

Anti-Militarism in Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*

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Abstract

The paper attempts to address Joseph Heller in his novel, *Catch-22* (1961). An examination of the content of the novel in relation to antimilitaristic concepts is a major focus of the paper. The paper depicts various characters in the novel and tries to show how they reflect antimilitarism. The effects of particular behaviors and the major events that take place in the Air Force are discussed in the paper. The story mainly revolves around some airmen who were combatants in World War II. The events discussed in the paper clearly highlight the sentiments held by antimilitarists on war issues. The plot of the novel is sequential and the description of events is comic. The characters represent various characteristics that can be used to develop a plot on antimilitarism.

The paper bases its literature of the aspects of the military that necessitate and justify the rise and development of antimilitarism. Socialism is a notable aspect of antimilitarism while militarism seems to conform to capitalism. From an antimilitaristic perspective, capitalism is characterized by a type of bureaucracy that demoralizes soldiers and promotes individuality within the military. *Catch-22* deals with all the

militaristic and antimilitaristic factors and events that lead to the same aspects.

Introduction

Joseph Heller was born in Brooklyn, New York City on the 1st of May 1923 to parents who were Jewish immigrants, Isaac and Lena Heller. His parents arrived in America in 1913, with the father being a delivery driver with socialist interests in politics. Joseph began his early education in a public school in Coney Island. He graduated from a high school named after Abraham Lincoln in 1941 and immediately secured employment as a clerk in an agency that dealt with insurance issues. In the event of the Second World War, Joseph became a blacksmith's assistant working for the Norfolk Navy Yard. The war later became a source of Joseph's enlightenment as he gained experience in military issues¹.

With the progress of war in 1942, Heller joined the army working as a file clerk. He later switched to the Air Force. Heller's aim was to become a gunner. However, he remained discouraged with sentiments that a gunner never lives long and decided to enroll into the cadet school to train as a bombardier and an officer. He graduated from cadet school in 1944 as a lieutenant. Subsequently, his assignment was to Corsica's 488th Squadron in the 12th Air Force. A raid on Avignon, southeast France, changed Heller's life trend. The raid formed a basis of his fictional account in his novel entitled *Catch-22*. In the raid, the plane of Squadron experienced some hitches, a fellow bombardier was injured, and Heller realized that the flights could actually be death zones. However, his war was not over, he

¹ N. N., *Book Caps. Catch-22 (Study Guide)*, (New York: Book Caps Study Guides, 2012), 6.

later received an Air Medal after the completion of 60 missions in the Mediterranean¹.

After leaving the military service in 1945, Heller married Shirley Held and joined college at the University of Southern California. He then obtained a bachelor degree in English from the New York University, followed by the master's degree from Columbian university and started work at the Pennsylvania State University as an English instructor. Two years later, Heller began working at magazine corporations as an advertising copywriter. Meanwhile, he was working on scripts and short stories for television and films and started working on *Catch-22* in 1953 which was published in 1961. After the success of *Catch-22*, Heller decided to concentrate on writing plays and fiction and quitted his job. The novel made use of the third-person omniscient narration that is non-chronological. The description of events in the novel is with regard to the views of various characters mainly focusing on Captain John Yossarian's life. Heller's other literary works include the 1979's *Good as Gold*, 1984's *God Knows*, and 1994's *Closing Time*.

In the 1980's, Heller was adversely affected by Guillain-Barre syndrome, a nerve disease that paralyzed him for a couple of months. He could not continue with his literary work because of the disease. However, Heller later recovered and regained his normal condition. He later wrote *No Laughing Matter* (1986), his first non-fiction book. Heller died on December 12, 1999 of heart attack. After his death, Schuster and Simon published *Portrait of an Artist as an Old Man* (2000), Heller's final work².

¹ Jan Solomon, " The Structure of Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*" in Harold Bloom, ed., *Joseph Heller's Catch-22* (New York: Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2009), 55.

² Tracy Daugherty, *Just One Catch: A Biography of Joseph Heller* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2011), 6.

