The Hunger Games* is a story about hope. What begins as a hope to merely survive turns into hope that a better world is possible." The Capitol citizens never realized that the citizens of the districts were as intelligent as they are, and capable of feeling due to the fact that they live such drastically different lives. It is that lack of understanding that allowed the Capitol citizens to dismiss the suffering within the Hunger Games and perceive it as entertainment. They see them via the reality TV and forget the fact that the tributes are real people. The districts tolerated the unfair and harmful treatment of the Capitol for years but after the seventy-fourth Hunger Game with Peeta and Katniss, the low-class citizens began to realize something important; The Capitol needs them and hope is there.

#### **4.2 Marxist Approach to *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire***

*The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* focuses on the power of the effect that Katniss and Peeta had on the nation and the reaction of both, the governors and the citizens, from the Capitol and the districts. Against all odds, Katniss and Peeta both won the Hunger Games and they should be relieved. After all, Katniss would return to her family and longtime friend Gale, but unfortunately, nothing was as she wished. Gale held her at an icy distance, Peeta felt deceived by

her, and whispers of rebellions against the Capitol were spreading. Katniss had fueled a disruption that she can't stop and what scares her is that she isn't convinced she should try. In the first novel, Katniss and Peeta survived by defying the Capitol. They rejected the idea of killing one another and preferred to die together rather than give them a victor. Throughout the seventy-four years of the Hunger Games, never have there been two victors. Part of the rules was that one victor would survive but after Katniss's stunt with the berries, they were forced to make an exception. This caused many districts to realize that if the Gamemakers were able to make an exception and have two victors, they are also able to save the entire citizens of the districts and cancel the Hunger Games. They believed that if the Gamemakers refused to cancel the Games, the citizens of the districts may be able to force them again to change the rules. Since Katniss was the one that defied the Capitol with the berries, she made the first move to a future rebellion.

Katniss became the districts' idol and they felt that they needed her help to overthrow the injustice they were living in. She may have not intended on upsetting the Capitol but she was forced to make a life-or-death decision. Since Peeta refused to kill her, she chose to die with him rather than live life as a victor. When she had the idea of committing suicide with Peeta, she was essentially rejecting the rules that were set up by the Capitol, but the Head Gamemaker refused that idea. The poisonous berries saved their life and they definitely created a reaction from the people. The reaction of the citizens from both the Capitol and the districts helped initiate their future. The Capitol was angry, their citizens were indifferent since they considered it all as an entertaining reality show, but the citizens of the district felt stronger and more capable. Karl Marx (1848) wrote that the power relationships between capitalists and workers were naturally exploitative and they would inevitably create class conflict. He believed that this conflict would

eventually lead to a revolution where the working class would overthrow the capitalist class and take control of the economy.

### **4.2.1 System Awareness**

In the capitalist society of *The Hunger Games*, everything was in power of the government of the Capitol. There was no democracy amongst the citizens in Panem. Everything was decided by the governors and the districts suffered in silence. As part of the Capitol, President Snow took advantage of the suffering, using it as a tool to control and to keep the districts in line and in servitude. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848) stated in *The Communist Manifesto* and later works that “The first step in the revolution by the working class, is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to win the battle for democracy.” They also stated that universal suffrage as being “One of the first and most important tasks of the militant proletariat.” Marxism argues for the masses to fight for their democratic rights including freedom of speech, freedom to oppose, and freedom to fight against oppression and racism.

Marxism is a theory that depends on the changing of society based on the economy of the state or nation. *The Hunger Games*, set in a capitalist society, begins to change slowly but not easily. The districts may have been ready to fight in order to receive the treatment they deserve, but the Capitol did not want that to happen, especially since they enjoyed being powerful and spoiled. The Capitol citizens lived an exemplary and nourished life unlike the citizens who were poor and deprived. Now that Katniss had ignited a fire, a chain reaction was expected and the district citizens wanted to be part of it. They wanted to have a voice in the nation, especially since they were the source of all resources.

Interdependence is when two people depend on each other mutually whereas independence is when someone acts alone, free of control. Katniss and Peeta were interdependent as they helped

each other survive. They even sometimes care for the other more than they care about themselves. In *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, interdependence is a big factor. She was very independent before The Games, hunting with Gale and providing food for her family, and she wanted to return that way after winning. Unfortunately, her life of independence seemed to be over after the Hunger Games, especially since she was now interdependent on Peeta after creating their love story in order to survive in their society.

#### **4.2.2 Reactions of Communities**

Since the beginning, Katniss and many close people must maintain appearances that sometimes contrast with reality. As the story progresses, we see many characters that appear as one thing, but turn out to be quite different. Katniss acted to be in love in the first novel, unlike Peeta who was really in love, and they both had to keep up the act throughout the second novel and show that their threat of suicide was merely an act of two love-crazed teenagers rather than a gesture of defiance. They were pressured into acting, lying, and becoming people they did not intend to become.

After Katniss and Peeta returned to the districts, they were welcomed back as heroes. They lived in the Victor's Village and food was available but something changed in both of them. Katniss and Peeta had a tense relationship after he found out that she was only pretending to be in love with him. Gale, Katniss's friend, kissed her some time after the Games, but since she knew she had to keep up the act of love for Peeta, she didn't know how to reply and what to do. After some time, President Snow comes over to Katniss' house and he tells her about some troubles that began after she pulled out those poisonous berries. He indirectly tells her that the Head Gamemaker, Seneca Crane, was executed after the outcome of the Game, and that there was nothing to do but to let her play out her love-crazed schoolgirl bit. To quote President Snow:

The people in the Capitol were quite convinced. Unfortunately, not everyone in the districts fell for your act. In several of them, however, people viewed your little trick with the berries as an act of defiance, not an act of love. And if a girl from district twelve of all places can defy the Capitol and walk away unharmed, what is to stop them from doing the same. What is to prevent, say, an uprising.

