

Ishiguro and Waugh give an accurate account of the English society at a time in history.

In both A Handful of Dust by Evelyn Waugh and The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro, the criticism of the English society after the world wars is very clear. Both writers draw pictures for the society with its lost generation. Moreover, they show that their central characters are the victims of such a society, which has a completely new civilization that lacks emotions, morals, traditions and religion. In other words, this generation loses belief in everything even in God. On the one hand, Tony Last does not belong to this irreligious society which lacks morals and old traditions. As a result, he decides to search for a Utopia which he will never find. On the other hand, Stevens is an idealistic old butler who devotes his life for an artificial civilization and a false society.

In A Handful of Dust, Tony Last is the last member in society who still keeps morals and old traditions. He loves Hetton, which represents old traditions, very much and he does his best to keep it. However, Hetton is detested by the society and by Tony's wife, Brenda. The society does not believe in morals or old traditions any more. In other words, the society is affected by the new modern life which follows World War I. In addition, the English society loses the belief in everything even in God. Consequently, the society accepts betrayal between husbands and wives. Moreover, the superficiality and artificiality of the society is very evident. This is shown and represented in Brenda who betrays her idealistic husband because she gets bored. In addition, she makes an affair with Beaver for the sake of change and not for love or real emotions. In other words, Brenda represents the society who gives up all the valuable things for the sake of Beaver who represents superficiality and destruction. In fact, the English society at this particular time prefers to lead life which lacks principles, morals and old traditions. This is because of World War I which has made the society lose everything even in believing in God and religion.

In The Remains of the Day, Mr Stevens is a victim who does not belong to the modern new society. The society asks him to devote his life for the sake of his master and professionalism. The society makes him believe that his professionalism is his dignity. As a result, he gives up his life for his master and follows him blindly without thinking about what is right and wrong. Consequently, Stevens deprives himself of getting married and of having a family. In other words, society does not allow him to be a human being who must have his right to live as a human being and not only as a professional butler. Moreover, the upper class does not respect Stevens. This is shown when Lord Darlington's guests humiliate Stevens and they decide that he does not have the right to say his point of view because he is an ignorant servant who does not deserve any respect. However, Stevens does not understand the cruelty of this society and he

continues to follow his master blindly without giving himself a chance to discover the bitter reality of this awful society.

Furthermore, the practicality of the society is very obvious when one of Lord Darlington's guests talks about politics. In fact, Mr Lewis represents the practicality of society because he is so frank as he calls the politicians "naïve dreamers". In other words, he faces them with their mistakes and how they try to hide their failure in understanding politics. This proves that the English society at this period of time is strongly criticized by other societies because it lacks reality. This world of self-deception helps Stevens to deceive himself too. He does not want to face himself and to see his mistakes exactly like the world he lives in.

In short, the English society has completely changed after World War I. As a result, Tony and Stevens become members in the lost generation, who are affected by the past, old traditions, morals and honesty. They cannot cope with this new modern society which lacks everything. In other words, their idealism prevents them from understanding this new wild society who gives up everything and keeps nothing except superficiality and immorality.