

STUDY PACK 27

COMMUNISM

“A false and undeliberated conception of what man is lies at the bottom, I think, of the whole bubble castle of socialist theory. Although few seem to realize it, Marxism rests on the romantic notion of Rousseau that nature endows men with the qualities necessary to a free and equal, fraternal, family-like living together and our sole problem is to fix up eternal conditions...It was natural that idealistic people who had ceased to believe in heaven should think up bright hope for humanity on earth.”

~~ Max Eastman, *Reflections on the Failure of Socialism* ~~

I. THE ORIGIN OF COMMUNISM

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels are usually thought of as the _____ even though the ideas they promoted had been around for centuries. In 1847 both men joined the League of the Just, a secret organization with headquarters in London. The League eventually changed its name to the Communist League. Marx and Engels were assigned to write a definitive statement of the aims and programs of the Communist League. This document became known as the _____. Published in 1848, it became one of the most explosive, revolutionary, and important documents of world history.

The Manifesto concludes with this call to arms: “The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Workingmen of all countries unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains.”

By 1864 the First Socialist International had been formed including socialists of all types from many countries. By 1889 it had been transformed into the Second Socialist International and was totally dominated by the followers of Karl Marx. There was an open call for violent worldwide revolution.

Communist teaching was officially summarized by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Their definition reads:

“Communism is a classless social system with one form of public ownership of the means of production and full social equality of all members of society: under it the all-round development of people will be accompanied by the growth of productive forces through continuous progress in science and technology: all sources of public wealth will gush forth abundantly, and the great principle “_____” will be implemented.

_____” will be implemented. Communism is a highly organized society of free, socially conscious working people in which public self-government will be established, a society in which labor for the good of society will become the prime vital requirement of everyone, a necessity recognized by one and all, and the ability of each person will be employed to the greatest benefit of the people.”

Blind faith in big government had found its ultimate expression. Communist groups dedicated to bringing about revolution were started throughout the world. However, their early attempts to seize power were all dramatic failures.

II. ATHEISTIC COMMUNISM

Communism was clearly _____. One official communist proclamation read,

“Communists claim that matter is self-sufficient – self-developing and self-perpetuating and that there is no Supreme Being, or God, responsible for either the creation or preservation of the universe. Communists allege that man does not have a spiritual soul destined for immortality and that he is not essentially distinct from one of the other forms of life. Communists conclude that all religions and all moral codes derived from spiritual concepts are based on fantasy.”

Former communist agent Whitaker Chambers wrote:

“The Communists vision is the _____.

It [the Communists Party] has posed in practical form the most revolutionary question in history: God or Man? It has taken the logical next step which three hundred years of rationalism hesitated to take, and said what millions of modern minds think, but do not dare or care to say: If man’s mind is the decisive force in the world, what need is there for God? Henceforth man’s mind is man’s fate.”

Early communists idealized Louis Feuerbach who wrote:

“Man alone is our God, our father, our judge, our redeemer, our true home, our law and our rule, the Alpha and Omega of our life and of our political, moral, public and domestic activity. There is no salvation, save through the medium of man...Human nature is holy, *hallowed is the impulse towards pleasure*; all that procures it is holy, every man has a right to, and is destined for, happiness, to attain which everyone ought to lend him aid.”

Karl Marx’s friend, revolutionary Mikhail Bakunin wrote about him:

“Since Marx rejected the idea of God, he could not explain the human condition as the result of sin. He blamed all evil, both moral and psychological, on the _____ which he said had to be overthrown by revolution so that the society of man could be restructured.”

III. THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

In March, 1917, the government of the Czar in Russia was overthrown. In its place came a government which has been described as the freest the Russians have ever known. This government faced many challenges in replacing the czarist government. On November 7, 1917, a small group of communist revolutionaries led by Nikolai Lenin and Leon Trotsky seized power in Moscow. The communists liked to claim credit for the overthrow of the Czar but in reality, they overthrew a free representative government.