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Antimilitarism is an ideology that is an integral characteristic of socialist movements. It relies on supportive theories such as imperialism and nationalism.¹ Therefore, antimilitarism is an ideology that aims at preventing global warfare by reducing "the civil power that is attributable to the military."² Anti-war sentiments characterize Heller's *Catch-22* with regard to its adaptation of the events in the Second World War. John Yossarian, a Second World War pilot, is of the opinion that ambitious, mean-tempered, foolish and excessively commanding officers in the military units are more dangerous than the target enemy. In the novel, Heller uses comic and brutally gruesome styles to narrate their experiences in World War II. The events of the war form a basis for the rejection of some of the military procedures and the rise of antimilitaristic ideologies. Therefore, the novel inculcates a satirical attack on war and the madness, risks and injustices attributable to its leaders.

Catch-22 focuses on the plight of Yossarian as a USA bomber in the 256th squadron during a war expedition in Italy. The bomber and some other airmen make several attempts to avoid the fatal missions that appear to lead to a certain death³. Such actions constitute a manifestation of antimilitarism because the airmen can foretell that the effects of war are likely to be adverse and result in more harm than good⁴. Mass deaths constitute one of the major concepts held by antimilitarists in their efforts to oppose the eruption of war in the event of international conflict. The presentation of the attempts of soldiers to escape war in the novel is

¹ Paul B. Miller. *From Revolutionaries to Citizens : Antimilitarism in France 1870-1914* (Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 2002, 8.

² Ibid, 8.

³ Cockburn, Cynthia, and Cynthia Enloe. "Militarism, Patriarchy and Peace Movements." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 14, no. 4 (December 2012), 555.

⁴ Paul McDonald, *Reading Catch-22*. (Penrith: Humanities-Ebooks, 2012).

comical¹. However, Yossarian and his counterparts are not successful in their efforts to survive. They get assignments to dangerous missions. Consequently most of them are killed indicating the fatality that the provisions of the antimilitaristic ideology are against.

In war, the main aim of the participants is to kill the enemy. Therefore, mass murders and persecutions are integral characteristics of warfare that are in direct opposition to the provisions of antimilitarism. In *Catch-22*, Yossarian's wish is to survive the madness of the war expeditions. It is clear to him that the probability of death is quite high and believes that everyone is trying to kill him. His sentiments are understandable given the aggressive events that are prevalent in the war. Such events form the basis of the rejection of warfare by antimilitarists. In the warzone, the fighters go through untimely suffering and a succession of hard times. For instance, Yossarian and his comrades have to survive fatal combat missions and Colonel Cathcart, the officer in charge of Yossarian's squadron, is continuously increasing the number of missions making it more difficult for the airmen to cope with. According to antimilitarism, such suffering is avoidable if other means of conflict resolution are used. Combat missions result in untold suffering and bloodshed that lead to fear among the combatants.

Yossarian's antimilitaristic conceptions focus on his sight of some of his fellow combatants dying while on duty and the urge to be exempted from flying to dangerous combat missions. However, the administrative units of the Air Force are ignorant of such sentiments. They aim at making America appear mighty in war and to improve the ranks of the soldiers that perform exemplarily. In this case, the administration does not view war in

¹ Lisa M Munday, *American Militarism and Anti-Militarism in Popular Media, 1945-1970* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2012), 46.

the context of its fatal effects; it regards it as a manifestation of superiority¹. Therefore, antimilitarists are right when they say that sometimes war is unnecessary. For instance, it is not appropriate for blood to be shed just to prove that a nation is mighty. War proves superiority at the expense of bloodshed and other fatalities. Antimilitarism is against the unnecessary deaths, categorizes various aspects of war as social evils and advocates peaceful approaches².

The bureaucratic insensitivity to war misery further justifies the sentiments that are attributable to antimilitarism. Such bureaucracy is evident in Heller's narration of the unfathomable danger that Yossarian and other airmen have to face. Yossarian is worried over whether he will make it out of the combat mission alive. McWatt, Mudd, Dobbs and Natelly are some of his friends who could not escape death and this instigates more fear in him³. The horror of war is also evident in the other inhuman actions; for example the rape and subsequent murder of Michaela, the skinny maid who works in Rome in the building the group of soldiers settled in. Michaela's murder reflects the fact that warfare can go against human rights and persecute the innocent. Similar to other socialist ideologies, antimilitarism dwells also on the basis of advocating the respect of human rights, which is not the case in war as is represented in *Catch-22*:⁴

.....Yossarian arrived and pushed his way politely through the circle of solemn neighbors with dim lanterns, who glared with venom as they shrank away from him and pointed up bitterly toward the second-floor windows in their private, grim, accusing conversations.

