The difference and similarities of  “Minority Report” and “All the Troubles of the World”

The movie “Minority Report” is a story set in a future where technology is advanced, and the police named “Precrime” use so called “precogs”, a group of three who have the ability to see the future which helps them detect crime before it happens. Because of PreCrime, murder rates are less seen. John Anderton, the head and police chief of Precrime, finds out that he is being framed for a murder he believes has not committed for the next 36 hours, and goes on the run, where everything around him is part of a event and a sinister conspiracy connected to a precog. Precogs in the story are being used, because they can stop murder before it happens, with the exception of the only female and the strongest one, Agatha, who senses differently than the other two, and rarely creates a error which she has ever predicted to happen, thus leading to the plot of the story.

The film’s time is set in 2054, where the location is primarily set in Washington DC, and some parts of Northern Virginia. John, as a fugitive travels everywhere in other to escape from Precrime, and in some points of the movie, seeks help, such as the female creator, Dr Hineman, who tells him to discover his own “minority report”, as well as Solomon, a doctor who proceeds to give John eye surgery for having his lenses removed so he would not be recognized. He also ends up in a hotel after finding Crow who he suspects he would kill for kidnapping his son.

“Minority Report”’s themes mainly revolves “free will” vs “determinism”. During the ending of the film, Anderton replies to Burgess, saying “ Except you know your own future, which means you can change it if you want to. You still have a choice, Lamar.”. John is being accused, because he was set up and framed by Burgess, who controlled and created the program, and his knowledge over the prediction would eventually lead John to kill Crow, inevitably.  the precogs are being controlled in order to help the police, their visions of predicting are a mystery, because it never addresses whether they had seen the right thing accurately.

Multivac, on the other hand, is similar to the precogs, because it is a sentient supercomputer which has full knowledge of what can happen. Similar to the movie, Multivac,  is being used by humans, who want to keep it alive so that it can solve their “troubles” and questions, but it is sentient and aware that it needs to die, unlike the precogs, in which one out of three has more advanced power to predict the future unlike the other two.

The author has not given any details in where it is set in, however it bears the same location (Washington DC) like Minority Report. Time is uncertain but most likely given the technology, can be placed in an unspecified future. Here people worship Multivac as the highest power of the world, claiming him to be their “god”. Whereas precogs are considered by a useful, since a handful of children, born from drug addicts, could have survived the process of lab experiments in order to have visions in which the see.

Last but not least, the themes of the book often surround the conflict of machine vs man. Multivac wishes suicide rather than being controlled and being relied on, exactly shown as : “For fifty years and more we have been loading humanity’s troubles on Multivac, on this living thing.” It also deals with the complex nature of humans, such as the Board who are greedy and Ben, who is selfless and willing to be used by Multivac, who trusts him. But the overall theme is mainly Multivac can't solve the world’s problems, which are too much for it to handle, and stages carefully which soon leads to its death.

The book and the movie certainly do share certain similarities and differences, but still has a common setting of being in the future and the greater advancement of technology.

Citations:

Minority Report, Dir Steven Spielberg, 2002

Asimov, Isaac, “All the Troubles of the World”, Super Science Fiction, April 1958

<https://prezi.com/32_irehecyxj/the-minority-report/>