

Biblical Issues in our Contemporary World

February 19, 2014

Session 19 Season 10

Wonderfully Made: Biblical Economics- ***Socialism in Russia-Part Six***

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Wonderfully Made

*“I will give thanks to You, for
I am fearfully and wonderfully
made; Wonderful are [all] Your
works, And my soul knows it
very well.” Psalm 139:14*

February 19, 2014

Biblical Issues in Our Contemporary World

Biblical Economics

Our Beginning Point-How we see things

- We have explained why the world is the way it is; the five events.
- 1. We have noted that the world is not a safe place because harmful things are going to happen; the four judgment events.
 - Some are traceable (A) to human choices; some are due to the (B) general impersonal consequences of the **events** of the Fall (2-3), the World-Wide Flood (4) and the Language divisions (5).
- 2. We know that each of us is a unique individual. We are born in various circumstances with various abilities, duties and responsibilities. Therefore, equality of station, production outcome, longevity, etc., are neither possible nor desirable.

Biblical Economics

Our Beginning Point-How we see things

- No. 1 and No. 2 are elements of undeniable reality.
 - > 1. We live in a dangerous world; 2. All people live in inequality.
- 3. Any attempt to change No. 1 and No. 2 will wreak havoc on the **God-established** system. That is the **way it is.**
 - > Some will not accept this and work to reverse the effects of the judgments.
- The damage done in any attempt to reverse the judgments makes human existence worse than the judgment itself. It renders accelerated poverty, disease, misery and death. No matter how well intentioned, any attempt to nullify the curses of the judgment will be a **disaster for all.**
- Politicians may promise relief from the judgments, but they are incapable of delivering any help. They actually pile on misery.

Biblical Economics

Our Beginning Point-How we see things

- Our lessons this year investigate one of the human **economic schemes** to mitigate the curses of God's judgments and bring heaven on earth.
- Our study has focused on the **scheme of socialism**—where the **group**, not the *individual*, is responsible for one's condition.
- He believes, with blind “religious” zeal, that the **group** can solve the quagmire of human MISERY.
- What causes human misery? The ownership of private property. Eliminate private property and the benefits of that one act will cascade down to eliminate all misery.

Some things Cannot be Changed!

The Judgment of God is one such thing

Some things Cannot be Changed!

When not accepting the way things are—

- As human beings, we are tempted to try anything to relieve suffering. Remember the tsarina and her hemophilic son?
- She even went to what appears to be a demon for help! The results were catastrophic for her family. All were executed, and the Russian government was destroyed.
- The Romanov dynastic government ended after 304 years (1613-1917). After another 50-plus years, 76% of the population of the earth was in the grips of the diabolical Communism.
- Who would have thought that by trying to avoid suffering more than 100 million people would die? Plus the untold MISERY of hundreds of millions more. Too simple? Perhaps! But do not minimize the implications of SMALL MISTAKES.

Judgment is **Suffering**

- When God cursed the earth at and after the Fall, it should be expected that the world would become a dangerous and indiscriminately cruel place.
- Of course, as Christians, we do not despair at this reality but find in this reality a way of explaining what can or cannot be changed. In any case—
- It does not change the Genesis Mandate. It just makes it harder or impossible to complete before the kingdom, i.e. the Restoration. Acts 3:21; Isaiah 65:17; 66:22.

Judgment is **Suffering**

- ◉ Christians live in peace under the four judgments, knowing that **each is authored by God**; that His judgments act as waypoints to the restoration of all things (Garden Rms. 8:19-21).
- ◉ Also Christian know that suffering is not normal nor natural. It will be removed in the restoration.
- ◉ Christians can endure anything with that hope! Titus. 2:13.
- ◉ Think of the peaceful martyrdom many have endured over the ages.

Judgment is **Suffering**

- However, the natural Man has no such hope. He only has a dreadful fear of judgment in the life to come.
- As the proverbial ostrich who is willingly blind, Man attempts to ignore the final judgment and spends his life **theorizing plans to eliminate the suffering in this world.**
- Political figures, whether motivated by altruism or not, put forth the ultimate solutions. In our case, Marx-Lenin have offered the cause of misery: unequal wealth.