Alexander Kerensky, leader of Russia during its few months of freedom in 1917, described what happened this way:

“The myth that the Communists overthrew czarism has been purposely spread to conceal their crime of having strangled the first Russian democracy. And today Communists everywhere are trying to seize power by the same cynical device; posing as ‘defenders of democracy,’ organizing their blows against liberty under the banner of liberty. It was not until after his victory that Lenin admitted publicly that his freedom-loving slogans had been deliberate deception.

The Russian people cannot be blamed for falling into the Bolshevik trap, for at that time, the world had had no experience with modern totalitarian techniques. But there is no such excuse for the millions of workers, farmers and intellectuals in the democratic West who are offered the bait today. To them the frightful experience of my native land should serve as a grim warning.”

From 1917 to World War II, Communist cells existed in almost every nation of the world, including the United States and Britain. However, these nations were successful at resisting Communist revolution. In the aftermath of World War II, the Russian army seized control of _____ and established governments there. Conquered nations included Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia. Russian armies also established a government in the eastern half of Germany. They also used the aftermath of World War II to seize Mongolia, the northern half of Vietnam and the northern half of Korea.

American Federal Bureau of Investigation Director, J. Edgar Hoover, described the communist desire for conquest this way:

“In studying communism, it is essential to recognize that the world-wide Communist movement now constitutes the greatest imperialism force of all time. Communist imperialism is inherently insatiable. Acceptance of the Marxist principle that communism must be established on a world-wide scale binds Communists to a course of action which demands that they constantly exert pressure on non-Communist nations in order to prepare the way for communism’s so-called inevitable triumphs. Communists employ methods and practices which touch on every aspect of man’s existence. The pressures they apply vary in type and intensity, but combine to represent a form of total imperialism which is new and unique in the nature of its challenge to the rest of the world.” Communism, an inherently imperialistic force, pursues a fixed goal through flexible methods and feeds on political, social, and economic upheaval to create and take advantage of chaos.”

IV. COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONS

The government of the Soviet Union, long on the verge of financial collapse because of the weaknesses of socialism, gained a temporary prosperity from looting conquered nations. These resources were used to finance revolutions in many countries. Whenever a revolution was successful the Communists moved quickly to take advantage of the natural confusion in the aftermath of a revolution and seize control of the government.

One manual for encouraging revolution gave this advice to communist cell groups:

- A. _____, get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial, destroy their ruggedness.

- B. Get control _____ and thereby:
1. Get people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books, plays, and other trivialities.
 2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.
 3. Destroy the people's faith in their _____ by holding the latter up to contempt, ridicule, and obloquy.
 4. Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast and as ruthlessly as possible.
 5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit, _____ with rising prices and general discontent.
 6. Foment unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders and foster a lenient and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders.
 7. By specious argument cause the breakdown of the old moral virtues, honesty, sobriety, continence, faith in the pledged word, ruggedness.
- C. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext, with a view to confiscating them and leaving the population helpless.

V. THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM

By _____, communism had spread around the globe. It controlled ¼ of the world's population. A communist flag flew over:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Albania | 10. Lithuania |
| 2. Bulgaria | 11. North Korea |
| 3. China | 12. North Viet Nam |
| 4. Cuba | 13. Outer Mongolia |
| 5. Czechoslovakia | 14. Poland |
| 6. East Germany | 15. Rumania |
| 7. Estonia | 16. Tibet |
| 8. Hungary | 17. U.S.S.R. |
| 9. Latvia | 18. Yugoslavia |

From 1961 to 1980 communism gained control of Tanzania, Angola, South Viet Nam, Ethiopia, Laos, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Yemen, Guyana, Mozambique, and Afghanistan.

VI. COMMUNIST ATROCITIES

Most communist governments practiced the policy of remaking a country through mass slaughter and terrorism. According to the 1993 Guinness Book of Records, Communist China killed 60 million of its own people between 1949 and 1993. The Soviet Union executed 40 million of its own citizens between 1917 and 1989. In Cambodia, the Pol Pot regime set the goal of eradicating 1/3 of the 3 million citizens of Cambodia. The "killing fields" were designed to make a new "communist" paradise. The record of communist atrocities is unparalleled in world history. The Soviets used the aftermath of World War II to seize control of Eastern Europe and support Communist revolutions in China, Korea and Indo-China.

