

Forcing Change



Marching Toward Global Solidarity

By Berit Kjos (www.crossroad.to)

"The new generation...[has] a deeper sense of solidarity as people of the planet than any generation before them... On that rests our hope for our global neighborhood." – *Report of The UN Commission on Global Governance*.¹

"Welfare depends on the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind."
– Federico Mayor, then Director General of UNESCO.²

"I trust in You, O Lord... My times are in Your hand." – Psalm 31:14-15



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Carl Teichrib, Editor.

During the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), I attended a day-long "Dialogue" on the meaning of "Solidarity" at Istanbul's elegant Ciragan Palace. Registered as a reporter, I received a list of 21 panel members. It included UNESCO's Director General Federico Mayor, the now discredited UN special advisor Maurice Strong, World Bank Vice President Ismail Serageldin, and Millard Fuller who founded Habitat for Humanity. Together with other globalist dignitaries, they would explore the missing factor in the old Soviet version of dialectical materialism: a spiritual foundation for an evolving global ethic.³

"To speak of solidarity is to speak of things of the spirit," began Habitat conference Secretary-General Wally N'Dow. "For we are well aware that the future of our human settlements... is not just a matter of bricks and mortar but equally a question of attitudes and determination to work for the common good... This spiritual dimension is the only ingredient that can bind societies together."⁴ [Note: the following discussion points from Habitat II are from my audio recording of the event].

N'Dow had chosen an American moderator who would add credibility to the discussion: Robert McNeil (of McNeil-Lehrer), "one of the gurus, the spiritual lights of the media industry today." Moments later, McNeil introduced the panel of dignitaries ready to shape the new vision of oneness.

"What's needed is an interfaith center in every city of the globe," said James Morton, former dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

"The new interfaith centers will honor the rituals of every... faith tradition: Islam, Hinduism, Jain, Christian... and provide opportunity for sacred expression needed to bind the people of the planet into a viable, meaningful, and sustainable solidarity."

Dean Morton's version of "Christianity" is actually a universalized distortion of truth that matches the new religious union. Anything less would be dismissed as fundamentalist extremism.

Millard Fuller, President of Habitat for Humanity, fit right into this interfaith dialogue. Like other emerging leaders in the neo-Christian movement, he redefined Scriptures to "prove" his message:

"When Jesus launched His ministry 2000 years ago, He said, 'We must repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.' In English, that sort of connotes feeling sorry for getting caught. But in the Greek, we read that what He really said was to metamor-

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phose. Metamorphose is what a butterfly becomes when it metamorphoses out of a little fuzzy caterpillar... Change your whole way of thinking, because the new order of the spirit is confronting and challenging you... The only way we will achieve human solidarity in dealing with it is to have a completely new way of thinking."

This "new way of thinking" has already permeated every segment of society: education, business, government, and the church growth movement, including Purpose-Driven churches. Pushing transformation in all these sectors are the leadership training programs that pursue the vision of management gurus such as Peter Drucker, Peter Senge, and Ken Blanchard. The core of their teaching is "general systems theory" or "systems thinking." In short, everything is interconnected, therefore all is One and all divisions and boundaries must be eliminated in order to establish the "Global Neighborhood" - the New World Order. Emerging Church leaders like Brian McLaren call it "The Kingdom of God."

God makes us "one" in Christ when we respond to His gospel with faith and genuine repentance (acknowledging our sin and humbly turning to God). Millard's "new way of thinking" points people to the world's corrupt system, not to God and His ways.

Let's not forget that familiar words with strategic new meanings are likely to mislead the masses. For example, in *Webster's Dictionary* (1989) the familiar meaning of solidarity sounds perfectly safe: "common interest and active loyalty within a group." But contemporary change agents have infused that word with a far more revolutionary meaning.

Let's take a closer look.

THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

During a break, I asked moderator Robert McNeil to define solidarity for me. In his answer, he acknowledged that solidarity is strengthened by a common enemy as well as a "common good,"

"It means people with shared values or responsibilities cooperating or working together. In our culture, it was probably exemplified most often by the union movement. Industrial unions often used the phrase solidarity - 'solidarity forever.' And in the socialist movement, of course, solidarity was a very strong word - the solidarity of the workers against the employers, their oppressor, capitalists... whatever it was..."

"Solidarity is like a social contract, like people agreeing that this is the way it should be. Whether I am poorer or richer than you are, we somehow agree that the way it is set up works best for all of us."

What if we don't agree? Then we are vilified as divisive resisters – excluded from the feel-good solidarity. Pastor Brian McLaren, an acknowledged leader in the Emerging Church movement, summarized it well; "...to be truly inclusive, the [earthly] kingdom must exclude exclusive people, to be truly reconciling, the kingdom must not reconcile with those who refuse reconciliation."⁵

Social contracts hold people accountable to the new standard. It pushes people toward the planned conformity, whether the society is a church, a school, or the "global neighborhood." So I wasn't surprised when UNESCO's Federico Mayor made the same point at Habitat: "The 21st Century city will be a city of social solidarity," he said. "We have to redefine the words... [and write a new] social contract."

