



Perspective

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

Communism is the final stage of the dialectical development. Marx and Lenin both taught that history moves in progressive cycles. The stages are (1) primitive communism, (2) slave society, (3) feudalism, (4) capitalism, and (5) socialism-communism.

Communism analyzes history. The bookstores in Prague and Budapest are filled with weighty tomes on the analysis of history from the socialistic view. Lenin taught that there is an inward law working toward the communist ultimate and that anyone trying to break that law, or hold it back, should be done away with. To oppose communism (or to suggest a return to the backward eras of history such as capitalism) is opposing the forces of nature and the cycle of history as well as the inward law. Any means are legitimate to prevent persons from trying to turn back the historical clock—including prison and death.

Christianity, according to Lenin, falls in the third category of historical development. It is, as Marx taught, the opiate of the people. Such an opiate was necessary in the feudal society. But now, in an enlightened socialistic society, there is no place for the primitive teachings of Christianity. To evangelize, or persuade persons to become Christians, is to actually suggest that people move backward in the dialectical development of history and, in essence, to hold back the very progress of civilization. Thus Christians in the Iron Curtain countries are not only treated with great contempt, but are persecuted and often jailed or killed.

While traveling in Czechoslovakia I met a brilliant young Englishman who has committed his life to teaching the Czechs about Jesus Christ. He lives incognito, knowing that his phone is tapped, his apartment bugged and his every step followed. So far he has been able to escape positive detection. I asked him, "Why is it that the Communists are so afraid of Christians?"

He told me that aside from their political philosophy that Christianity is drag on society as they envision it, that the Communist leaders are very insecure people. They fear a revolution which would unseat them. They sense in Christianity a revolutionary flavor and therefore feel it must be stamped out. Totally.

"Christianity teaches revolution," he said. "But it is a revolution of the man—not of society. Lenin taught you change man by changing society. Christ teaches you change society by changing man. Communism analyzes history, but they fail to see that all history is HIS-story; that history belongs to the one who says, "All power is given unto me."

Despite the so-called advances of the socialistic state I returned home realizing that all the teachings of Lenin and Marx still leave the human heart hungry and the soul dissatisfied. There is only One who can quench the thirst of the heart, and it is He who calls Himself the Water of Life. Even though the signs in Wenceslas Square in Prague proclaimed, "Lenin is Alive! Glory be to Lenin!" The people still know, deep down inside, that there is but one living God.