VII. CUBA: A CASE STUDY

Cuba was the first nation in the Western Hemisphere to be seized by communism. In 1959, Communist revolutionaries under Fidel Castro seized the island. Cuba actually had one of the

highest standards of living in Latin America. Before the communist revolution, among Latin American countries Cuba ranked:

- Third in percentage of literacy;
- First in percentage of education;
- Lowest in mortality-rate;
- Second in number of doctors per 1,000 people;
- First in the number of cars per person;
- First in the number of TV sets;
- Third in the number of telephones;
- Fourth in wages per employee; and
- Second in per capita income.

Cuba in 1958, prior to the government of the Communist Fidel Castro, paid its employees an average of \$3.00 per hour, which was higher that year than Belgium (\$2.70); Denmark (\$2.86); France (\$1.74); West Germany (\$2.73); and comparable to the United States (\$4.06).

Communism plunged Cuba into abject poverty. Cuba became the _____
_____ in Latin America.

VIII. RESISTANCE TO COMMUNISM

In the aftermath of World War II many people began to realize that the free nations had won the war but were losing the peace. The Allies maintained control of the western part of the city of Berlin deep in communist controlled East Germany. The Communists realized that many people were fleeing into West Berlin and they built a wall to divide the city and stop the people who tried to enter West Berlin without permission. Soon the borders of all communist countries were lined with walls and barbed wire and patrolled by state police. Thousands continued to escape from these countries and thousands of others died trying. Millions of people were executed in Communist attempts to “remake society.”

The government of East Germany ordered a _____, intending to starve it into submission. The United States and England vowed to fly supplies in on a daily basis. The communists threatened to shoot the supply planes down. The Allies sent fighter jets to accompany them. Thousands of flights later, the Communists gave in and restored the regular travel routes to Berlin.

The Soviet Union (the Communist name for Russia and a number of conquered nations around it) gained _____ and developed its own nuclear weapons. Two Americans, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were executed for selling nuclear secrets to the Soviets. England and France also developed atomic bombs. The free nations of Europe became very concerned about Soviet expansion. The United States, England, Canada, and several other European nations formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO provided a mutual defense treaty against communist expansion. After the formation of NATO the Communists did not seize control of any more European territory.

American President Harry Truman announced the Truman Doctrine. This statement declared that the U.S. would oppose any _____ but that the U.S. would not try to overthrow any currently existing Communist government. This doctrine was applied unevenly but attempts were made around the world to halt the spread of Communism.

The North Koreans invaded South Korea. The Soviet Union and Red (Communist) China provided them aid. The U.S. rushed troops to oppose this invasion and called on the United Nations to resist it. A number of United Nations countries sent forces and a three year bloody war was fought. At the end of the fighting the boundary between North and South Korea was roughly the same as it had been at the start.

The Soviet Union placed nuclear missiles in Cuba. U.S. President John F. Kennedy demanded that they be removed and declared a naval blockade of Cuba until they were. The Soviet Union threatened war and sent ships towards Cuba. A tense world wondered if the first nuclear war was about to break out. At the last minute the Soviets backed down, they agreed to remove their missiles from Cuba, the U.S. agreed to remove its missiles from Turkey, and both sides claimed victory.

The United States had been aiding the government of South Vietnam in resisting a communist revolution for years. The rebels, the Viet Cong, were aided by North Vietnamese forces, and supplied by the Soviet Union and Red China. Under President Lyndon Johnson, the U.S. began to introduce combat forces and battle the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese directly. Stringent limits were placed on U.S. forces and they were not allowed to achieve a military victory. Eventually 500,000 troops were serving in Vietnam and there were many casualties. Under U.S. President Richard Nixon an armistice was signed and the U.S. withdrew its troops. The Communists quickly broke the terms of the armistice and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were conquered.