This evolving "social contract" has been written into every UN treaty and declaration. And former President Clinton's Executive Order 13107 helped turn that UN "contract" into US policy. It is being implemented through government policies as well as laws whether the treaties were ratified by Congress or not.

This "social contract" guarantees "freedom from want," from fear, from hunger, and from offense by those who might voice contrary values. It also promises "freedom of thought and expression" – but only to those who share the UN vision. Remember, Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "...these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."⁶

Reflecting the same communitarian constraint, Ismail Serageldin, then Vice President of the World Bank, said at Habitat II,

"We should stop bemoaning the growth of cities. It's going to happen and it's a good thing, because cities are the vectors of social change and transformation. Let's just make sure that social change and transformation are going in the right direction... The media must act as part of the education process that counters individualism."

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

A cooperative media is essential to the planned change in public consciousness. As in totalitarian regimes, "voluntary" social transformation relies on effective propaganda. That's why our Education Department's Community Action Toolkit, The President's Council for Sustainable Development, and the UN's Local Agenda 21 all call for partnerships between educators and the news and entertainment media in every community. The public must be persuaded to give its consent; the people must learn to feel so uncomfortable with dissent that contrary voices would be silenced.

The masses must never notice that this manipulative process is changing their minds and actions. Since few people do notice, Professor Raymond Houghton's triumphant promise in a 1970 NEA publication is becoming an alarming reality,

"...absolute behavior control is imminent... The critical point of behavior control, in effect, is sneaking up on mankind without his self-conscious realization that a crisis is at hand. Man will never self-consciously know that it has happened."⁷

This plan for "behavior control" would include three essentials steps:

- (1) a supportive news and entertainment media willing to disseminate politically correct information and inspire values that erode the old boundaries.
- (2) a management system for measuring and monitoring change.
- (3) universal participation in the dialectic (consensus) process.

By use of a change agent, or "facilitator," individuals are herded toward "consensus" by compromising their position for the sake of "social harmony." According to Kurt Lewin; "A successful change includes, therefore, three aspects: UNFREEZING the present level, MOVING to the new level, and FREEZING group life on the new level."

This is precisely the technique with which the communists brainwashed American POWs, the only difference being they could accelerate the "unfreezing" phase with physical torture. In group dynamics the pain is not physical, it's emotional. Transformational Marxists such as Kurt Lewin refined their weapon for the new battlefield: Using group dynamics to invade the culture to affect the paradigm shift.

The weapon looks like this:

- A Diverse Group ("Diversity" needed for conflict)
- Dialoging to Consensus (Dialectic process)
- Over a Social Issue (Problem/Crisis/Issues)
- In a Facilitated Meeting (Controlled environment using facilitator /change agent)
- To a Predetermined Outcome (Paradigm shift)

The latter has become the norm in US schools, corporations, government agencies, and communities. The dialectic process used to control the masses in the former Soviet Union has invaded every corner of U.S. society – even churches. The goal is to involve every human resource (human capital) in the UNESCO program of lifelong learning – a continual process of training and immersion in the new way of thinking and relating to others.

To succeed, every level of this hierarchical management system, marketed as "local control," must continually assess change, monitor compliance, and remediate the non-compliant.⁸

We shouldn't be surprised. God warned us long ago that the world's ways would lead to corruption and tyranny, not peace and love. His lasting peace is reserved for those who will face the rising hostility with faith and love,

"...in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God... And from such people turn away!" – 2 Timothy 3:1-13

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

Endnotes:

¹ The Commission on Global Governance, *Our Global Neighborhood* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), p.357.

² Habitat Press Release, www.un.org/Conferences/habitat/unchs/press/humanize.htm

³ www.crossroad.to/text/articles/hab2.html. Maurice Strong didn't come to the "Dialogue" as scheduled.

⁴ I taped and transcribed this part of the "Dialogue" at the UN Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul, 1996.

⁵ Brian McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson's W Publishing Group, 2006), pp.169-170.

⁶ See, "Trading U.S. Rights for UN Rule," at www.crossroad.to/text/articles/turfur12-98.html

⁷ Raymond Houghton, *To Nurture Humaneness: Commitment for the '70's* (The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development of the NEA, 1970).

⁸ See, "Brainwashing in America," at www.crossroad.to/articles2/brainwashing.html, and see, "Molding Human Resources for the Global Workforce," at www.crossroad.to/text/articles/HumanResources.html

Thoughts on the Death of Hugo Chavez

By J.R. Nyquist (www.jrnyquist.com)

Note: J.R. Nyquist is a strategic thinker and historian who analyzes socialist movements and collectivist ideologies.

“History calls on us to unite and fight. If capitalism resists, we are obliged to take up a battle against capitalism and open the way for the salvation of the human species.”