(Collins, 2009, pg. 21)

Katniss, feeling surprised with his words, asks him to kill her if he considers her a threat but he refuses since he believes that her death would only add fuel to the flames. He then asks her about Peeta, and tells her that he knows about their act. He tells her that the only thing she can do to help prevent an uprising is to convince him and the districts during the Victory Tour that their love was true love rather than an act of defiance. Before leaving, he tells her that he knows about the kiss between her and Gale, thus leaving her horrified. Later on, Katniss tells Haymitch about what happened and she begins to realize that she'll never be able to stop pretending. She'll have to marry Peeta.

On the Victory Tour, she tries to convince President Snow and the districts that she and Peeta were truly in love but many of the districts expressed rage on their faces and she saw acts of rebellion and uprisings. Peeta even proposes to Katniss on live television in order to appease the Capitol but President Snow indicates that it's not enough. Later, at a feast in President Snow's mansion, she meets Plutarch Heavensbee, the new Head Gamemaker. After returning home, she realizes that there had been an uprising in district eight. She goes to the woods and tells Gale everything and plans to run away with their families from everything. Gale, knowing that there are uprisings refuses to run away but to stay and fight. Weeks later, she goes back to the woods and is

shocked to meet two women. They say that they fled district eight after the uprisings and were going to district thirteen, which was supposedly destroyed before the Hunger Games, but they believe that it holds a group of underground rebels. After seventy-four years of Hunger Games that started as vengeance towards a rebellion caused by district thirteen, it seems impossible that district thirteen may still be surviving. Rumors have spread and reached district eight and probably other districts, but the question remains of whether the Capitol knew of such thing.

Later Katniss goes home and watches a televised announcement of the Quarter Quell, where every twenty-five years, a special Hunger Games occurred. President Snow announces that this year's Hunger Games, the tributes will be selected from the past winners of the Games. Katniss realizes that since she is the only female winner of the Games in district twelve, she'll definitely be returning to the arena. The news shocks everyone and the previous tributes were probably very angered by the announcement, especially since they were promised great benefits after winning the Games. Katniss, Peeta, and Haymitch begin training for the Games and on the day of the reaping, the tributes are announced. Katniss is, of course, the female tribute of district twelve, and Peeta volunteers instead of Haymitch as tribute. They then meet the other tributes, most of whom known each other for years, thus making the Games even worse for all of them since they'd have to kill each other in the arena.

In the training sessions, Katniss is supposed to make allies and she likes Wiress and Beetee, the smart but physically weak tributes from district three, and she likes Mags, the eighty-year-old woman from district four. She dislikes Finnick Odair from district four and Johanna Mason from district three. The tributes are interviewed on television before departing for the arena and President Snow makes Katniss wear the wedding dress that she was supposed to wear on her wedding day to Peeta. Cinna, Katniss's stylist, rigs it and during the interview, the dress burns

away and transforms into a Mockingjay costume. In Peeta's interview, he also creates a disorder on the stage and the crowd after lying and announcing that he and Katniss were already married and that she is pregnant. This of course angers President Snow. The tributes then stand side by side on screen and they hold hands. To quote Katniss:

And then it happens. Up and down the row, the victors begin to join hands. Some right away, like the morphlings, or Wiress and Beetee. Others unsure but caught up in the demands of those around them, like Brutus and Enobaria. By the time the anthem plays its final strains, all twenty-four of us stand in one unbroken line in what must be the first public unity among the districts since the Dark Days. You can see the realization of this as the screens pop into blackness. Its too late, though. In the confusion they didn't cut us off in time.

Everyone has seen. (Collins, 2009, pg. 258)

That moment is very critical in the novel. It is the first representation of unison among the districts ever since the Hunger Games began. It shows how people, no matter who they are or where they came from, can unite when they are put under severe conditions and circumstances. The district citizens tolerated the unfair Hunger Games for seventy-four years and were promised a luxurious life after their victory. Unfortunately for them, not even victory from the Hunger Games prevented them from returning to the arena and having to fight for their lives again. A resolution between the Capitol and the victors was becoming impossible and it seemed that there was no choice but to fight back and demand to be treated fairly and equally.

The night before the Games, Haymitch tells Katniss to remember who the real enemy is. Finally, the tributes are sent to the arena, and the Games begin in a tropical island. As soon as the

Games begin, Katniss finds herself facing Finnick and notices Haymitch's gold bracelet around his wrist and she realizes they're allies. Katniss, Peeta, Finnick, and Mags form a group and head into the jungle. Katniss discovers an electric force field blocking part of the island and creating a dome. They encounter obstacles such as poisonous fog where Mags sacrifices herself to save Peeta. After the remaining three make it to the beach, they see Johanna, Wiress, and Beetee approaching and they form a bigger group of allies. Katniss later realizes that the arena is shaped like a clock with each section containing a different attack. They then head to the Cornucopia that contains weapons and in midst of it all, Wiress is killed.