¹ Gordon L. Rottman, Peter Dennis, and Martin Windrow, *World War II Battlefield Communications* (Oxford: Osprey, 2010). 22.

² Cynthia Cockburn, *Anti-Militarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*, 25.

³ Lisa M. Munday, *American Militarism and Anti-Militarism in Popular Media, 1945-1970*, 47.

⁴ Cynthia Cockburn, 25.

Yossarian's heart pounded with fright and horror at the pitiful, ominous, gory spectacle of the broken corpse.¹

From Heller's version of events, in spite of the fact that Yossarian is a soldier in the Air Force, he holds some antimilitaristic opinions that seem to compel him to abandon the combat missions. The novel depicts him as a protagonist who carries the same antimilitaristic trends in the opposition of aggressive and violent military expeditions. The squadron, in which Yossarian serves, has an assignment to bomb enemies in eastern France and Italy. Captain Yossarian is later admitted to the squadron hospital in the latter stages of the Second World War after complaining of liver pains, and "the doctors were puzzled by the fact that it wasn't quite jaundice" (p1) but they cannot confirm it. The nurses do not like him because it is almost obvious that he is faking sickness. The captain's antimilitaristic perceptions cause him to denounce his duties with the excuse that he is sick. The sickness keeps him off combat for a while, and his fears of the consequences of war missions cause him to continue playing sick and "he made up his mind to spend the rest of the war in the hospital" (p2).

Going through *Catch-22*, it is evident that a large portion of the literary work revolves around Yossarian. The antimilitarism within this character is represented using a complex chronology. Heller refers to past events to explain Yossarian's current situation. Yossarian prefers to stay in the hospital rather than be in combat missions. After deciding to spend the war period in hospital, Yossarian "writes letters saying he is hospitalized but never mentions why"(p.2). The sickness is an excuse that the combatant uses to avoid the disparities involved in warfare. He complains over

¹ Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*. (New York: Dell Publishing, 1990), 419. Subsequent references to *Catch-22* made in this paper are from this edition and are going to be cited inside the paper.

various health issues that he says cannot allow him to stay ready for combat.

The nurses doubt Yossarian's sickness and they believe he is faking it. However, such factors do not deter him from continuous complaints that he is sick. In a normal situation, it is expected that a soldier would brave all situations to remain in combat and accomplish the mission at hand. Therefore, Yossarian's decision to avoid combat is an expression of antimilitaristic characteristics. An antimilitarist would opt to avoid warfare for various reasons while a militarist would try to find more reasons to remain in combat until the mission is complete. Therefore, Yossarian used deception to advance his antimilitaristic behavior: "The pain in his liver had gone away, but Yossarian did not say anything and doctors never suspected..."(p.1) Even when he seems getting well in front of others, he sees an opportunity to escape the dreadful combat missions and stick to the safety of the hospital and the doctors believe him.

Beneath the comic sense of the novel, there is a concept of individuality within the military system in Yossarian's squadron. His comrades are not fighting machines, they are individuals. In the antimilitaristic perspective, using people as war machines is inhuman. Individuality in the military is also undesirable because upholding conformity for utmost effectiveness is appropriate. Therefore, in a normal situation, combatants should work as a unit and not as separate entities¹. In addition, considering soldiers as war machines demoralizes them and instigates the urge to give up combat missions as in Yossarian's case. The

¹ N.N., Book Caps. *Catch-22 (Study Guide)*: (New York: Book Caps Study Guides, 2012).

adoption of inhuman concepts in warfare contradicts the fact that army units are supposed to foster peace¹.

Instead of fostering peace and solving conflicts, wars may make the situation worse. In the case of World War II, the mass killings do not manifest peace. On the contrary, war leads to widespread violence that instigates fear even among the soldiers with special reference to the airmen in the 256th squadron, as is depicted in Heller's *Catch-22*². In the antimilitaristic perspective, socialism and other non-aggressive expeditions would foster peace and not the use of armed forces, which may intend to display military prowess and spread violence. The cause of military action is usually a form of retaliatory response to particular issues. However, some of these issues can be solved using negotiations and other litigation measures. For instance, a conflict involving two nations can be settled through peace talks and international intervention. If such countries resort to warfare, innocent citizens on both sides may suffer, as it is the case when Yossarian and his fellow combatants are ordered to attack Italy and France. Antimilitarism advocates peace with less bloodshed and the preservation of innocent lives³.