- H. Chavz

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez died on March 5 after battling cancer. He was a famous and beloved critic of capitalism. But he was no ordinary critic. According to Chavez, “I have always said... that it would not be strange that there had been civilization on Mars, but maybe capitalism arrived there... and finished off the planet.”

We must be careful, he warned his listeners during a March 2011 speech. “Here on planet earth, where hundreds of years ago or less there were great forests, now there are deserts.”

In other words, the earth is becoming like Mars and capitalism is doing it again.

Of course it would be very strange if Mars had known civilization at all. And it would be a peculiar sort of person who suggests, without any evidence whatsoever, that Mars may have been converted into an uninhabitable desert by capitalism. But there it is – a phenomenon of our time. Here is the confession of a man who was irrationally obsessed with anti-capitalism. Talk of Mars and Martians in this context is one of those weird digressions by which we may

glimpse the intensity of a man’s hatred for something he probably never understood.

In 2009, during a speech to the Copenhagen conference on climate change, Chavez explained his position: “There is a group of countries that consider themselves superior to us in the South, to us in the Third World, to us, the underdeveloped countries... the crushed countries, as if a train ran over us in history.”

According to Chavez, “One could say... to paraphrase Karl Marx, the great Karl Marx, a specter is haunting the streets of Copenhagen, and I think that specter walks silently through this room, walking around and among us, through the halls... [and] Capitalism is this specter...”

The philosophy of Chavez is shared by millions throughout the world. “The rich are destroying the planet,” he said. “Do they think they can go to another when they destroy this one?”

But the capitalists do not imagine any such thing. There is no immediate threat to the planet. There is, however, a threat to capitalism itself. As Chavez noted, “Socialism, the other specter Karl Marx spoke about, which walks here too, rather it is like a counter-specter. Socialism... is the path to save the planet... Capitalism is the road to hell, to the destruction of the world.”

A few paragraphs later Chavez offered a declaration of war on capitalism when he said, “History calls on us to unite and fight. If capitalism resists, we are obliged to take up a battle against capitalism and open the way for the salvation of the human species.”

It is a great shame that a man who is worshipped as a savior, whose death is mourned by millions of people, should have been so lamentably misinformed.

Decades ago, it was Friedrich Hayek who wrote of the economic ignorance of the intellec-

tuals and politicians. These could not understand how capitalism nourished “the existing multitudes of human beings...”

According to Hayek, the sentiments of someone like Chavez serve only to “thwart the development of the most effective organization of production, and to encourage the false hopes of socialism.”

And, indeed, we can see the result of Chavez’s policy on Venezuela itself. The country is a shadow of its former self. The economy has been ruined by socialism, freedom of speech has been attenuated, and corruption has advanced on all sides - yes, a corruption far more insidious than anything produced by capitalism.

“Ignorance of the function of trade,” said Hayek, “which led initially to fear, and in the Middle Ages to uninformed regulation, and which only comparatively recently yielded to better understanding, has, then, now been revived in a new pseudo-scientific form.”

It may be said, in good conscience, that Chavez was a representative of this “form.” He was therefore an opponent of freedom, a builder of dictatorship, and a financial dunce. For when the state intervenes in the market the resulting economic crisis is hardly the fault of capitalism.

Real capitalism is an organic growth. It is something which the state invariably hinders. Those who manage money privately are not a menace to society.

According to Hayek, “The history of government management of money has, except for a few short happy periods, been one of incessant fraud and deception. In this respect, governments have proved far more immoral than any private agency...”

And that is true whether we consider the lot of the poor or stewardship of the environment. Chavez imagined himself a liberator. In reality, he was a destroyer of opportunity.

And so we note the passing of Hugo Chavez. He was a man who brought misfortune upon his country. Had he lived longer he might have come to see the error of his ways.

“The disdain of profit,” noted Hayek, “is due to ignorance...”

It is a sad thing to die before one’s time, and sadder still to die in ignorance. **FC**



FC NOTE: While Nyquist’s article serves as an important reminder about the socialist mindset and the path this takes, the saddest part of Chavez’s death was reflected in his last words, “I don’t want to die. Please don’t let me die.”

It is my hope that Chavez, who was noted for his anti-Christian stance, turned at his last to Jesus Christ.

Ignoring the Essential

By Olavo de Carvalho

Note: Olavo de Carvalho is a philosopher and writer from Brazil who specializes in socialist and Communist movements. Although I do not know Olavo's stance on issues of religion, his perspective on Communism bears important consideration. His website is: www.olavodecarvalho.org. This article was used by permission.



Editor's Preface: The rise of Communism has been palatable. From university campuses to larger and more vocal May Day Parades to a resurgence in national Communist political parties - the ideas of Marx and the organizational aspect of Communism didn't go away with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Marxism, Communism and international socialism, has been on the increase in the last few years. It therefore behooves us to better understand the historical and contemporary dynamics of this movement.