They later notice that at twelve noon and midnight each day, lightning strikes a tree on the island. Beetee forms a plan by running a highly conductive wire from the tree to the ocean and electrocuting a large area of water and wet sand, thus killing the other tributes. They then wrap wire around the tree and Katniss and Johanna carry the remaining wire to the beach. Suddenly the wire is cut and Johanna hits Katniss in the head and cuts out the tracking device in her arm. Katniss, still dizzy from the hit, thinks that they plan on killing her and Peeta so she heads back to the tree. She sees Beetee with the same arm wound. Finnick and Enobaria approach and she directs her arrow to kill Enobaria then Finnick, her enemies. To quote Katniss:

Enemy. Enemy. The word is tugging at a recent memory. Pulling it into the present. The look on Haymitch's face. 'Katniss, when you're in the arena... You just remember who the real enemy is,' Haymitch says. 'That's all.' Haymitch's last words of advice to me. Why would I need reminding? I have always known who the enemy is. Who starves and tortures and kills us in the arena. Who will soon kill everyone I love. My bow drops as his meaning registers. Yes, I know who the

enemy is. And it's not Enobaria. (Collins, 2009, pg. 378)

Katniss then realizes that the real enemy is actually the Capitol and perceives what Beetee was trying to do and so she wraps the wire around her arrow and fires it through a visible gap in the force field just as lightning strikes. This creates the force field to be destroyed and Katniss is knocked unconscious. She wakes to find herself in a hovercraft with Haymitch, Finnick, Beetee, and Plutarch Heavensbee, and they explain that a secret rebellion has been going on for years. Plutarch has been part of it and many of the tributes were involved to bring down the force field around the arena so they can escape and head to district thirteen. Unfortunately, Peeta and Johanna weren't rescued from the arena and were taken by the Capitol. Out of anger, Katniss attacks Haymitch but is sedated. After some time, she finds Gale and he tells her that after the Games, the Capitol dropped bombs on district twelve and most of the people there died. He was able to save Katniss's family but district twelve was gone.

*The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* shows how reactions of the majority of people can affect the decisions of the government thus leading them to create rash decisions. It is noticed that after the events of the first novel, Katniss obviously had a great impact on the districts' citizens and there were several uprisings within the districts. President Snow thought that the best thing to do was to annihilate Katniss in order to stop the hope that she gave to the district citizens. He thought that by killing her in public in an accident or as such, he would only have more fights and more resistance from the districts. Instead of doing so, he chose to send her back to the arena for the third Quarter Quell Hunger Games and expected her to die there. If only he knew that not all his Capitol employees were loyal to him, including the Head Gamemaker for that year's seventy-fifth Hunger Games, Plutarch Heavensbee.

President Snow may have been known as a very intelligent and cunning president who had power over everything but he too was deceived. According to Muhammad Arfan (2021), “the naïve characters at the start of the series become strong willed as they undergo drastic sufferings which were results of injustice by the controlling powers.” The end of the novel shows how Katniss began to understand the truth behind all deception, secrets and lies. The reason for the false public image that she had to maintain was due to fear from the Capitol and the power of the lie is that as long as the Capitol believed that it was in control, the rebels were allowed to work undetected to undo that control. District thirteen helped organize the rebellion underground in order to overthrow the Capitol ruling.

### **4.2.3 The Limit to Exploitation**

Katniss was never involved in any organized rebel movement and she didn't even know that they existed. She spends the Victory Tour trying to appease President Snow and convince him and the districts of her and Peeta's love in order to prevent any uprisings. Unfortunately, she wasn't successful and ends up encouraging people to defy the Capitol. In both situations, what's important is not what Katniss believes or feels. Her value to both sides is primarily as a symbol, thus suggesting that her image may be more powerful than she is herself. Katniss never wanted to spark a rebellion but the act with the berries was enough. The citizens of the districts wanted to view her as hope and chose to ignore what she wanted, which is no rebellion, because they felt that they tolerated enough and it was time to act against the Capitol. According to Todd Steen (2021), before her victory in the seventy-fourth Hunger Games, bread represented hope for freedom from hunger and Peeta was just “the boy with the bread”.

Trust is another valuable and rare quality that is exhibited in *The Hunger Games* trilogy and hardly anyone can be trusted in Katniss and Peeta's situation. By the end of *The Hunger*

*Games: Catching Fire*, most of the people that Katniss thought were trustworthy, revealed to be lying and manipulating her the entire time. When Katniss entered the Quarter Quell, she knew the intentions of the Capitol to annihilate her within the Games and she wasn't able to do anything about that. When she finally finds out that an organized group of rebels were actually carrying their own game within the Game, she realized that she was being used and manipulated by them to prove bigger points to the privileged citizens of the Capitol and the underprivileged citizens of the districts.

The privileged citizens of Panem are basically the people that live in the Capitol. Their ignorance stems from the fact that they're secluded from the struggles and hardships that the citizens of the districts face. The Capitol citizens' wealth doesn't force them into hard and dangerous labors nor to participate in the Hunger Games. Unlike the district citizens who merely think of things such as how to feed their families and places for shelter, the Capitol citizens live a comfortable and secure life. Their seclusion from the reality made many, if not all, Capitol citizens to be oblivious to what most people in Panem face and tolerate. The rebellion intended to enlighten them with their situation.

Panem is a capitalist society where the privileged citizens, also known as the upper-class citizens, are treated in a better way than the underprivileged citizens, also known as the lower-class citizens, and where there are restrictions between both classes. They prevented interaction between either side of the classes and set boundaries between them. Rather than uniting them and spreading a message that no one could destroy the nation, the government of Panem that resided in the Capitol chose to intimidate the low-class citizens of the same nation. This creates a question of 'why would a country choose to abuse one part of their citizens and coddle up the other part?' The reason is to enforce power. By enforcing power and authority that is supposed to benefit all

people, people could and would respect the leader. But sometimes people with power are overcome with greed and their desire to enforce that power. Julie Beck (2016) said that “Power is a force that needs an object: To have power, a person has to have it over something or someone”. In Panem, President Snow became powerful through his manipulation and cruelty. He enjoyed this power, but his insistence in enforcing this power and demeaning the citizens of the districts obviously pushed the districts to their limits and encouraged them to fight back. An English Catholic historian, politician, and writer, Lord Acton (1887) is known for his remark, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." President Snow was corrupted by power, and absolute power corrupted him greatly, thus causing him to make irrational decisions. This creates an understanding that just because a person may own power, they should know how to use it, especially since it could be used on a number of things rather than everything. With Snow’s great power, he still wasn’t able to contain the districts.