Other combatants in the novel also have various fears that are evident in the provisions of antimilitarism. For instance, Doc Daneeka, the medical officer, is the only individual that can ground Yossarian but fears the fact that Colonel Cathcart would punish him for this by sending him to the disease-stricken theater of operations in the Pacific. From the antimilitaristic sentiments, it is clear that army officers can remain inhumanly punished by being sent to war zones in which the probability of

¹ Cynthia Cockburn, *Anti-Militarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*, 23.

² Peter Scheckner, "Renegades in the Literature of War: From Homer to Heller." *War, Literature & the Arts: An International Journal Of The Humanities* 21, no. 1/2 (November 2009), 200.

³ Paul McDonald, *Reading Catch-22*, 9.

death is high¹. Sending Doc to a disease stricken mission area is in contrast with the expectations of antimilitarism. By hesitating to ground Yossarian, Doc displays the spirit of antimilitarism through his fear of the inhabitable combat zone that the administration is likely to send him to. Such punishments may result in more deaths instead of enhancing the level of discipline in the force².

Heller uses a sardonic approach to describe the aspect of military intelligence in the Air Force. Chief Halfoat, the assistant of the intelligence officer, is illiterate, “could barely read or write and had been assigned to Captain Black as assistant intelligence officer”(p38). In normal situations, it is expected that the intelligence docket comprises the elite who can make sane and feasible decisions. The chief’s family was constantly on the move during his childhood and he could not attend school. Subsequently, allocating an illiterate individual to a position in the military intelligence compromises the feasibility of the mission decisions that are made. Antimilitarism is against the uninformed and arrogant decisions that individuals with low competency levels in the intelligence units make³. Such decisions may lead to mission failure and result in fatal results other than the intended victory.

Going back to the perception that combatants are also human, some missions deny them the privilege of going back to their families after a specific period. Army officers have rights just like other human beings and the failure by the management to uphold such rights strengthens the antimilitaristic sentiments. For instance, in the novel, *Hungry Joe*, one of the air combatants is always worried after the completion of his missions

¹ Gordon L. Rottman, Peter Dennis, and Martin Windrow. *World War II Battlefield Communications*, 20.

² *Ibid.*, 20.

³ Paul McDonald, *Reading Catch-22*, 10.

who “had his bags packed and was waiting again to go home” (p45). The worry sets in as a result of the fact that he might be assigned to a new mission before he gets the chance to go home to his family. Being sent back to the war before Joe enjoys his hard-earned break seems to be an unfair practice by Colonel Cathcart. Unfair treatment of soldiers in the military may have a negative effect on their morale and cause them to develop an antimilitaristic spirit.

Heller uses flashback to reflect on some of the horrific events that may have led to Yossarian’s antimilitaristic and retaliatory behavior that brings him out as the protagonist in the plot. There are two notable events in the course of his service as an airman that expose him to the deadly reality of warfare that antimilitarists stand against. The first event occurs when he is directing his flight group composed of six planes over a target enemy zone called Ferrara. Their bombs miss the target bridge and Yossarian feels like abandoning the mission: "Nine missions his men had flown there in six days, and the bridge was not demolished until the tenth mission on the seventh day"(p.133). The second time he releases the bombs, Kraft, a young airman is killed despite being an innocent kid. The death of the young airman is an indication of the manner in which warfare ends the lives of individuals that would have otherwise had a promising and lucrative future. Kraft’s death haunts Yossarian and is one of the causes of his antimilitaristic behavior. The mission to Avignon, in France, fails and adds to his problems with his job as an Air Force Combatant¹.

Yossarian is always contemplating over his perceived death. The fear and uncertainty of the combat missions make Yossarian see the possibility of him dying while in combat. He dwells on the fact that death is

¹ Valerie Morkevičius, "Power and Order: The Shared Logics of Realism and Just War Theory." *International Studies Quarterly* 59, no. 1 (March 2015), 13.

inevitable. Yossarian feels that he is trapped in the army with no way out and his stay there is rather uncomfortable: “One of the things he wanted to start screaming about was the surgeon’s knife that was almost certain to be waiting for him and everyone else who lived long enough to die.” (p.170) Such a situation is a proof that some of the soldiers in the army are forced by circumstances. Snowden’s death, a young gunner who died in Yossarian’s arms, instils even more fear in Yossarian. Such events of deaths in the military justify the opposition from antimilitarists: “Yossarian was cold and shivering as he gazes down at the grim that Snowden spilled on the floor...” (p.442).

