

THE PERIL
OF
Communism

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Throughout the world Communism stands convicted of unspeakable crimes against God and man.

In Russia, from the hearts of youthful millions, Bolshevism has torn all regard for morality and religion.

In Spain, the same blood-red hand has butchered, by tens of thousands, innocent men and women on the sole charge of their consecration to the service of God.

In Mexico, after the pattern of the beasts of the field, Communist God-destroyers are teaching the practices of grossest immorality to little children in the schools.

The dream of a better and brighter day for the worker has faded into piteous and bitter disillusion.

The Russian proletariat now receives much lower wages and is handed scantier food than men in the darkest pre-war days under the czars received.

The class struggle has produced newer and even more obnoxious class divisions, and the only groups which have been benefited at all by the revolution are the party bureaucrats and jobholders. They have purchased their precarious prosperity by the craven and servile surrender of every form of freedom that civilized men revere.

True Aim Here Camouflaged

All these fatal facts are sedulously suppressed and camouflaged by Communist agitators in the United States and Canada. Though scarcely more than 40,000 in number, this army of leaders is highly trained in the arts of demagoguery and of mass psychology and organization.

Boring from within, they infest the colleges, youth organizations, societies to promote peace and democracy, and all manner of cultural and religious groups.

Indefatigably, throughout every industrial and farming area in the land, the 40,000 Communist leaders are already kindling the fires of tribulation out of which they are determined shall be born the American social revolution, as the next triumphant surge onward in Red Moscow's subjugation of the workers of the world.

Army of Leaders

The Communist Party in America is an army of leaders, of generals, with, broadly speaking, no rank and file. But trained leaders they are, almost to a man. Assiduously they keep in practice their skill in dynamic expression; pamphlets and seditious literature they turn out by the ton. They use every modern means of fomenting mass-emotion—the radio, the cinema, the theater, the sound car, the temporary tabloid during strikes, mass-singing, mass-picketing, mammoth pa-

rades and mass-demonstrations. They have proved themselves masterful, albeit hastily improvised technicians.

False Appeals

Communism has tricked up its approach in the United States and Canada by making appeals for "the workers," for "peace," for "democracy." Unfortunately many Americans have been duped into lending moral or financial support to subversive causes through the catch-phrases that represent the new Communist tactics. Communists hide behind the smoke screen of name calling. Everyone who opposes the inroads of Communism is labeled a "Fascist." If I don't like Russian caviar, that is no proof that I like Italian spaghetti.

Both Dangerous

Everything objectionable in Fascism is found in Communism, exaggerated to an extravagant degree. Politically, both stand for the omnipotent, totalitarian, bureaucratic state. Both contend that man exists for the State not that the State is a servant to man.

Economically, Communism abolishes private property. Fascism maintains it, but nationalizes the most important industries and principal banks.

Communism destroys all religion. Fascism, in the form of Nazism, has declared war on Christianity.

Whatever is true in the Communist indictment of capitalist civilization has been borrowed from the Catholic Church. The difference is this: Communists would abolish private property and set up a despotic system that would not work. The Church, through the principles of social justice laid down in the Papal Encyclicals, offers the Christian solution to the social and economic problems of the day.

Christian Principles Vital

Unfortunately, however, for the Communist agitators, the Church has already defined the social and economic evils of modern society and the methods by which these evils may be lessened and eradicated. The true Christian opposes every form of tyranny, whether based on class, race or State worship. There is no place for the Christian in any totalitarian State where collective force is substituted for individual conscience.

Communism, as laid down by Marx, Engels and Lenin, rejects the religious principle and the religious solution. Christianity demands their inclusion for the welfare of society and the welfare of the individual. Communism proposes to change the economic, social, political, and industrial structure by a revolution of force. The Church proposes to modify by the application of the principles of social justice so capably and clearly expounded in the Papal Encyclicals. There can be no agreement, no compromise,

no cooperation between the principles of Communism and the principles of Christianity. If the methods of Communism were to be accepted as the solution, then that is the end of all we know as civilization.

The restriction of monopoly, the curbing of the money power, the establishment of cooperative work, and the wide distribution of private property are explained by the Popes in proposing the Christian solution.

Communism proposes to solve the troubles of the world by a short route—one which can only end in chaos. Christianity's route is harder, longer, and calls for sacrifice but it is the only sure route.

Education and Leadership Needed

The problem facing Americans is to know and understand what Communism is—what it stands for—and how the problems of the day can be met in the Christian manner.

The Knights of Columbus, through its Crusade against Communism, with its local study clubs, its public forums, its open meetings, its exposition of Communistic tricks, is making a definite contribution to democracy. The Order is following out the precepts of Pope Pius XI who has said:

“The militant leaders of Catholic Action, thus properly prepared and armed, will be the first and immediate apostles of their fellow-workmen. They will be an invaluable aid to

the priest in carrying the torch of truth, and in relieving grave spiritual and material suffering. Catholic Action must organize propaganda on a large scale to disseminate knowledge of the fundamental principles on which, according to the Pontifical documents, a Christian Social Order must build. With paternal affection we exhort these valuable organizations also to dedicate themselves to the great mission of which we have been treating, a cause which today transcends all others in vital importance.”

Harkening to the command of Pope Pius—“it is of the utmost importance to foster in all classes of society an intensive program of social education”—the Knights of Columbus has focused on this very phrase of the Holy Father to designate its latest service, on an international scale, for God and Country—its Crusade against Communism which is, essentially, a program of Social Education.

Are we going to allow the children of darkness to continue wiser in their generation than we who claim for ourselves the God-given appellation of children of light?

The only answer is education. Educate your fellow-man to the dangers of Communism. Educate him to the fallacies, the tricks, the subtleties, the final end—the elimination of religion, the confiscation of private property, the exploitation of man by the State.

Do not be too positive that Communism cannot make inroads into our own America. It can happen. It is already happening here.