### **4.3 Marxist Approach to *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay***

The final novel of the trilogy shows the application of Marxism and the results that are to be anticipated. Karl Marx (1848) begins with the concept of annihilating capitalism in order to develop a better community that follows socialism and then communism. Marxism is clearly opposed to the capitalist system where the people survive on only two classes: The proletariat (upper class) and the bourgeoisie (lower class). In *The Hunger Games* trilogy, the classes are separated and each one is expected to strictly follow the rules. The districts are separated from the Capitol by barbed wires and a fence. Beyond the fence, there are trees and meadows. The fence serves as a tool of imprisonment in order to prevent the escape of the district citizens and keep them far from the Capitol citizens. There clearly is separation where they prevent the district citizens to communicate with the Capitol citizens and vice versa. This may have contributed to the

ignorance of the Capitol citizens thus allowing them to think only of their own wealth and entertainment. There was no interaction between the upper-class and lower-class citizens and there was no way of communication. Based on the Marxist theory, since Panem lives in a capitalist society, it would only be right to set the classes free and create a classless society in which there would be no classes, no government and the public owns the major means of production. For Marxism to be carried, rebellions, revolutions, evolution and compromise would have to take place. In *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay*, the revolution was proven to exist after the clear act of defiance and contempt that was portrayed against the Capitol when Katniss shot an arrow at the force field. Now that she, Beetee, and Finnick were rescued from the Games, they were going to live underground in district thirteen and develop a strategy in order to fulfill the plan of overthrowing the capitalistic rule from the Capitol and live in a new way that provided freedom and maybe even happiness. They also wanted to save the other tributes captured by the Capitol including Peeta, Johanna, and Enobaria. The anger within them still stirs but the memories of the Hunger Games still haunt them, and the fear of the Capitol still exists. The system that they were planning to apply was not going to be an easy one.

#### **4.3.1 A New System to be Carried**

Sugiart Mutakin (2014) states that “the writer finds that the plot shows some philosophical issues, such as moral and social questions about society, as well as more general questions about power and authority such as the inequality between the rich and the poor, a hierarchical society between the upper, middle, and lower class”. District thirteen is not as poor as the other twelve districts and not as rich as the Capitol, but is unaccredited by the whole nation since it is believed to be destroyed. Now that Katniss and several other tributes have survived the Games, they were on their way to district thirteen in order to create a plan to overthrow the capitalistic rule of the

Capitol. However, district thirteen, ruled by President Alma Coin, is not as it seems to be. It is not a free and happy district that intends to spread its existence and way of living, but rather it exists underground and is actually very strict in several ways. There, everybody's lives are regulated by the administration group or self-created government from schedules stamped on their hand each day, to the exact amount of food they get. Saving or reselling food is forbidden and people who do so are punished. Even the people there are addressed as "comrade" or "soldier". President Coin claims to be the savior of the people but she's actually more oppressive than President Snow. The Marxist theory argues for a worker revolution to overturn capitalism in favor of communism to fulfill human material needs, but sometimes, even that is just not enough nor right.

District thirteen was once under the authority of the Capitol. It primarily specialized in military weaponry and nuclear weaponry, and graphite mining was considered a secondary industry. Along with the twelve other districts, district thirteen suffered oppression from the Capitol for a long time and this ultimately culminated in the outbreak of the first rebellion. After almost three years of conflict, the rebellion was facing defeat and following a failed invasion to the Capitol, district thirteen threatened to destroy a city in the Capitol by sending some nuclear missiles. With the Capitol wanting to save that city that held a stockpile of secondary weapons and the rebellion facing inevitable defeat, they agreed upon a treaty to ensure a kind of peace after the defeat of the rebelling districts. The Capitol allowed district thirteen to quietly secede from Panem, withdraw all support they gave to other district rebels, and pretend to have been completely destroyed. District thirteen evacuated its forces and population to underground bunkers while the Capitol destroyed all above-ground infrastructure. Even though district thirteen was defeated in that first rebellion, they still lived for several decades and secured their position in preparation of eventually liberating the remaining twelve districts from the tyrannical and capitalistic rule of the

Capitol. As district thirteen lived underground, they developed a strict communist ruling that would eventually be led by President Alma Coin.

### **4.3.2 Reconstruction of Communities**

Katniss Everdeen has evidently survived the Hunger Games twice but unfortunately, she still wasn't safe. As a person who had already won the Games twice, it would be expected that she would be considered safe from any more brutalities, but even after she won the second Hunger Game, she discovered that she had become the pawn in someone else's game. A revolution was rising and most of the people she knew or trusted had a hand in the carefully laid plans except for her and Peeta. Above all, she is expected to play the most important role as the Mockingjay, the symbol of rebellion. Muhammad Arafan (2021) stated that "Individualism lost its meaning due to fixed set of line to live and earn from imposed regulations by someone powerful." That implies greatly in *The Hunger Games* especially since almost all citizens are depending on the person with the higher power and control. The Capitol citizens depend on and trust President Snow, whereas the rebels of the district citizens were depending on President Alma Coin while trusting Katniss Everdeen. That is why Katniss Everdeen was chosen to be the Mockingjay symbol.