Antimilitarism opposes the corrupt vices that are attributable to capitalism. Socialism and capitalism have never had a point of mutual agreement and this case is not any different. In this case, Heller uses a character called Milo to develop his satirical view on the graft cases associated with capitalism. Upon becoming the new mess officer, Milo pretends to be a virtuous man with ethical principles yet all that he wants is the best for himself. Such greed is a manifestation of the fact that some of the military heads are self-centered and may not consider the welfare of the rest provided that their concerns are addressed. The encounter between Milo and Yossarian depicts the former’s antimilitaristic behavior. When Milo offers Yossarian fruits, he refuses to take them because they would lead to the healing of his liver conditions and he will not have an excuse to stay off-duty. Therefore, he prefers to be sick and stay out of combat missions, depicting the extent to which he intends to go just to avoid military action¹.

In the hearing session of Clevinger, Scheisskopf and two other officers decide to convict him of an offense that he is not guilty. The

¹ Cynthia Cockburn, *Anti-Militarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*, 23.

captain is sentenced to punishment duty. In this case, the senior officers convict their junior of a baseless infraction and do not consider his rights: "These three men who hated him (Clevenger) spoke his language and wore his uniform, but he saw their loveless faces" (p.77) If the military is a force that aims at fostering peace and delivering justice, then it should depict the same within itself as an institution. Injustice within the military constitutes the basis for the antimilitaristic argument that militarism is not an all-clean way of solving issues. Persecuting an innocent combatant without adequate evidence is an act of injustice and taints the image of the militarists and makes the victims form a kind of rebellion against the system¹.

Antimilitarism also advocates justice in the military. *Catch-22* does not leave out the aspect of justice in the military. The novel depicts the military distortion of justice as evident in Clevinger's trial. Clevinger and Yossarian are under Lieutenant Scheisskopf in Santa Ana's cadet school. The Lieutenant was humorless, ambitious, haughty, and obsessed with parades. He loves the Sunday parade that most of his men detest². His corrupt practices are evident in the fact that he appoints his own cadet officers in accordance with his personal preference instead of giving all his men a chance to choose them from the ranks as the protocol expects. The lieutenant puts Clevinger on a vicious trial that is corrupt and unfair³. Worst still, Scheisskopf is among the members of the action board conducting the trial. Clevinger feels that the senior officers hate him the same way the enemy does and are only not able to kill him directly⁴.

¹ James L. McDonald, "I See Everything Twice! The Structure of Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*" in Harold Bloom, ed., *Joseph Heller's Catch-22*, 95-96.

² Steven J. Doloff, "Heller's *Catch-22*." *Explicator* 65, no. 3, 180

³ Tracy Daugherty, *Just One Catch: A Biography of Joseph Heller*, 6.

⁴ Matthew P. Dziennik, 2012. "Hierarchy, Authority and Jurisdiction in the Mid Eighteenth-century Recruitment of the Highland Regiments." *Historical Research* 85, no. 227, 91.

Inappropriate leadership from individuals like Lieutenant Scheisskopf complicates and compromises military expeditions. For instance, the imposition of cadets and other senior officials on the junior combatants, their effectiveness in the job is affected. Combatants may not work effectively under the command of leaders who owe their appointment to corrupt procedures. Leadership is an integral part in the context of military expeditions. Effective leadership would result in greater cooperation and coordination of combat operations. In addition, if considerate and competent leaders lead the combat missions, they may be less bloody and may yield successful results. If military missions aim at inculcating peace, then the leaders should display the same and lead missions that are less fatal. Excessively aggressive leaders might make hasty decisions that would cause extensive and irreparable damages¹.

