Report on the Threatened City

*Plot summary*

The story explores humanity and the flaws that exist in the human condition. It uses the format of a report written by aliens trying to warn humans about the San Francisco Earthquake in 1971. It uses a very formal and emotionless tone to critique the flaws that it sees in humanity. Humanity is described as being unable to see dangers that lie ahead. The ‘old’ are portrayed as afraid of change and pro-establishment whereas the youth are critical yet powerless.

*Themes*

Fear & Apathy –

Society is shown to have little fear and is apathetic towards in impending doom. This could be related to the fear mongering and war that they had been faced with for the preceding thirty years.

Government & Establishment –

The government are shown to be obsessed with hiding information from the public. The established is shown to be useless in helping ideas move forward.

War –

The story suggests that humanity values war and is in a constant state of war.

Youth VS. Elderly

The youth are described as apathetic and eager for change they can’t make happen. They are in direct opposition to the established order and the older generation.

*Tone*

The tone of the piece would be cold and formal, like a report should be. However the fact that it deals with such dark subject matter makes it pessimistic verging on nihilistic.

*Characters*

**Narrator:**

The story has an alien commenting on the issues with humanity in the form of a report. There is little personality shown but it is used more as a mouthpiece for the flaws in humanity. In this way the narrator is used by the writer to fulfil their objective of social commentary.