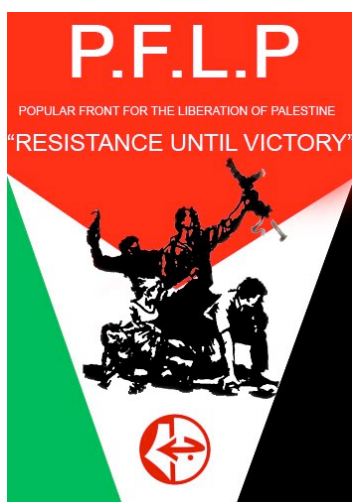
There are some elementary historical data about the communist movement which are ignored by most people and less known or well forgotten by the leading cultivated minorities, but without which it is literally impossible to understand anything whatsoever about recent world history. If you try to inform yourself and to take these data into account, you'll realize how many obscure issues become automatically transparent, with little interpretative effort.

1. Communism has been, throughout human history, the only – I repeat, the only – globally organized political movement, with ramifications and agents in the most remote places of the Earth, all disciplined and prepared to immediately, coordinately and simultaneously spring into action upon the first call issued from their command centers.
2. Although it has at its disposal a huge number of organizations and mass parties, Communism is substantially a clandestine movement, whose command and action plans must remain invisible to the masses, even in such periods of lawfulness when many communist organizations can move publicly without being persecuted. The primacy of the clandestine elite over the visible leadership has been, at least since Lenin's time, a keystone clause of the communist strategy. It is impossible to understand this strategy and the tactics that implement it by taking into account only the undisguised role of the most visible communist leaders in each country, and without having access to the internal discussions and the international connections of each organization.
3. Communism has been, throughout the world and throughout the ages, the only political movement that has at its disposal unlimited financial resources, far superior to the West's biggest known fortunes and to the combined budgets of many governments. Its potentials of action must be measured according to the level of its resources.

4. Only a tiny part of the communist activity consists of directly or indirectly recognizable doctrinarian propaganda. The main and most significant part consists of infiltrating and blending into all sorts of organizations – political parties (liberals and conservatives alike), media, unions, government and private enterprises, cultural, educational and charitable institutions, the armed forces, Freemasonry and so on – it is an endless list – in order to turn them into useful tools for the communist strategy, through which it is possible to control the entire society, making the Party an “omniscient and invisible power” (the phrasing comes from Antonio Gramsci, but the idea itself existed much earlier). It is infantile to believe that, once implanted in those entities, the Communists will then turn to indoctrination or proselytism, as if they were protestant shepherds preaching the Gospel among infidels. Co-opting all forces that may serve the communist strategy is an extremely subtle and complex mechanism, which requires massive doses of camouflage and deceptiveness, with many contradictory moments on its way.

5. It is foolish to imagine communism as a “doctrine” or an “ideal”, particularly when it purports overtly preaching the abolition of private property. The communist movement has never had nor needed any doctrinal unity, and has proved one thousand times its capacity to tactically adapt to the most disparate ideological formulas, either sequentially or simultaneously, thus leaving the uninformed observer (including politicians in general and the near entirety of liberal and conservative intellectuals) completely bewildered. The most aggressive atheistic campaigns, for instance, coexist pacifically, in the midst of the communist movement, with the practice of taking advantage of the religious discourse to reach the heart of the masses. *Mutatis mutandis*,* exploring radical nationalistic feelings goes side by side with the effort to dilute national sovereignties into bigger, regional or world unities, so that, behind the scenes, the communist movement benefits from the patriotic resistance as well as from the ascendant global power. The unity of the communist movement is strategic and organizational, not ideological. Communism is not a set of theses: it is a power scheme, the most flexible, vast, integrated and efficient one that ever existed. Even Islamic radicalism, which is so quickly expanding nowadays, would be powerless without the support of the world network of communist organizations.

Editor’s Note: There is a deep connection between many radical Islamic groups and communist/socialist networks, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine,



6. An even more egregious form of foolishness is to believe that the logical-formal opposition between the abstract concepts of capitalism and communism can be translated, in the field, into a mortal conflict between capitalists and communists. To the multiple local and temporal situations corresponds a countless number of shades and transitions, which leaves much room for the apparently strangest arrangements and complicities (but only apparently so). No one will understand anything whatsoever about the historical world we live in without taking into consideration the enduring collaboration between the communist movement and some of the West's greatest fortunes, Rothschild's and Rockefellers' for instance. The classic books on this matter are those from the economist Anthony Sutton, but already in 1956 the US House of Representative's Reece Committee gathered substantial proof that some billionaire foundations were using their huge resources "to destroy or discredit the same free market system that gave rise to them."

Today these foundations rank among the most solid pillars supporting the socialist government of Barack Obama.