Some combatants display particular forms of despicable behavior that is unfit for the military environment. In the novel, Captain Black is an envious, sadistic and vengeful officer. He is glad when Colonel Cathcart assigns some men to the dangerous Bologna mission. He says that he cannot wait to see the faces of the combatants when they find out that they are going to Bologna. From the proceedings, it is clear that the Captain enjoys it when the other airmen are forced to risk their lives. Such arrogance indicates the arrogance and the limited respect that some militants have for human life. Respecting human rights should be the priority of such a vital institution and not delight when fellow combatants are at the risk of dying. Antimilitarism upholds the respect for human rights

¹ Steven J. Doloff, "Heller's Catch-22.", 181.

as one of its key arguments in opposing violent combat actions used by military units¹.

Conclusion

Joseph Heller makes use of his experience as a lieutenant in the military to show his antimilitaristic trend. He focuses in his fictional novel, *Catch-22* on the protagonist Captain Yossarian to develop an antimilitaristic ideology. The captain is not comfortable with the state of warfare and the combat missions because of the fatalities and risks that are parts of combat missions. He finds fake excuses that would guarantee an exemption from the war for him.

In *Catch 22*, antimilitarism is against the widespread bloodshed and mass killings that happen during military combat. War expeditions may constitute inhuman treatment of people including the innocent. In *Catch-22* Lieutenant Scheisskopf appears to be a corrupt bureaucrat that does not care about the interests of his men. His corrupt practices are clear when he appoints his cadet officers in accordance with his personal preference instead of giving all his men a chance to choose them from the ranks as the protocol expects. All he cares about is the Sunday parade that most of his men detest. The novel shows that wars do not bring about peace. The bureaucratic insensitivity to military activities also justifies the antimilitarists' opposition to warfare. The administrative units in the military can also be corrupt and engage in unfair activities such as the unlawful assignment of some individuals to posts that they might not be competent enough to hold. Colonel Cathcart, the officer in charge of Yossarian's squadron, increases the number of missions of flying which

¹ Peter. Scheckner, "Renegades in the Literature of War: From Homer to Heller." *War, Literature & the Arts: An International Journal Of The Humanities* 21, no. 1/2 (November 2009), 201.

makes it difficult for the airmen to cope with. This will result in untold suffering and bloodshed that lead to fear among the combatants. Chief Halfoat, the assistant of the intelligence officer, is illiterate, cannot read or write, yet, his docket in the force is military intelligence.

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المشاعر المناهضة للروح العسكرية في رواية جوزيف هيلر "كاتش ٢٢"

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كلية اللغات

قسم اللغة الانكليزية

ملخص البحث

يحاول البحث دراسة رواية الكاتب الاميركي جوزيف هيلر التي تحمل عنوان "كاتش ٢٢" (١٩٦١). وفي تفحص دقيق لمحتويات الرواية نجد ان تركيزها الرئيس هو المشاعر المناهضة للروح العسكرية. ويقدم البحث شخصيات مختلفة في الرواية ويحاول ان يعكس من خلالها المشاعر المناهضة للروح العسكرية. وان البحث ناقش ايضاً تأثيرات التصرفات الخاصة والاحداث الرئيسة التي حدثت في القوة الجوية الاميركية. وتدور القصة بشكل رئيس حول بعض رجال القوة الجوية الذين كانوا مقاتلين في الحرب العالمية الثانية. وتسلط الاحداث التي يناقشها البحث الضوء على المشاعر التي تحملها المفاهيم المناهضة للروح العسكرية تجاه قضايا الحرب. ان حبكة الرواية متسلسلة وان وصف الاحداث جاء بشكل هزلي كوميدى. وتمثل الشخصيات في الرواية الخصائص المتنوعة التي يمكن ان تستعمل لتطوير حبكة ما مناهضة ايضاً للروح العسكرية.

ويستند البحث في مجمله على مفاهيم القوات المسلحة التي تستلزم وتبرر ظهور المشاعر المناهضة للروح العسكرية وتطويرها. وان افكر الاشتراكي يعد مفهوماً بارزاً للمشاعر المناهضة للروح العسكرية في الوقت الذي تبدو فيه الروح العسكرية تحاول ان تتكيف مع الرأسمالية. ومن وجهة نظر مناهضة للروح العسكرية، فان الرأسمالية يمكن تشخيصها على انها نوع من البيروقراطية التي تحبط من عزيمة الجنود وتعزز الروح الفردية في داخل القوات المسلحة. وتتعامل رواية "كاتش ٢٢" مع جميع العوامل العسكرية والعوامل المناهضة للعسكرية والاحداث التي ادت الى المفاهيم نفسها.