Socialism and Equality

To have socialism, people must be treated with inequality to have equal outcomes!

- However, the presumed “antidote” is actually a poison. The later condition is much worse than if nothing was done.
 - Remember earlier-their cure is worse than God’s curse!!
- The two factors in play—this will be developed in the next half of our studies.
 - 1. While the world is under judgment, there still is a **God-given order of economics**. God intends humanity to function under judgment and to make progress in fulfilling the Genesis Mandate.

Socialism and Equality

To have socialism people must be treated with inequality to have equal outcomes!

- The two factors in play.

- > 1. The world and its inhabitants are under judgment. While under judgment, there is a **God-given order of economics** that allows for humanity at large to function and in some measure make progress in meeting the Genesis Mandate.
- > 2. The task of improving on God's economic plan is impossible.
 - Remember earlier—their cure is worse than God's curse!!

- Two illustrations: 1. Coumadin 2. Driving your car.

Too Complex to Manage

Staying Healthy is **Complicated**

- 1. Coumadin (warfarin) is used as a blood thinner. Before humans could benefit from it, many rats died. But with enough testing, the anticoagulant drug is useful and reasonably safe for human blood thinning—removing blood clots, and polycythemia, etc.
- On the surface, this is simple. But the reality is quite complex. How many rats died? How many humans were harmed during testing? Read the warnings for further dangers etc.
- Add to your list the health things that can go wrong. It is easy to have so many meds that a true diagnosis is impossible. This is an example of complexity! It is impossible to manage except on very marginal issues—and with a great number of warnings of disasters.

Too Complex to Manage

Staying on the road is **complicated**

- 2. Driving on dry pavement, even at Interstate speeds, is relatively safe. However, add the single element of a glaze of ice and driving becomes so complicated that wisdom says leave the car parked.
- On a slick road, you are subject to your own mistakes—driving too fast, oversteering, braking into a skid. Add in all the other fools on the road who are doing the same thing, and their mistakes put you in danger even if you drive with prudence. So driving becomes very complicated with the addition of one “surprise” element. What about mechanical failure, distractions, blackouts, etc.?

Lulled into Complacency

- Because the world functions so well (God holds it together, Col. 1:17) , we get the idea that it is simple to manage.
 - You may think your car runs smoother after a wash, but nothing mechanically has changed.
- Add a dose of Human vanity, arrogance and invincibility, and you have a Proud Man ready to tinker with God's complex economic plan.
 - Remember earlier—their cure is worse than God's curse!!

Socialism in Russia → Red Communism

Red Communism is enforced socialism

- In our study, we have the perfect storm.
- Russia is ripe for a major change in the economic realities. It is moving from serfdom (landed slavery) to a new freedom. This upset order produces unsettling times in Russia among the workers who demand “more” of the tsar.
 - Here is a lesson for later. What happens when technology displaces workers? Or when someone offers the same product cheaper?
- A group of European ideologues have drunk the Kool-Aid of socialism, brewed during the enlightenment when Man began thinking for himself. It sounded like a good idea, but God's revelation was abandoned!

Socialism in Russia → Red Communism

Red Communism is enforced socialism

- This idea is promoted by Lenin. Lenin, in exile in Switzerland, is looking for a revolution—any one, any where!
- He knows that a political body in motion is **steerable**. He can only hope for a revolution and co-opt it. (He had a world vision.)
- When it occurs, he will take charge using the ideas of Marxism—even if it is against the will of the people.

Socialism in Russia → Red Communism

Red Communism is enforced socialism

- Russia's non-industrial revolt (1906-1917) was against a weak tsar. It provided **that very opportunity:** March 15, 1917. By April, Lenin was in St. Petersburg to take charge



Downton Abbey
character:
Tom Branson is a
socialist

Socialism only an Idea

It has never been implemented successfully,
even by the most meager standards of living.
It must have an infusion of great wealth to sustain it.
That alone, by definition, makes it a failure.

Socialism can Only be an Idea!

