

November 2008, By Jabin Park

### PART I: A BRIEF HISTORY OF MARXISM

After the Russian revolution in 1917, the new communist government in Moscow re-asserted control over the countries of the former Russian empire. The Red Army marched into any nearby resistant nation and installed communism as the new form of government. During the next 70 years, religion, both Muslim and Christian, was viciously suppressed. Lenin and Stalin killed more civilians than Hitler and brainwashed entire generations to believe that atheism and Marxism were superior to all other beliefs and governments. In the decades that followed, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba and many other countries did likewise. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990, many people seem to think the "Red Threat" is passed. Indeed, the likelihood of a third world war with China does not seem an immediate threat, barring some complication on the Korean peninsula, or over Taiwan. The other openly Marxist states don't seem to pose much of a threat to the West.

However, the threat of Marxism to the world is greater than ever. Rather than a conventional war, most capitalist countries are slowly having their governments supplanted by so called "socialists" who, to one degree or another, actually subscribe to Marxist theory. Norman Thomas, who was a six-time presidential candidate for the Socialist Party of America, said in 1948 "the American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism. But under the name of 'liberalism' they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program, until one day America will be a Socialist nation, without knowing how it happened." So what is Marxism and what is the problem with it taking hold in the West?

Karl Marx was a German philosopher. In the 1840s, he broke from the theories of his predecessors, Kant and Hegel, by arguing that there was no spiritual aspect to human existence, only the physical. He was not the first thinker in the enlightenment to argue this, but he was the first to apply it to social issues. He said that the cause of all social issues and problems are physical in nature, and not due to immaterial things like Sin. Thus he concluded that disproportionate possession of wealth was the root cause of society's problems. Therefore, if wealth could be redistributed equally and everyone's needs equally met, then jealousy and vice would then be eliminated. Utopia would follow. Capitalism, he argued, was fundamentally a force of exploitation, of the corporation over the worker, and of class distinction. Therefore, Marx, and his colleague Engels, argued that all other forms of government, such as monarchy and capitalist democracy, should be replaced with communism.

Marx and his colleagues therefore worked to inspire international communist revolution. Their rhetoric promoted the achievement of equality in every area of life including race, gender, and economics. They spoke of empowering the working class against their employers starting with unions and moving toward revolution. They saw religion as a means by which oppressors manipulate the masses to accept the unjust nature of their lives, thus Marx's famous quote that religion is "the opiate of the people." Like a drug, it distracted people from the real nature of their situation: economic injustice. In other words, religion exists to maintain the economic status quo. If this is your starting point in understanding religion, you will naturally conclude that religion must be removed if true economic change is to occur. Thus religion must be eliminated from society for communist revolution to be successful. Marx's works have inspired key leaders around the globe for the last 150 years. Nations around the world have been turned upside-down in the name of Marxism.

---

## MARXISM IS ALIVE AND WELL

Hitler actually rose to power on an anti-Marxism platform. However, in the same way that Marxists apply atheism and materialism to society, Hitler took the practical reality of Darwinian thought and applied it to society. His theory was to remove the less evolved elements of society, to remove the weak and cull the herd. The result would be a stronger society. Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, and others all believed in creating a better world by removing exploitation and classism and by redistributing wealth amongst the population. They believed this so firmly that they were willing to remove any obstacle, by any means necessary. They therefore suppressed religion and murdered anyone who would not accept the new establishment. A clip from the recent movie *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, shows Bill Maher arguing that religion should be removed from the world because it inspires all the wars and killing in the world today. The reality however, is that the historical application of Darwinism and Atheism to society has resulted in more death and murder than all other wars in human history, combined.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM?

According to Marx, Socialism is merely a stage in a progression toward Communism. Marx defined socialism as the dictatorship of the proletariat (workers). In this type of government wealth is redistributed according to the principle "**from** each according to his/her ability, **to** each according to his/her **work**." According to Marx's strict definition, the USSR, China, Cuba, and North Korea all fall into this category but have not achieved true communism.

Communism is the next stage in the progression where government disappears in favor of economic cooperation. The distribution of wealth and the means of wealth follows the principle "**from** each according to his/her ability, **to** each according to his/her **need**." It has also been argued that so called "communists" believe radical revolution is required to achieve socialism, while so called "socialists" believe slow transition can be achieved from within the existing government.

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNISM?

In the Biblical book of Acts, members of the early church are seen selling their possessions and giving the proceeds to their leaders, the Apostles, who redistributed it to the church body according to their need. Thus the principle of redistribution of wealth originates in Christianity. However, this practice was inspired by the principles of the love of God and of the brethren. In the hands of the apostles with the guidance and judgment of the Holy Spirit, it was a beautiful thing. When the principles of atheism and materialism drive the move towards socialism, and when the agent of redistribution is human government, the results are the empowerment of a government bent on stripping away religion and removing anyone who stands in the way of their imagined human-manufactured utopia.

