



## Meccania, the Super-State

*Owen Gregory*

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Publisher: London, Methuen Subjects: Utopias Notes: This is an OCR reprint. There may be numerous typos or missing text. There are no illustrations or indexes. When you buy the General Books edition of this book you get free trial access to Million-Books.com where you can select from more than a million books for free. You can also preview the book there.

## Meccania, the Super-State Details

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Author : Owen Gregory

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## From Reader Review Meccania, the Super-State for online ebook

### Wreade1872 says

A chinese diplomat gets a tour of a sort of 1984 style police state. Its pretty interesting and creepy. One problem is that he never really gets to interview individual citizens but thats part of the state system and the lack of personal interaction or real information IS the real information.

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### Chris says

Frightening to think there are possibly so many out there who would knowingly or unknowingly allow this to happen.

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### Nick says

Framed as a travelogue, it (purposefully) lacks for both plot and character, but largely makes up for that in (now terribly dated) imagination: an interesting piece of dystopian fiction that reveals as much about the fears, tribulations, and biases of 1918 Europe as it does about the thinly-disguised future state of the (then) far-future 1970's Definitely Not Germany. Fascinating mostly -- at this far remove from its publication -- as a lens to how the present looked from the past.

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### Zeb Kantrowitz says

This alternate history was published in 1918, but most likely it was written during the last two years of the "Great War" when the outcome was still in doubt, but after the Bolshevik October 1917 Revolution. This is purported to be a translation of the diary of a Chinese diplomat's visit to Meccania in the late twentieth century. The date is hard to nail down but it's at least fifty years since the ending of the Great War.

Meccania is a military dictatorship that reads a lot like the perfect fascist state, but fascism didn't arise until after the Great War. What is documented by our traveler is a State where everything and everyone is employed by the State. There are only a few 'free' industrialists who make military material for the State, but no independent shops or newspapers.

The country of Meccania is surrounded by ten miles of no man's land and permission to visit is granted to only academics and statesmen. Our diarist, Mr. Wang, is allowed in because of a misunderstanding of who he is in China. They think he is a government minister but he is really just a traveler. Meccania is surrounded by the countries of Luniland (England), Francaria (France) and Idiotica (Bolshevik Russia), all of whom the Meccanians consider to be substandard to them.

There are seven classes in Meccania, from the rulers of the first to the workers of the seventh. Imaging living in the world of Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" or Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times". Meccania is 100 million strong and each class has its' own colored uniform, with 10K in the first class (white) and 20 million in the seventh class (grey). Wang finds a country so stratified that there are no shops or street traffic as workers march to and from work. There are no daily papers or any papers at all except for a daily gazette that reports

on government actions.

Dissidents are put into Asylums suffering from a disease 'of opposition to the State'. Wang never gets to meet any 'normal' people in his five months of travel, but does meet a countryman who has lived there for fifteen years. His friend, Mr. Kwang, has become well known in Meccania for his pro-Meccanian books and articles. But Kwang articles are meant to serve another purpose, which the Meccanians in their overwhelming confidence don't realize are anti-Meccanian.

This is a very difficult book to read and to review in that it was written at a time when none of these types of governments had yet existed. Gregory's ideas so model the coming Fascist and Communists States that you would think he had a time machine. A classic of alternate history.

Zeb Kantrowitz [zworstblog.blogspot.com](http://zworstblog.blogspot.com)

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### **James MacIntyre says**

An interesting precursor to 1984, with Gregory's fictional tale of Meccania (i.e. Germany post WW1) providing a fascinating look at how totalitarianism can begin and how people let it happen.

Orwell's text is superior owing to its focus on character, with Gregory focusing more on describing in-depth how such a state might look. Made more relevant by how close to North Korea it sounds.

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