It can be described but not implemented

- Downton Abbey's Tom Branson claims to be a socialist. But he always talks about it as an idea.
- The setting is c. 1922, just at the end of Lenin's War Communism.
- The bad news is that Communism did not make it to England. The news was so bad it was suppressed by Lenin. Socialists were not confronted with its failure.



Socialism can Only be an Idea!

It can be described but not implemented

- But in 1921, at the end of Lenin's War Communism, the New Economic Plan provided some recovery using the principle of private property! Becoming more **free**, farmers began to privately produce food to make up for those lost years (1918-1921) when Lenin confiscated farmland.



Socialism is only an Ideal Idea

- So far, socialism has only been an idea to be implemented. ***It must be talked about in the hypothetical.***
 - As in Downton Abbey, the BBC Series.
- When intellectuals talk about the value of socialism, it can only be discussed in the abstract. There has never been a successful “socialistic” culture. Even in the eternal kingdom, the economy will not be socialistic. Monarchial perhaps, but no equality of anything. The rewards judgment preclude equality.
- As we have repeated here often, socialism is simply a feeble effort to explain how the dangerous world can be tamed—but with disastrous results.

The Soviet Union 1928-1991

Russia's experience with socialism

- In 1998, after the end of the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**, (Dec. 25, 1991) Russia “six years after Communism,” received billions of dollars from the western nations (USA largely from the international monetary fund (IMF) plus others). But it was not enough to save Russia's fledgling economy. The Ruble collapsed in the world market; the debts were unpayable.
- The **medicine** of socialism killed more than 100 million people, lost 74 years of national well-being and in the end could not pay off all the debts of socialism—even with the influx of capitalist billions. And it did the same for countless economies in the world.

Years to Recovery— After Socialism

- ◉ Ukraine- later
- ◉ Russia. It is hard for Russia to maintain its population. For every birth there are two abortions.
- ◉ Women in poor health give birth to less-than-healthy babies.
- ◉ Infant mortality is high, est. at 23/1000 births; 6.7/1000 USA.
- ◉ Drug use, 3 million habitual; organized crime; economic depression; alcohol poisoning (in 2000, 35,000/yr. compared to USA of 300/yr.); homelessness; school dropouts; HIV infections. All are largely due to socialism's effect on the standard of living.

Recovery Takes Generations

Socialism destroys self-preservation spirit

- (Written c. 2002?) “Nearly a decade after the end of Communism, the essential task still remains to be undertaken: building a free enterprise economy on the ashes of a centralized state-run system. Whereas in 1992 there was public support to see the job through, years of failed economic policy masquerading as “reform,” as crushing burden of debt, and the discrediting of the United States in the eyes of the Russian people have made that task far more difficult than anyone could then have imagined.



Socialism only an Idea

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Socialism is only an Ideal Idea

- Even though it never has been done successfully, it continues to captivate intellectuals who believe it to be the correct idea. It only waits for (?) the right Man to implement it.
 - > That is why it is still alive and well in the Ivy League schools today.
- All would agree that Lenin and Stalin failed, to an embarrassing outcome. It is failing in Cuba, Laos, Vietnam, North Korea and China, which is lending money to the USA!?!
 - > The USA is attempting to live a socialist utopian dream. It has great reserves, but it cannot sustain what it offers the citizens. Someday, USA will run out of borrowing capability as did Russia 1998.
- All countries eventually work free, and their economies begin to recover. We watch China in this evolution. But it is hard for entrenched leaders to give up their power!

Socialism Must be Forced on the People

A forced bitter pill

Socialism Must be Forced on the People

- Socialism in New Harmony, Indiana, was not forced because it was pre-paid by Robert Owen. When the money ran out, the project ended in disaster
- Socialism in Russia was forced on a weakened nation with a fledgling government. It was forced upon a downtrodden people.
- Perhaps hope seemed to be in the revolution. It promised that the rich would give up their estates and wealth as the tsar had— perhaps it was THEIR TURN!
- But the farmland was confiscated; farmers quit farming, and with that came the famine with a vengeance, then the people had “buyer’s remorse.”

Marxist ideas had never been implemented

Never waste a crisis!