The church should be the first group to champion equality, compassion for the poor and downtrodden, and striving to provide for those who truly cannot provide for themselves. Unfortunately the church often appears uncompassionate and self-concerned. Even in regard to how we care for our own, we fail to live up to the ideals demonstrated by Jesus and the apostles. How much of our giving in church goes to providing for the needs of other members? How much goes to providing for the poor and destitute? The majority typically goes towards the organizational operational costs of the church itself, salaries, utilities, mortgage, renovations, and the like.

Rather than any government, the church should be God's vehicle for redistributing His wealth to those in need and the work of the gospel. In part II of this article, I will examine the Marxist movement in the west today and what it means for us as believers.

### PART II: MARXISM IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Today, the political "Left" in most western countries refers to the socialist (Marxist) political party. This is true in America, England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries. By stripping off the original strictly atheistic foundation of Karl Marx's theory, they have made Marxism more palatable to the west. The Left talks about providing for the poor and equality, values which most people readily agree with. They point to corporate greed and the rich upper class as oppressors, to gain the sympathy of the masses. They argue that only the government elected by the people can be trusted to make society equal and remove society's ills, because they are not motivated by profit. They claim to be in favor of the little guy. It all sounds very good, even down-right compassionate, just as it did to the Russians, Chinese, and Cubans.

#### MARXISM IN AMERICA?

The trends in today's society also alarmingly follow the Marxist playbook. One: remove religion from society. The ACLU (which was founded in 1920 and has roots in the American socialist movement)<sup>1</sup> and others have worked tirelessly to remove religion from government and schools. They twist the constitutional protection of religion from government to support the opposite, the protection of government from religion. Meanwhile they also seek to increase government control of all aspects of life. Therefore, the more of life that is controlled by the government, the more of life will be purged of religion. Two: place control of the economy and social systems in the hands of the central government with a goal of taking over industry and redistributing wealth. The agricultural, transportation, and education industries already rely heavily on federal subsidies and the recent financial crisis has moved the federal government into the role of owning the mortgage industry as well. Soon the government will control the health industry too. The argument soon follows that any industry that receives federal funds or is run by the government should be free of anything religious. Three: remove academic opposition. In Cambodia, Pol Pot ruthlessly slaughtered every academic he could get his hands on, so that no one would be able to intellectually oppose him. Today's scholarly world is becoming increasingly hostile to anyone that does not subscribe to the "party" doctrine of Atheism and Darwinism (see Ben Stein's *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*). Four: Use the banner of equality to erode the old social structure. Marx argued that social structure was a phenomenon of economics, including the institution of marriage itself. Creating a new economic system will create a new social system as well. Promises of freedom from oppression, more opportunity, and an end to racism and sexism have been used as Marxist propaganda since Marx himself.

Our new President, Barack Obama, has a number of significant ties to Marxism. In Hawaii, his grandfather's friend (and apparently Obama's drug dealer) was investigated by the FBI for his

---

<sup>1</sup> The ACLU was originally the National Civil Liberties Bureau (NCLB) which was formed in 1917 to protect conscientious objectors to America's entry into World War I. Its founders were tied to the anti-war and communist movements in America. Congress viewed the NCLB as a vehicle for socialist and communist propaganda.

involvement in the Student for a Democratic Society (SDS). The SDS was the leading communist organization in the United States in the 1960's. When he was in college, Obama, in his own words, sought to associate himself with Marxism professors. He later worked alongside Bill Ayers. They became friends and Bill and his wife, Bernadine Dorn, helped Barack start his political career. You may have heard that Ayers was a "domestic terrorist." Unfortunately you were probably not told that he and his wife were not "domestic terrorists," but full-ledged communist revolutionaries.<sup>2</sup> They were leaders in the SDS, and when it collapsed they led the majority of the SDS to form the new Weathermen organization. The Weathermen's stated agenda was to overthrow the American government and replace it with a communist government. The FBI directly connected them with the Viet Cong in Vietnam, and with the Cuban government. The Weathermen carried out bombings in the name of their communist comrades in Vietnam and Laos. The leaders, such as Bill and Bernadine, soon landed on the FBI's most wanted list and went underground. Thus the Weathermen became the Weather Underground Organization (WUO). According to an FBI informant in the WUO, their plan was that after overthrowing the government, they would need to setup re-education camps to re-orient people to communism. They also recognized that up to 25 million people would continue to resist the new government and would therefore need to be "eliminated."<sup>3</sup> When asked in 2001 interview with *The New York Times* about his thoughts on their activities in the 60's, Bill Ayers said he only wished they had done more.<sup>4</sup> And Obama is their candidate? Barak Obama insist that Ayers is just a guy who lives in their neighborhood, but Ayers himself, immediately after the election said they are "family friends."