Ignoring or misunderstanding these facts lies at the root of liberals' and conservatives' incapacity to resist the triumphant march of communists in Latin America. Many still believe, for example, that democracy will win a big victory by forcing the FARC in Columbia to abandon the armed struggle and to constitute a legal party. They can't understand that to create a recognized political force is the final purpose of any armed struggle – in Colombia or anywhere else. Guerrillas don't win wars: all they want is a politically advantageous defeat. That's the reason why they open fire on the government forces, in the jungle and in the city, and, at the same time, place their agents in key posts of the legal leftist parties, where they protest the blood shed and appeal dramatically for a return to lawfulness. They did it in Brazil, and they are doing it now in Colombia.

While liberals and conservatives can't attain a clear vision of the whole and complex phenomenon of communism, while they insist on fighting the most immediate and repugnant aspects of this movement - if not only communist doctrines in abstract - they are doomed to defeat even as they claim victory.

The fact that no international anti-communist movement has emerged makes it difficult for many people to put together this whole picture, which communists themselves so easily get. But the absence of social support cannot work as a pretext for intellectual laziness. There will always be some individual minds capable of thinking above group prospects, when they exist, or without them, when they don't exist. Nothing justifies that these minds be kept aside from the public discussions, while the ignorant hold the monopoly of the microphones. In this as in all other human affairs, those who have studied nothing are full of simplistic certainties and proclaim them with a huge sense of superiority, totally unaware of their ridiculous role. Those who have studied the issues may look deranged or eccentric, but after all, why do we study if not to learn something that most do not know? **FC**

**Mutatis mutandis* is latin for "with those things having been changed which need to be changed."

Quotes on Communism and World Revolution

1. "But democracy is by no means a limit one may not overstep; it is only one of the stages in the course of development from feudalism to capitalism, and from capitalism to Communism."

– V.I. Lenin, *State and Revolution* (International Publishers, 1917/69), p.82.

2. "For the complete extinction of the state, complete Communism is necessary."

– V.I. Lenin, *State and Revolution* (International Publishers, 1917/69), p.78.

3. "We shall begin by launching the most spectacular peace movement on record. There will be electrifying overtures and unheard of concessions. The capitalist countries, stupid and decadent, will rejoice to cooperate in their own destruction. They will leap at another chance to be friends. As soon as their guard is down, we will smash them with our clenched fist."

– Dimitri Manuilsky, *Lenin School of Political Warfare*, 1930, as quoted in *Soviet Analyst*, Volume 22, Numbers 7&8, p.7.

4. "Peace is inevitable. War will not help us reach our goal – it will spoil it. We must rest on the position of coexistence and non-intervention, and eventually Communism will be in force all over the earth."

– Nikita S. Khrushchev, quoted in *Conquest Without War* (Simon and Schuster, 1961), p. 58. Comment made in 1960.

5. "Soviet foreign policy and foreign propaganda efforts continue to be linked to the objectives of fostering and accelerating world-wide social revolution."

– Frederick C. Barghoorn (analyst on Soviet policy), *Soviet Foreign Propaganda* (Princeton University Press, 1964), pp.43-44.

6. "In October 17 we departed the old world and irreversibly rejected it. We are travelling to a new world, the world of communism. We shall never deviate from this path."

– Mikhail Gorbachev, television broadcast, November 2, 1987, as quoted by Maurice Tugwell, *Peace with Freedom* (Key Porter Books, 1988), p.214.

7. "In principle as a philosophy, a model of organising society, Communism has to be respected. As regards the use of certain methods to advance social justice and greater regulation by the state, there are certain methods that are useful. What we need is a new society, a new civilization and convergence of all that is best in both [Communism and Capitalism]"

– Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking on Larry King Live, November 6, 1993, quoted in the *Soviet Analyst*, Volume 22, Numbers 9&10, p.13.



8. "The Cold War may be 'over' for the West. For the Soviets it has entered a new, active and promising phase."

– Anatoliy Golitsyn, *The Perestroika Deception* (Edward Harle, 1995), p.127.

9. "...the West's main weakness remains unchanged: it cannot grasp the fact that it is facing an acceleration in the unfolding of Soviet convergence strategy which is intended to procure the subservience of the West to Moscow under an ultimate Communist World Government."

– Anatoliy Golitsyn, *The Perestroika Deception* (Edward Harle, 1995), p.143.

10. "The time has come to develop integrated global policies."

– Mikhail Gorbachev, *In Search for a New Beginning* (HarperCollins, 1995), p.26.

11. "The time has come to choose a new direction of global development, to opt for a new civilization."

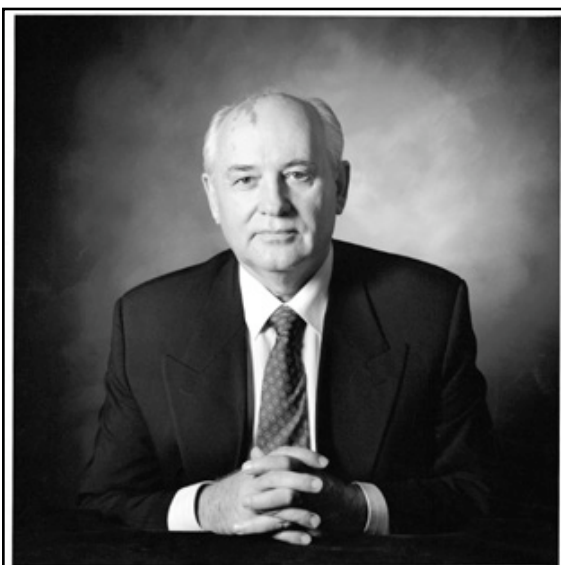
– Mikhail Gorbachev, *In Search for a New Beginning* (HarperCollins, 1995), p.69.