- The European social architects believed that a revolution would spontaneously occur out of the industrial revolution. Advancing technology (science) put tension between the old and the new (ways of doing things). Hegel, Engels, Marx—
- Named: dialectic materialism—the idea that “class” struggles will give way to new orders that are better than the old. Even though it will cost something, it is the inevitable evolution. It is progress! Just as history is inevitable, not stoppable, changes bring a better tomorrow.

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Feels Like Darwinism!!!

Dialectic Materialism-

Deals with reality you can touch

The path of inevitable progress

Socialism's view of history

Dialectic Materialism

The inevitable needs Lenin's help!

- **Dialectic** is a way of thinking. When two opposing ideas are considered, one will rise **over** the other, resolving the contradiction or opposition.
- **Materialism** is where you start the argument. Do you start with a **thought** (Ideal) or do you start with a **thing** (material).
 - > If ideal, then you **deny matter** – Christian Scientists follow Hegel; matter does not exist. Sin does not exist. It is all illusory.
 - > If material, then you can **subordinate ideal**.
- If a tree falls in the forest, the idealist says there is no noise since no ear heard it. It is only noise if it is HEARD. A materialist says it makes noise whether anyone hears it or not. Noise is material and needs no ear to make sound.

The Inevitable Progress But the Inevitable Needs Help

Progress

- Summary: Dialectic materialism is a view of history that provides a theoretical mechanism whereby one culture advances over another— making progress.
- Note: Progress? A better tomorrow is a matter of faith. Q. But has every war brought a better tomorrow? Or in every contest has the most moral won?
- Conclusion: In the dialectic materialism, man is **bettered to perfection** by the struggle via the dialectic materialism.



Progress

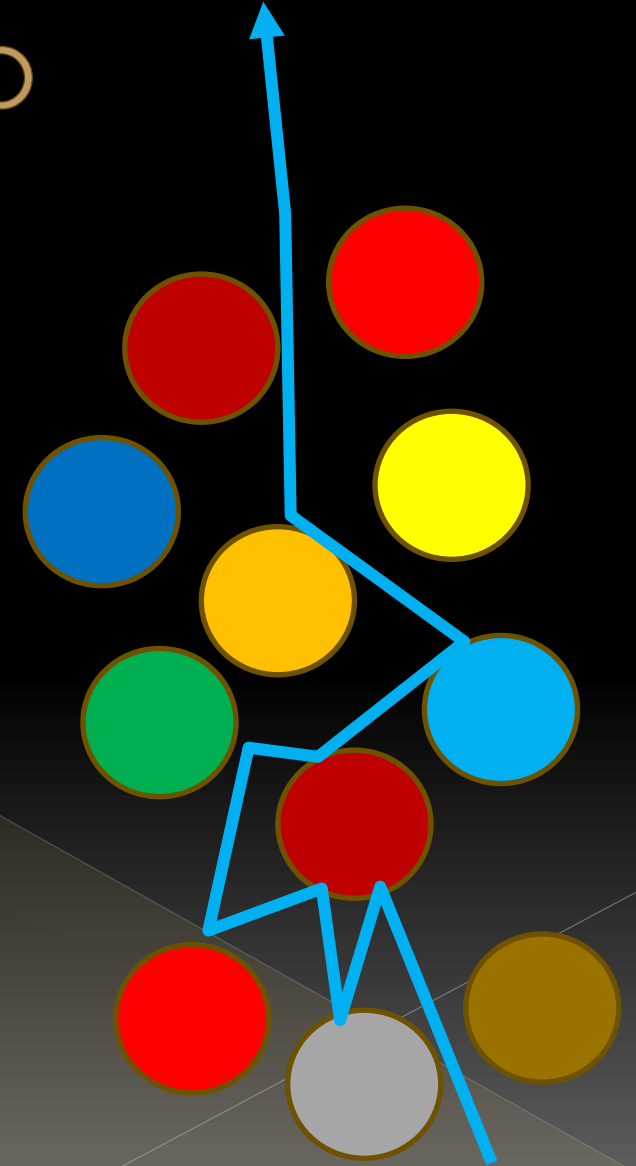
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The Inevitable Progress But the inevitable Needs Help

Progress

- Q. But what determines that a change will bring a better world? Why cannot the dialectic produce a retrograde culture? What force(s) makes it advance—as progress?
 - > Materialism acknowledges no Higher Being that might in providence provide this guidance.
- Failing to acknowledge the God of history, they make the horrible mistake of assigning progress to a string of good luck.