As Katniss takes her new position as a rebel in district thirteen, Katniss still fears for the life of Peeta as he was taken by the Capitol and held captive by President Snow. Katniss insists on visiting district twelve after the attack from the Capitol. What remains from the district are merely ashes and remains of the people who lived there. To quote Katniss:

In my head, I hear President Snow's words, spoken the morning I was to begin the Victory Tour. 'Katniss Everdeen, the girl who was on fire, you have provided a spark that, left unattended, may grow to an inferno that destroys Panem.' It turns out he wasn't exaggerating or

simply trying to scare me. He was perhaps genuinely attempting to enlist my help. But I had already set something in motion that I had no ability to control. (Collins, 2010, pg. 6)

She then collects some things from her house such as her father's jacket, her sister's cat, a book of plants, and a wedding photo of her parents. Before leaving, she notices one of Snow's white roses on her dresser. President Snow's flower was sent as a promise of revenge to Katniss. After returning to district thirteen, she watches an interview between Peeta and Caesar and is relieved to find him unharmed. She is however shaken when he calls for a 'cease-fire' and he becomes accused by people as a traitor. That is when she decided to become the Mockingjay in condition of rescuing and giving immunity to Peeta and the other tributes that were stolen by the Capitol.

Katniss begins to star in commercials, also known as promos, for the rebel side. For one of them, she goes to district eight, being led by Commander Paylor, and she visits a hospital and its patients. Shortly after, the hospital is bombed by hover-planes sent from the Capitol, thus leaving Katniss horrified and disgusted by the Capitol's act. She then delivers her famous speech. To quote Katniss:

I want to tell the rebels that I'm alive. That I'm right here in district Eight, where the Capitol has just bombed a hospital full of unarmed men, women, and children. There will be no survivors. I want to tell people that if you think for one second the Capitol will treat us fairly if there's a ceasefire, you're deluding yourself. Because you know who they are and what they do. This is what they do. President Snow says he's sending a message. Well, I have one for him. You can torture us

and bomb us and burn our districts to the ground, but do you see that,

Fire is catching. And if we burn, you burn with us! (Collins, 2010, pg. 111)

Her speech inspired several of the citizens to fight back and not give up hope and it was obvious that there was a revolution taking place. When she returned to district thirteen, she sees Peeta again looking worse than the last time she saw him on television. Beetee, on the other hand, tries breaking in the Capitol broadcasting system in attempt to send the district promos to them. As Peeta speaks live, he hears Katniss's voice in one of them and warns district thirteen that the Capitol was coming for them and that they should hide. After doing so, Peeta is knocked down as he cries of pain and his blood is shown splattering the tiles.

After the warning that district thirteen received from Peeta, alarm sounds are sent to evacuate the people in the districts to the bunkers. They wait in the bunkers for several days and she learns that district thirteen may help train Prim to become a doctor. When the bombing stops, she goes above ground and finds a great deal of wreckage and more roses sent by President Snow. Katniss realized that the Capitol hurt Peeta everytime she said something against them. Later, as she worries about Peeta, Haymitch reassures her that as they speak, a rescue mission was sent to save the encaptured victors. Katniss waits until the crew returns and they tell her that the rescue mission was a success and all captured tributes except Enobaria, who being from district two would be unharmed, were rescued. When she arrives at the hospital to see Peeta, he attacks her and starts strangling her to death until the guards come and start separating them. Katniss later wakes up with a collar around her neck with severe neck injuries. She later learns that Peeta had been hijacked by the Capitol, which means he was given doses of tracker jacker venom to change his memories and make him think that he hates Katniss. As Katniss spends time recovering, some acquaintances from district twelve are sent to Peeta to help regain his memories, and help him recover from the

torture he'd been through. The rebels then go to district two, and try to figure out a way to get them to become their allies. After blowing up a mountain near them, the remaining survivors come out and a man points a gun at Katniss and asks her to give him one reason he shouldn't kill her. To quote Katniss and the man:

I can't. That's the problem isn't it. We blew up your mine. You burned my district to the ground. We've got every reason to kill each other. So do it. Make the Capitol happy. I'm done killing their slaves for them." "I'm not their slave," the man mutters. "I am," I say. "That's why I killed Kato...and he killed Thresh...and he killed Clove...and she tried to kill me. It just goes around and around, and who wins? Not us. Not the districts. Always the Capitol. But I'm tired of being a piece in their Games. (Collins, 2010, pg. 240-241)

A great speech was delivered but still, another man in the crowd shoots Katniss. Katniss then awakens in district thirteen suffering from a broken spleen and badly bruised ribs. She finds Johanna who was still being treated and they become good friends. Finnick and Annie Cresta, his girlfriend, have a wedding in district thirteen to spread joy. Katniss is later angered after finding out that she hasn't been signed down for the assault on the Capitol since she wants to be the one to kill President Snow. Katniss is forced to train in order to join the squad and is later assigned with them. The members of the squad include Katniss, Gale, and Finnick, with soldiers Homes, Jackson, Mitchell, Leeg1 & Leeg2, and second-in-command Boggs, and the camera crew Cressida, Messalla, Pollux, and Castor. Plutarch shows the members a holographic map (Holo) of the Capitol showing thousands of traps called Pods. Boggs takes control of the Holo and they start their mission. As they advance, they set a pod and it kills Leeg2. Surprisingly, President Coin sends

Peeta as a substitute claiming that he has recovered enough but is still unstable. Katniss comes to the conclusion that President Coin thinks she's of more use dead than alive. After Boggs talks to President Coin, he tells Katniss his theory. To quote Boggs:

The President doesn't like you. She never did. It was Peeta she wanted rescued from the arena but no one else agreed. It made matters worse when you forced her to give the other victors immunity. But even that could be overlooked in view of how well you performed. Sometime in the near future, this war will be resolved. A new leader will be chosen. But you'll throw support to someone. Would it be President Coin? Or someone else? If your immediate answer isn't Coin, then you're a threat. You may have more influence than any other single person. As she said, your primary objective, to unite the districts, has succeeded. There's only one last thing you could do to add fire to the rebellion. Give us a martyr to fight for. (Collins, 2010, pg. 298-299)

Katniss then understood why President Coin sent Peeta. She was hoping he would kill her because the leader was intimidated by the influencer. Katniss, the influencer, held more power than the leader, President Coin. According to John C. Maxwell (1998), "If you can't influence people, then they will not follow you. And if people won't follow, you are not a leader. That's the Law of Influence." Basically, President Coin led many people to begin a rebellion but she didn't lead them because she influenced them, she led them because they were too desperate, and afraid, and they wanted a leader to tell them that there was hope for them. If it weren't for Katniss Everdeen, she would probably still be leading people without ever fulfilling their dream of freedom. Katniss influenced the people, and if Katniss were to run for presidency, she would

probably have a better chance to win than President Coin, but that was not Katniss's intention. A person can't lead without influence, and they can't have influence if they're not a leader.

Since Peeta was in the squad, Katniss does act rude to him but after realizing that it was wrong to treat him that way especially after all that he went through, she tries helping him recover his real memories. As the squad moved further into the Capitol, they set two pods safely, but Boggs hits a mislabeled pod that blows off his legs. Another pod is later activated and it turns into a black wave that advances onto the squad. While moving Boggs to an apartment to escape the wave, Peeta has a mental episode and accidentally kills Mitchell while trying to kill Katniss. After escaping the wave, Boggs transfers the Halo to Katniss and gives her four orders before dying, "Don't trust them, don't go back. Kill Peeta. Do what you came to do" (Collins, 2010, pg. 315). After he dies, Katniss convinces the squad and Jackson, who is second-in-command to Boggs, that she was to take charge and they follow her. As they go out, the T.V turns on to turn inform Panem that Katniss and her squad were dead. Snow then comes on T.V and announces to the nation that Katniss was just a girl, not a leader and the odds were in the Capitol's favor. Just then, Beetee hijacks the signal and surprisingly, broadcasts President Coin praising the Mockingjay and speaking of what she represents. President Coin believed Katniss was dead and was obviously trying to give them a martyr to fight for. Later, they decide to head down to the sewers with the help of Pollux, who used to work there as an avox. An avox is someone who was considered a traitor and had his tongue cut out by the Capitol. After some sleep, they run away from mutts but lose Messalla, Jackson, Leeg1, Castor, and Homes. Just before the rest of them make it closer to the surface, Finnick gets decapitated by lizard mutts and Katniss uses the Halo as an explosive to kill the mutts. As the rest keep climbing higher and higher towards the surface, they reach an apartment and kill its female resident to take shelter there. Now, they were in the heart of the Capitol and Cressida

leads them to a shop owned by her friend, Tigris. They stay in Tigris's cellar for a couple of days and watch the rebels advance. One day, they see a television broadcast where President Snow announces that he is opening the mansion to Capitol refugees. Katniss decides that it would be a great time to attack. The following day, Tigris dresses them in clothes to blend in with the Capitol.

As they leave, they split in the process leaving Gale and Katniss together. A riot occurs and the rebels start attacking the Capitol and causing them to fight back. More pods are activated and more people are killed, thus leading Katniss and Gale to separate. As Katniss moves further to President Snow's mansion with the intent of killing him, she notices children huddled behind the barricades as human shields for Snow. Later, hovercrafts with the mark of the Capitol drop down as parachutes to the children, but they explode and kill many. As Katniss and the crowd watch in horror, rebel medics, including Prim, come to help the children. Katniss calls for Prim and runs towards her, but when Prim hears her and turns around, a second wave of bombs go off, killing more children, including Prim.

Now that the rebels have taken control of the Capitol and President Snow's mansion, Katniss is transferred to the mansion to be treated from severe burns and is diagnosed with depression, verging on the edge on insanity. Her mother takes care of her but neither speak since both are drained emotionally and psychologically. After the bombs that were supposedly set off by President Snow and killed many children of the Capitol, the Capitol's citizens also turn against him and President Snow is found guilty of his charges. One day, Katniss goes to the rose garden and finds President Snow there. As they talk, President Snow apologizes for the death of her sister, but surprisingly, he denies having sent any of the parachutes and that President Coin was the one who sent them. To quote President Snow:

I must concede it was a masterful move on Coin's part. The idea that

I was bombing our own helpless children instantly snapped whatever frail allegiance my people still felt to me. Did you know it aired live? You can see Plutarch's hand there. And in the parachutes. My failure was being so slow to grasp Coin's plan. To let the Capitol and districts destroy one another, and then step in to take power with Thirteen barely scratched. After all, it was Thirteen that started the rebellion that led to the Dark Days, and then abandoned the rest of the districts when the tide turned against it. But I wasn't watching Coin. I was watching you, Mockingjay. And you were watching me. I'm afraid we have both been played for fools. (Collins, 2010, pg. 402-403)

Katniss was completely mind-blown by Snow's accusation. There was truth in what he said and Gale and Beetee had come up with a very similar bomb-plan after rescuing Peeta. Could it be possible that President Coin was the one that sent those bombs and killed her sister? She asks Gale if it was his and Beetee's bomb-plan they used but neither he nor Beetee really knew the truth.