12. "Over the next 20 to 30 years, we are going to end up with world government. It's inevitable... There's going to be conflict, coercion and consensus. That's part of what will be required as we give birth to the first global civilization."

– Jim Garrison, President of the Gorbachev Foundation USA, "One World Under Gorby," *San Francisco Weekly*, May 31, 1995.

13. "On the world scene, it is our position that there is a resurgence of socialism taking place. The world's socialist and Communist forces are now on the move to restore socialism in the former socialist countries and to strengthen the existing socialist countries... there is a new socialist world on the horizon, a resurgence of the world revolutionary process."

– Gus Hall, American Communist leader, as quoted in the *Soviet Analyst*, Volume 23, Number 4, p.14, extracted from the 1995 Communist Party USA journal.



Mikhail Gorbachev (left)
and his partner at the
Gorbachev Foundation
USA, Jim Garrison.



14. “New approaches are needed, new orientations in both thought and action. We must make the transition to a new civilization... We are talking of a transition toward a new civilization. No one knows what it will be like. What is important is to orient in that direction... I am convinced that a new civilization will inevitably take on certain features that are characteristic of, or inherent in, the socialist ideal.”

– Mikhail Gorbachev, *On My Country and the World* (Columbia Univ. Pr., 2000), pp.73-74.

15. “Socialist and Marxist ideas will gain a mass audience as the left recaptures the workers' organizations. The Marxist tendency must base itself upon the capacity of the working class to struggle. On their shoulders rests the fate of society and the future of humankind. The working class will be propelled on the road of socialist revolution in one country after another. Armed with correct tactics and strategy, the coming to power of the proletariat in one important country will transform the entire world situation. It would set the world alight, resulting in the establishment of the Socialist United States of Europe as a stepping stone to the World Federation of Socialist States.”

– Ted Grand and Rob Sewell (contemporary Marxists thinkers), “Marxism, Socialism and the New Millennium,” published in a variety of places, including *Marxist.com*, January 2000.

16. “Obviously the goals of global management cannot be achieved all at once, in a great leap... Thus it is necessary to approach this goal step by step, to try to enhance the role of existing institutions and encourage coordination of the efforts of various governments. Above all, we are thinking about the United Nations.”

– Mikhail Gorbachev, *On My Country and the World* (Columbia Univ. Press, 2000), p.227.

17. “We retain unshakable confidence in the correctness of Marxism, in the revolutionary potential of the working class and in the final victory of socialism. The present crisis exposes the reactionary role of capitalism, and places on the order of the day the revival of international socialism.”

– “For the Fifth International,” as published on *Marxist.com*, March 17, 2010.

18. “...the capitalist system is indeed dying. If it is not replaced by socialism, it threatens to take the whole of society back into an age darker than humanity has seen in a thousand years. We would also add that it will not breathe its last gasp of its own accord; it will require the conscious and organized efforts of the united working class to give it a final push over the cliff of history. Although many on the left are pessimistic about the future, we Marxists are optimistic. By keeping the big picture in mind, we understand that the perspective for humanity is bright, despite the capitalist horrors that take place every day... Only socialism can give humanity a new lease on life.”

– “Is Capitalism Dying,” *Marxist.com*, February 5, 2013.

19. “Only collective action at the global level can establish the fundamentally new society that we call socialism.”

– “Venezuela: Hugo Chavez and 21st Century Socialism,” World Socialist Party USA website, March 14, 2013.

FAST FACTS ON WORLD CHANGE



Note: Fast Facts on World Change is a collection of news briefs that outline changes and challenges from different parts of the world.

Muslim Rampage in Pakistan

In early March, 2013, approximately 170 homes were razed to the ground by angry Muslim mobs in Pakistan. The homes belonged to Christian families.

The reason for this massive fire-attack on Christians stemmed from a Muslim accusation that a Christian man uttered blasphemy. In response, a mob of Islamists stormed through a Christian neighborhood in Lahore, burning homes in their path.

This was not the first time Muslim mobs have attacked Christians in Pakistan. In 2009, six Christians were burned alive after rumors spread that “pages from the Qur’an had been desecrated.” In that incident, the dead included 4 women and one child. Pakistan officials, who usually side with the Muslim community, stated that the rumors were just that – rumors only.

Pray for Christians in Pakistan, and for the persecuted church throughout the world.



Calling for a “New World Order” of Faiths

Even before the Roman Catholic Conclave met to determine the next Pope, a call was being made for the up-coming new Papacy to embrace an interfaith perspective.