Even Obama's church has a Marxist leaning. Reverend Wright espouses liberation theology, a theological trend rejected by the Catholic Church because of the way in which it mixes Marxist theory into Christian theology. In a May 5, 2008 interview with Sean Hannity, Reverend Rob Schenck, president of the National Celrgy Council, said in regard to Jeremiah Wight and his devotion to "black liberation theology", "Reverend Wright is absolutely committed to what he calls "black liberation theology." Well, "liberation theology" has its roots in Latin American liberation theology. And if you ask the average Christian leader in this country, it is way, way outside the mainstream of Christian belief, and, in fact, it's based in Marxism. At the core of his theology is really an anti-Christian understanding of God, and as part of a long history of individuals who actually advocate using violence in overthrowing those they perceive to be oppressing them, even acts of murder have been defended by followers of liberation theology. That's very, very dangerous."<sup>5</sup> In the same interview Schenk says he previously confronted Wright

---

<sup>2</sup> In fact the Weathermen primarily targeted government facilities, government statues, government official's homes, and government employees, which made them revolutionaries, not necessarily terrorists. Terrorism is the targeting of non-combatants in order to create terror in the population. The Weathermen were trying to inspire a grass-roots revolution, not fear in the population. Their activities later devolved into mere criminal behavior, robbing banks and armored cars (presumably as strikes against the oppressive capitalist system), and famously being paid to break LSD advocate Timothy Leary out of jail.

<sup>3</sup> The FBI informant was Larry Grathwohl. He published a book titled *Bringing Down America*, and appears in a documentary film titled *No Place to Hide*. It is in the documentary that he testifies to these WUO plans.

<sup>4</sup> Bill Ayers is now a professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago and considered an "expert" on public school reform.

<sup>5</sup> Interview on the Fox News show "Hannity's America." Transcript at <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,354158,00.html>

on his Marxism, "I simply welcomed him to Washington, and then I said Dr. Wright, I want to bring you a warning: your embrace of Marxist liberation theology. It is contrary to the Gospel, and you need, sir, to abandon it. And at that he dropped the handshake and made it clear that he was not in the mood to dialogue on that point."

Then there is ACORN, an organization devoted to supporting a welfare state and which also has roots in the SDS. Obama has worked for ACORN in the past and given generously to their cause. The organization was founded by Wade Rathke, a member of the SDS. Rathke was mentored by George Wiley, famous for his implementation of the Cloward-Piven strategy. The Cloward-Piven strategy was a strategy created by two Marxist professors at Columbia University in the 60's, which involved overwhelming the welfare system by enrolling new recipients. Robert Chandler's October 15, 2008 Op-Ed in the Washington Times shows that ACORN's method of overwhelming the voting system with bogus voter registrations is based on the Cloward-Piven strategy.<sup>6</sup> ACORN was also heavily involved in pressuring the financial sector to give risky mortgages to low income people during the last decade. According to Chandler, this was part of an intentional strategy to cripple the current capitalist government and bring in socialist reform.

Is the United States a pioneer in electing a president that is favorable to Marxism? Not at all. We are behind in the trend. In many western countries the socialist or "Labour" party is in control of the government, such as in the UK and Australia. Modern Labour parties are not just pro-union, they originated in preceding socialist political parties and typically define themselves as socialist. Many of these parties are member of the Socialist International organization. Western Labour/Socialist parties that control the government in their countries today include Australia, Austria, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. The Labour/Socialist party is a close second in many other western countries.

### THE PERSPECTIVE FROM THE KINGDOM

You may be alarmed to realize that Marxism is slowly taking hold of popular opinion and even of western governments today. Before you start stuffing your money under the mattress or buy a ranch in the mountains of Utah, let us consider our perspective as disciples of Jesus.

Fortunately for us, God can use all situations for His glory. Human beings are fundamentally created with a need to know their creator. History shows us that when atheism is forced upon a people, the deep need to know God eventually resurfaces, new and fresh and open to the truth. Few countries have seen an explosion of belief like China in the last 40 years. Mao's Cultural Revolution had an unintended result. Churches are starting and growing in Cambodia like wildfire. And the people of many of the post-soviet nations are open to the truth like they never have been before. The Turks converted directly from Shamanistic belief to Islam a thousand years ago, and never have they been as open to the Gospel as they are now, because of 70 years of atheistic oppression.

Ultimately our hope is not in any human government. It is not in any country on the earth. Rather our hope is in the Kingdom of Heaven. No government of human origin will last. Some are better than others, and many have their "golden age," when things seem relatively good. Many last for centuries. However, as the scriptures say "All men are like grass, and all their glory

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/15/the-cloward-piven-strategy/>

is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:6-8). We are citizens of a nation, a kingdom not of this world, which will endure forever. Our hope is in the Lord and the reality of His kingdom.

The task the Lord has given us, in service to His glory and His kingdom, is not optional. It cannot be put on hold while we await a better financial climate. As the Lord said "You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, 7 and give Him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth" (Isaiah 62:6-7). Despite talk of a global recession, and despite having to tighten our own budgets because of rising prices, we must place the Lord's work as paramount in our lives and in our finances. As the Lord Jesus said "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working" (John 5:17). He took criticism for working on the Sabbath and His answer was that He could not take a break from the Father's work, even for the sake of the Sabbath.

---