



# Patterns of Order and Utopia

*Dorothy F. Donnelly*

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## **Patterns of Order and Utopia** Dorothy F. Donnelly

Today the term utopia is applied to any philosophy that contains traces of what is called utopian thought--any social, intellectual, political, religious, or psychological theory that speculates about the possibility of someday achieving "the good life." Yet this looseness in definition did not always exist. *Patterns of Order and Utopia* looks at how an historical shift in attitude regarding the notion of order directly influenced both the tradition of utopian thought and additional "other-worldly" concepts of an ideal existence. The study tracks the changes in point of view from the Greek period through the Middle Ages and up to the Renaissance. Author Dorothy Donnelly argues that the concept of order is a central clue to an understanding of the differences among utopias on the one hand, and between utopias and otherworldly visions of an ideal existence on the other. Donnelly begins with an analysis of Plato's Republic and concludes with a discussion on the subject of order and ideal existence that is found in Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis*. *Patterns of Order and Utopia* is a sweeping exploration into the fantasy of utopia and its numerous interpretations throughout the ages.

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