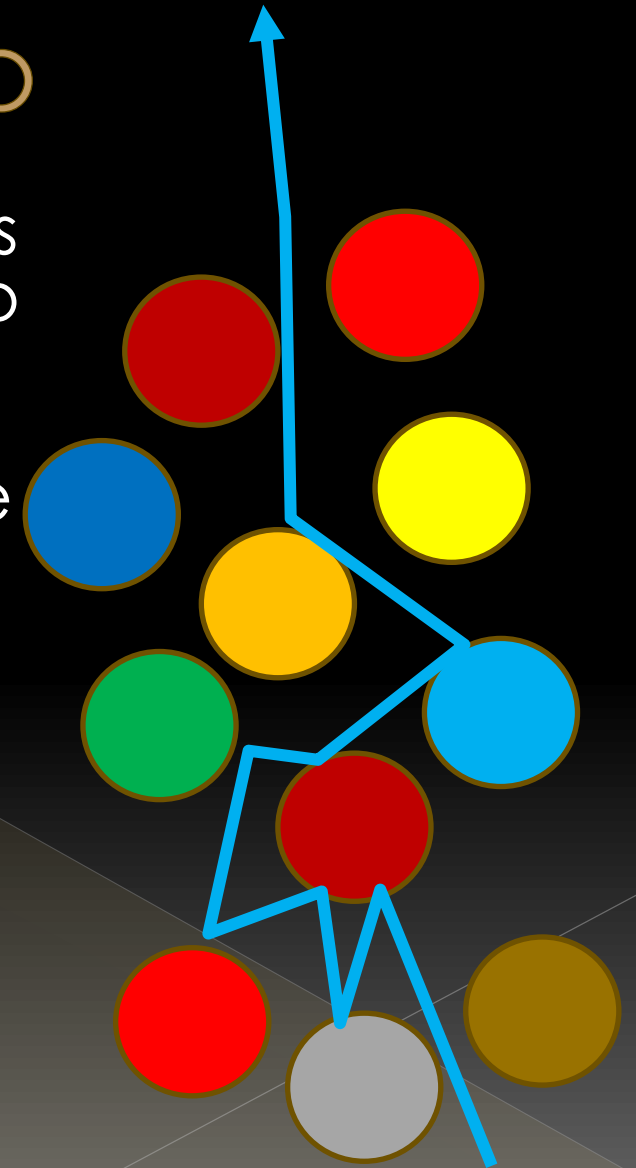
2nd Law of thermodynamics
denies this possibility



The Inevitable Progress But the inevitable Needs Help

Progress

- The second troubling assertion is that progress is inevitable. There is no personal responsibility, no room for volition or individual expression. All actions are compulsory because material-in-motion forces are determinative. It is impossible to slow or hurry the sunrise.
- Correspondingly, there is a wave of victory in the future as certain as the rising sun. With the same certainty, the “ordained” shall conquer and rule the world.
 - There are no vestiges of doubt in the inevitable outcome.
- But the inevitable must be helped(!?!).





