



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
** Knights of Malta **

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Chancellor's Update

The Road to Serfdom

Over the past hundred years we have seen the eventual take over of the world by the Communist/Socialist/Atheistic Movements. We refer you to the most extensive review of this subject (movement) in 4 volumes published in the Report of the Joint Legislative Committee of The State of New York Investigating Seditious Activities filed on April 24, 1924 in the Senate of the State of New York, also known as the Lusk's committee report in intelligence circles.

One cannot do justice to the many thousands of pages contained in this report in two sides of one page, but we will try by quoting directly from the source.

“The official attitude of Bolshevism as an atheistic theory seeking to destroy all religion, all belief in a God, is clearly expressed in an article by N. Bucharin, entitled “Church and School in the Soviet Republic,” published in the “Class Struggle” for May, 1919. This Bucharin is recognized all over the world as the leader in the Soviet mouthpiece and program maker of Lenin, as the leader in the Soviet educational system. What he says, therefore, is authoritative.

“One of the instruments for the obscuring of the consciousness of the people is the belief in God and the devil, in good and evil spirits, angels, saints, etc., in short, religion. The masses of the people have become accustomed to believe in these things, and yet, if we approach these beliefs sensibly, and come to understand where religion comes from, and why religion receives such warm support from the bourgeois gentlemen, we shall clearly understand that the function of religion at present is to act as a poison with which the minds of the people have been and continue to be corrupted. And then we shall also understand why the Communist Party is resolutely opposed to religion.... The world also has its master, a great powerful, threatening creature, on whom all depends, and who will severely punish all disobedience. Now, this master over all the world is God. ...

“God, so to speak, is a really rich, powerful master, a slaveholder, one who ‘rules the heavens,’ a judge – in a word, a precise counterfeit and copy of the earthly power of the elder, later of the prince.

“One of the sources of Bucharin’s atheistic argumentation is the writings of the famous prophet of anarchism, Michael Bakunin, in whose essay “God and the State” we find sentences that are almost repeated by Bucharin. For example:

“All religions, with their gods, their demi-gods, and their prophets, their Messiahs, and their Saints, were created by the more credulous of men who have not attained the full development and full possession of their faculties....If God is, man is a slave; now, man can and must be free; then, God does not exist.... Is it necessary to point out to what extent and in what manner religions debase and corrupt the people? They destroy their reason, the principal instrument of human emancipation, and reduce them to imbecility, the essential condition of their slavery.” (volume 1, pg. 1125-1127)

No wonder Pope Pius XI on May 15, 1931 in *Quadragesimo Anno* said: “No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist.” Vatican officials should take note.

The following jacket notes are from Fredrich Hayek for the first edition, The Road to Serfdom.

1. Is there a greater tragedy imaginable than that in our endeavor consciously to shape our future in accordance with high ideals we should in fact unwittingly produce the very opposite of what we have been striving for?
2. Totalitarianism is the new word we have adopted to describe the unexpected but nevertheless inseparable manifestations of what in theory we call socialism.
3. In a planned system we cannot confine collective action to the tasks on which we agree, but are forced to produce agreement on everything in order that any action can be taken at all.
4. The more the state “plans” the more difficult planning becomes for the individual.
5. The economic freedom which is the prerequisite of any other freedom cannot be the freedom from economic care which the socialists promise us and which can be obtained only by relieving the individual at the same time of the necessity and of the power of choice: it must be the freedom of economic activity which, with the right of choice, inevitably also carries the risk and the responsibility of that right.
6. What our generation has forgotten is that the system of private property is the most important guarantee of freedom, not only for those who own property, but scarcely less for those who do not.
7. We shall never prevent the abuse of power if we are not prepared to limit power in a way which occasionally may prevent its use for desirable purposes.
8. We shall all be the gainers if we can create a world fit for small states to live in.
9. The first need is to free ourselves of that worst form of contemporary obscurantism which tries to persuade us that what we have done in the recent past was all either wise or unavoidable. We shall not grow wiser before we learn that much that we have done was very foolish.

One can now see how far we have come since the beginning of the last century.

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