Later on, President Coin holds a meeting with the remaining victors including Katniss, Peeta, Haymitch, Beetee, Annie, Johanna and Enobaria. She holds a vote and asks them to see if they should hold a seventy-sixth Hunger Game consisting of Capitol children. Peeta, Beetee, and Annie vote no, but Enobaria and Johanna, agree. Katniss saw that the only thing that mattered to President Coin was not to create peace, but to take control and be the President because she was blinded by greed and lust for power. Haymitch and Katniss vote yes. On the day of President Snow's execution, thousands of people stand to watch as President Snow's hands are tied behind a post with him wearing his white rose. As she points her arrow towards his heart, she realizes that

everything he said was true and she shifts the arrow upward and releases it on President Coin, who then falls over the side of the balcony and plunges to her death. A riot ensues and President Snow starts laughing and choking on blood at the same time that the crowd attacks him and he dies on his post.

A pandemonium ensued after Katniss shot Coin but Commander Paylor was voted as next President. Plutarch was appointed secretary of communication, Gale found a fancy job in district two, and everyone seemed to settle. Katniss is later acquitted due to her apparent insanity and is sent with Haymitch to district twelve. Her mother was unable to return with them because between Katniss's father, Prim, and the ashes, the pain in district twelve was unbearable. The Hunger Games were all canceled and they try to live peacefully there and Peeta later joins Katniss. Even though Katniss and Peeta remain haunted by dreams of the past, they support each other, and after time, Haymitch and Katniss create a book filled with stories of tributes and others who died at war so that they will not be forgotten. In the epilogue, fifteen years later, Katniss speaks as an adult where she and Peeta are together and have two children consisting of a boy and a girl. She feels upset sometimes that she'll have to tell her children how she and Peeta were part of the Games, especially since they were very traumatizing and unfair. To quote Katniss:

I'll tell them how I survive it. I'll tell them that on bad mornings, it feels impossible to take pleasure in anything because I'm afraid it could be taken away. That's when I make a list in my head of every act of goodness I've seen someone do. It's like a game. Repetitive. Even a little tedious after more than twenty years. But there are much worse games to play. (Collins, 2010, pg. 438)

The happy ending of the trilogy is not by gaining wealth, power, and fame. It ends with the characters earning the right to live peacefully and to voluntarily determine their path and make choices. Katniss and Peeta end up together and have kids, and everyone else finds a suitable place in the new Panem. But even after the end of the Hunger Games, Katniss suffered from depression and post-traumatic disorder. Too much torture, sacrifices, deaths, horrific images, and nightmares that haunt her but she learns how to be happy. She realizes that it was never Gale that she wanted nor needed. Gale had plenty of rage and hatred towards the Capitol like Katniss herself but what she needed was the promise of hope and rebirth instead of destruction. The promise that life can go on no matter the losses; someone like Peeta. They helped each other and support each other even after the Games. The ironic thing about this trilogy is that it all started with the objective to save Katniss's sister Primrose, and it ended with the death of that sister.

### **4.3.3 Effects of War and the Road to Recovery**

In *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay*, something very important is the objective of the war. The war was supposed to end all Hunger Games and create a united nation where people can work and earn their place in society rather than settle and be forced to live in a specific way, regardless of their efforts or intellects. President Coin did not want to settle the differences between the upper and lower class. This is clearly exhibited when she suggests another Hunger Games. She wanted to keep the status quo rather than change it into something better. Her thirst for power was out of control and after the victory of the rebels, her arrogance made her forget the main objective of the war. This ultimately led to her death. Katniss noticed President Snow represented extreme capitalism out of control by separating the citizens, but President Coin represented extreme communism out of control by oppressing the citizens. Both presidents were power hungry and bad for Panem. What was needed was Commander Paylor, an option different from the two main ones

that have a lock on the country. The real message of the Hunger Games is that balance is needed. And that extreme politics in any direction is bad.

#### **4.4 International Relations Theory related to *The Hunger Games***

The ‘International Relations Theory’ is a study that allows us to understand and make sense of the world around us through different lenses by representing different theoretical perspectives. The most prominent include realism, liberalism, constructivism, and Marxism (McGlinchey, 2017). Marxism applies greatly on the trilogy but the other theories also partake in the events of the novels. The fact that the conflicts within the nation of Panem are controlled by the Capitol and the Hunger Games that are used to intimidate low-class districts is an accurate representation of the International Relations Theory in the real world.

From the perspective of realism, an individual is expected to value power over everything else because in power comes peace. An assumption made by John Mearsheimer (2001) is that “Great powers inherently possess some offensive military capability, which gives them the wherewithal to hurt and possibly destroy each other”. In the arena of the Hunger Games, the tributes are a mix of males and females and are not evenly matched based on gender or physical ability. Realists would suggest that the “greater powers” of stronger and weaponed tributes would become more aggressive but, in the arena, the tributes would calculate the aggression when fighting with equally powerful opponents. When realizing that another opponent is equally powerful, the tributes would avoid direct contact and defend the current power and resources they have. Because of the necessity to increase power, their behaviors are affected by the fear from others who have the same or more power. The main goal is to be the last one standing and as John Mearsheimer (2001) assumed, “any state bent on survival must be at least suspicious of other states and reluctant to trust them”.

Under the assumptions of liberalism that is based on liberty, equality before the law, and consent of the governed, the arena tributes would be expected to cooperate with the individuals thus be able to be allies but nevertheless, be enemies the next day. Liberalism would also assess that the alliances formed in the arena are merely for the survival of the participants that are within the alliance. Since the Hunger Games don't require a trading or economic system, the main focus would be on the power dilemma being created and the trust between participants solely for security purposes.