- Rajan Zed, President of the Universal Society of Hinduism, publicly encouraged the new Pope to intensify interfaith efforts and take the lead in multi-religious dialogues.
- Officials in Turkey expressed hope that the new Pope will tighten interfaith links, and thus provide a diplomatic bridge between the Vatican, Ankara, and the road to the European Union.
- Mahmoud Ashour, a cleric and former deputy at Cairo’s famous Al-Azhar mosque, said that “new pope must not attack Islam,” and that the two world religions should “complete one another.” Other Muslim leaders also called for interfaith action and mutual understanding between the Vatican and the Islamic community in light of the new Papacy.
- On February 24, 2013, Rajiv Malhotra, the founder of Infinity Foundation – an organization promoting Hinduism and Buddhism – wrote the following in the *Huffington Post* (“Dharma and the New Pope,” internet edition).

“If the Vatican would drop claims of exclusivity over religious truth, and reexamine dogmas such as the Nicene Creed, it would pressure other denominations of Christianity to follow suit. The Vatican, after all, is the single largest corporate institution of any religion in the world. The moral pressure on others would be huge if the Pope were to champion a new world order among all faiths in earnest, and not as a gimmick to increase his own flock. Once Christendom becomes genuinely pluralistic, Islam and other exclusivist religions would be under pressure to follow suit. The leader of the Catholic Church can thus change the world.

Being realistic, however, I do not expect to see a Gorbachev-like new pope who would challenge the Vatican as radically as Gorbachev challenged the Soviet empire. But let this historic opportunity not get lost. The conversation must begin.”

The Rise of Political Fascism in Europe

A story hardly touched by the Western media has been the rising activity of the “Golden Dawn,” a Greece-based fascistic political party. Although it’s not a new organization, stemming back to 1980 and earlier, it has made significant headway as the euro-med region has experienced social unrest due to the ongoing economic crisis. Immigration, in particular, has been a rallying point for the Golden Dawn, claiming that foreigners are behind Greece’s financial woes.

In a recent interview, Alexandros Plomaritis, a Golden Dawn member who ran for parliament, used language that carried an ominous flavor.

“The financial crisis will be resolved once we get rid of three million immigrants. These parasites drink our water, eat our food, and breathe our Greek air... Once they leave, we will have money to increase wages and eliminate unemployment. They are primitive. They are a miasma: subhuman. We don’t care about their existence. We are ready to open the ovens! We will turn them into soap...”

Reminiscent of the Nazi regime, Plomaritis talked about using immigrant skin for lamps, then joked about taking their gold teeth, for the gold belongs to the state.

Golden Dawn publicly reacted to these statements by calling them “grotesque,” yet the fact remains that the organization carries an extremist perspective regarding foreigners, and attacks on immigrants has been on the rise. “Greek nationalism” is the theme.

Last year, the Golden Dawn took 18 seats in Greece’s elections. Moreover, there are mounting concerns that Golden Dawn is reaching out to other extremist groups in Germany, Hungary and France, as other far-right political factions are gaining traction across Europe. In reality, these parties, like the Golden Dawn, are “national socialist” and racially antagonistic in design.



The flag and symbol of the Golden Dawn political party.



Interfaith Action Against Israel

SodaStream is an Israeli-based “home soda” company, manufacturing a device that allows home carbonation of tap water so you can make your own sodas. But the company has found itself in the center of an anti-Israel, “interfaith” campaign, because the SodaStream’s main production facility is in the West Bank – “on occupied land.”

Leading this campaign is the Interfaith Boycott Coalition, a project sponsored by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. The purpose of this faith-based project is simple: boycott SodaStream (along with other Israeli-based businesses) and thereby place economic pressure on Israel to bend to Arab demands.

Faith organizations that make up the Interfaith Boycott Coalition include: Israel-Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church USA, American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), Episcopal Peace Fellowship’s Palestine-Israel Network, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, United Church of Christ, Church of the Brethren, United Methodist Kairos Response, Friends of Sabeel North America, Jewish Voice for Peace, and the American Muslims for Palestine – a group with Muslim Brotherhood ties.

But don’t forget, the Interfaith Boycott Coalition is a project of a larger organization, the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. Members of this group who support various boycott programs are many. Here are a few examples; Catholic Peace Fellowship of Philadelphia, American Arab Forum, the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries, Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land, Maryknoll (Catholic organization), Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and many Palestinian organizations.

As Anna Baltzer and Ramah Kudaimi of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation said in their January 29, 2013 “Interfaith Boycott Campaign” press release.

“For years, interfaith cooperation was often confined to dialogue circles strictly avoiding discussion of Israel’s discriminatory policies for fear of offending someone. This new interfaith community represents a different model, one that stands on common values of freedom, justice, and equality. **This is what *real* interfaith cooperation looks like.**” (bold and italics in original).

Admiring Stalin

On March 1, 2013, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace released the findings of their 2012 survey on attitudes regarding the past Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, in the former USSR: “Stalin is not yet dead, it would seem.”