Since constructivism is based on belief that learners construct knowledge rather than just understanding the information, constructivists would expect the tributes to behave differently with each other based on their social relationship. It is more about constructing knowledge through seeing, and analyzing the conditions in order to understand the society around you. In the Hunger Games, the tributes do behave differently based on social relationship. For example, Katniss treats Rue much differently than she would have treated another tribute of the Careers group, especially because of the relationship she built with her and the hatred she felt for the Careers. Social relationships can also change based on how the participants react.

Though all these theories take part in *The Hunger Games* trilogy, there is a main distinction between the arena and the international system. Since there is a lack of a true economic system within the arena, the Games are based on survival and tactics rather than cooperation or economic gain. In the real world, the prosperity of societies must be taken in consideration thus leading them to typically trade with other states for supplies or materials needed. In the arena of the Games, the required resources are not traded but rather acquired by stealing or gathering, thus preventing social relationships between participants.

#### 4.5 The Ideology of *The Hunger Games*

Suzanne Collins was the daughter of Colonel Michael Collins, a U.S. Air Force officer, and Jane Brady Collins. She was the youngest of the children and as a daughter of a military officer, she and her family were constantly moving. This helped her explore many things and she learned to be creative in life. She also enjoyed reading Greek mythology and one of her favorites includes 'The Myth of Theseus and the Minotaur'. The myth is about the king of Crete, Minos, who has a fall-out with the king of Athens, Aegeus, after they supposedly killed his son. He demands that Aegeus send seven youths and seven maidens every year where they are thrown into a labyrinth. In the labyrinth, a Minotaur monster (half man, half bull) would kill and devour them. One day, Aegeus's son, Theseus, decides to volunteer and kill this monster himself. With the help of Minos's daughter, Ariadne, he slays the monster and returns. This Greek mythology helped establish the main plot of *The Hunger Games* in where young people would fight to survive. The three main elements required were a ruthless all-powerful government, people forced to fight to the death, and a popular entertainment for the rest of the people.

Suzanne Collins stated in an interview that she was fascinated with the Greek myth but the whole idea for the trilogy came when she was simply viewing her T.V. (Collins, 2019). She was flipping channels and she would see some images of the disaster in the Iraq war on one channel, and a contest of people competing for a million dollars in the next channel. That was she realized that people were becoming desensitized to the reality of the world. Wars would go on where people died but the rest of the people would watch entertainment channels and take the news for granted. She wanted people to pay attention and so she fused the idea of violence and entertainment to create *The Hunger Games*. Through the novel, she was able to help people understand that there

was more going on behind the footage and imagery of wars and that they should be more sensitive and compassionate towards the people who go through this violence.

With the Greek mythological story, the three main elements, and reality of television footage, she created one of the greatest novels of how the world could be if people, regardless of class, didn't understand the truth behind imagery. People were never meant to be separated based on class or status, but the truth is that they are and it is those of lower-class who are forced to suffer more in some way or another.

## Chapter Five

### 5.0 Introduction

In the final chapter of this research, conclusions of the previous analysis and recommendations for related future studies will be provided.

### 5.1 Conclusion

Seeing violence and experiencing violence are two very different things. Being a part of the upper-class society and being a part of the lower-class society are two very different concepts. Feeling accepted or unaccepted and being accepted or unaccepted are also very different feelings. The truth is that people can not impose on people what they feel, and they can't restrict people based on what they're supposed to be. For people to truly feel comfortable and live in peace, they have to make choices of their own and shape their own paths and futures. In order for someone to be great, they have to struggle to understand the true meaning of greatness. Many believe that people are supposed to gain knowledge at youth and learn more as they grow up. That is what peace is all about; Being able to make choices based on what you learn.

In *The Hunger Games* trilogy, we saw how capitalism affected both classes in a very negative way but in the end, there was an opportunity for people to live in a middle-class society where they could choose and work for the future they desire. Basically, middle class people increase because it is the place where most people feel in peace. It is a class that allows lower-class people to rise and it allows upper-class people to feel free of restrictions and expectations. It may give opportunities to people, but as it increases, the upper and lower-class people decrease. For a good and stable middle-class to exist, it has to remain between the upper and lower class to give equal chances for both other classes to join and find their own peace and happiness. Whether

they find their peace and happiness in the upper-class or the lower-class, the goal of the middle-class is to give the opportunity to explore.

Communism is a system that probably should be applied when there is a few number of people and their goal is to save mankind. It probably shouldn't be applied to a nation or country with high population. In *The Hunger Games*, President Coin was applying communism on the underground citizens but her initial goal was to save the few citizens remaining of district 13. Her communism did spiral out of control when she forced them to address each other as 'soldier' and when she limited the amount of food to all the citizens, regardless of their health or shape. She began to care about enforcing her power rather using that power correctly.

Something important that can be learned from the trilogy is that separation is never the key. The upper-class were perceived as better and the lower-class were perceived as unworthy but there was no bridge between both classes that would allow people to earn what they deserve. It's not wrong to suffer or struggle but it is wrong to do nothing about it if it affects a person's happiness or peace.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

When conducting research on the social status and social classes that several societies, countries, and, nations live on, it is recommended to select novels or literary arts that explore their ideas based on these issues. Peace is usually a main goal that people try to achieve but the ways they try to achieve it differ from one party to another. Different people have ruled in different ways since ancient times and several systems continue on changing and evolving thus creating new systems that would help execute their objective of peace. Analyzing ancient empires and their ways of ruling help understand how economics and social structure helped mankind evolve their own way of thinking. It is also recommended to select theories that

resonate with the chosen literature and arts. Understanding the main idea and connecting it to several theories and philosophies such as Marxism and the 'International Relations Theory' helps create an understanding of the topic in a better way, thus making it easier to gain a clearer perspective of the work.

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