Reporting on the findings, the Carnegie Endowment noted that, “the Soviet leader who was responsible for the deaths of millions over his thirty-year rule still commands worryingly high levels of admiration for a host of reasons... de-Stalinization has not succeeded in the former Soviet Union and most post-Soviet citizens have not come to grips with their history... In Russia, support for Stalin has actually increased since the end of the Soviet Union.” (*The Stalin Puzzle*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2013, p.1).

Global Information Shifts

In a 2012 US Army War College report, *Culture, Identity, and Information Technology in the 21st Century*, a number of interesting observations were made about the global use of the internet, cell phones, social media, and the news and entertainment industry.

“In 2009, worldwide fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions worldwide passed the 1 billion mark. About 1.7 billion people, or 26 percent of the world’s population, report regularly using the internet...

...in the decade between 2000 and 2010, the highest growth rates for new internet users were in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia. China overtook the United States as the world’s largest fixed broadband market in 2008...

English is currently the most commonly used language on the internet (with 536.6 million users), followed closely by Chinese (with 444.9 million users)... Given the relative population sizes and the growth of internet access Asia, it could potentially take less than a decade for Chinese to become the most commonly used language on the internet.

...Facebook hosts more than 70 different languages, and about 70 percent of its 500 million active users are outside of the United States.

...Mobile cellular penetration in developing countries has more than doubled since 2005. In 2009, 57 out of 100 inhabitants had access to a cell phone in developing

countries, while 67 out of 100 people worldwide had mobile cellular subscriptions. The primary source of global growth has been the Asia-Pacific region.

...When CNN launched in 1980, it was the only 24-hour news station in the world. Three decades later, news-on-demand services – from specialized cable television channels to online sites – have largely replaced large broadcast media... As of 2007, Al Jazeera claims 40-50 million viewers worldwide, a statistic comparable to that of the BBC.

...Hollywood no longer dominates the global market for idealized media images. The world's largest film industry today is actually India's Bollywood... With an average release of 50 full-length feature films per week, Nigeria's 'Nollywood' is the world's second most productive film industry. Like Bollywood films, Nollywood movies feature love stories, arranged marriages, family dramas, travails of migrating to urban areas – themes that resonate with audiences themselves experiencing the challenges of modernity more than do Hollywood swashbucklers. The medium is also widely used for evangelizing by Christian churches in Africa.” (pp.6-9)

South-South World Order

From February 20-23, 2013, over 60 government delegates – including twenty heads-of-state – met in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, for the third Africa-South American Summit. The theme of this event was “Strategies and Mechanism to Promote South-South Cooperation.”

The purpose of the Summit was to forge tighter continental trade and development bonds, common energy and agricultural cooperation strategies, strengthen diplomatic ties as a bloc opposing Western-based capitalism, and showing solidarity for Palestinian statehood – all under the umbrella of tightening ties between the two continents.

African leaders called to “advance the common interests of our peoples” and “take responsibility over our respective destinies in a collective approach.” Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, struggling with his health before passing away, sent a letter urging African and South American governments to unite and become “a true pole of power.” He suggested that a starting point for South-South unification could be the creation of a Bank of the South.

Regional trade between the two continents has seen significant growth in the last decade. In 2002, trade amounted to \$7.2 billion US. In 2011 it was \$39.4 billion.

China and Global Governance

China's Assistant Foreign Minister, Ma Zhaoxu, recently made a pitch for stronger global governance, including international economic governance and upholding the United Nations in environmental affairs. Here are some excerpts from his February 22, 2013, opinion piece in Thailand's news publication, *The Nation*.

“National interests have become increasingly intertwined as a result of economic globalisation, and the international community must demonstrate a spirit of unity to meet common challenges and fix the flaws in the global institutions...”

The international community should continue to deepen the reform of the financial system... We should expand the use of the IMF special drawing rights [Editor's Note: the SDR is a global currency unit based on the combined value of a basket of national currencies], improve the currency basket of the special drawing rights and build an international reserve currency system with stable value, rule-based issuance and manageable supply. We should also enhance coordination and cooperation between governance mechanisms at various levels and leverage the functions of the United Nations, the G20 and other international mechanisms in a holistic manner...

We should vigorously promote international cooperation in development, and push for the shaping of a new type of global development partnership that is more equal and more balanced. We should support the important role of the United Nations and its specialised agencies in international development cooperation, and bolster the development functions of the World Bank and other international institutions in order to lay a solid institutional foundation for international development cooperation, and support developing countries in achieving the UN's Millennium Development Goals. We should follow through on the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development...

...China has played an active role in advocating, practising and promoting the concept of global governance. Since the beginning of the 21st century, China has taken an active role in global governance and has proposed new concepts of security, civilisation and development...

...China will continue to uphold the principle of balancing rights with obligations, play an active role in global economic governance, and promote the building of a more just and equitable international order.” **FC**

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