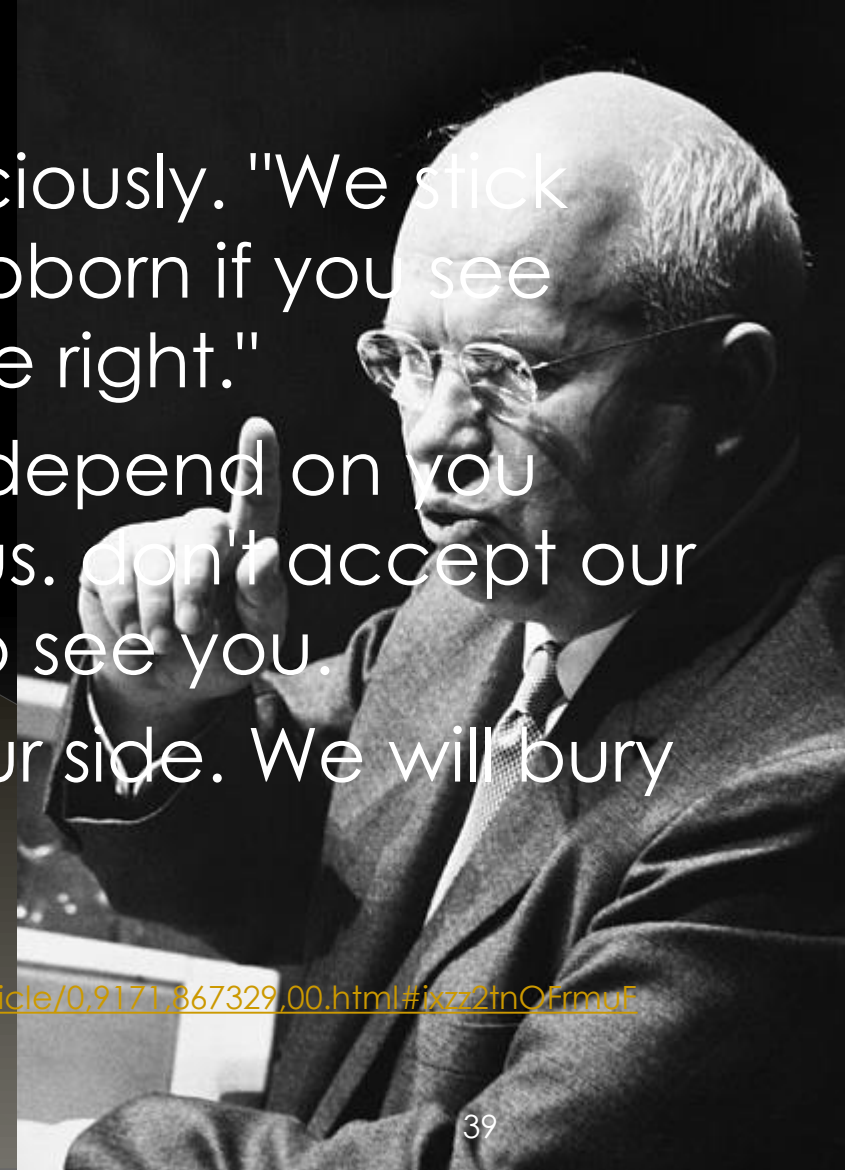
How Sure is the Outcome?

As sure as Nikita Khrushchev was that Communism will bury the United States

“At the final reception for Poland's visiting Gomulka, stubby Nikita Khrushchev planted himself firmly with the Kremlin's whole hierarchy at his back, and faced the diplomats of the West, and the satellites, with an intemperate speech that betrayed as much as it threatened,”

"We will bury you." Niki 1956

- "We are Bolsheviks!" he declared pugnaciously. "We stick firmly to the Lenin precept—don't be stubborn if you see you are wrong, but don't give in if you are right."
-"About the capitalist states, it doesn't depend on you whether or not we exist. If you don't like us, don't accept our invitations, and don't invite us to come to see you."
- "Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will bury you!"



Read more: [Foreign News: We Will Bury You! - TIME](http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,367329,00.html#ixzz2tnQFrmuF) <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,367329,00.html#ixzz2tnQFrmuF>

Khrushchev Visits America Sept. 1959

U.S.S.R General Secretary

- Visited the cornfields of the Garst farm in Iowa. Everyone thought that once ol' Nikita would see the glorious American accomplishment he would go home, call off communism and join the free market nations.
- But not so! Nikita had a different outlook. As a communist, he saw the American achievement far too small—Communism was to change the whole world, not just one country.
- That after 38 years of ruthless socialism?



- Russian Communism
- R.I.P. 1918-1989 age 71)

Uncle Joe's Successor says, "Uncle!"

- The Star War initiative (1983) launched by the United States was a defense system against the Soviets. It was beyond the reach of the Soviet economy. Gorbachev gave in and quit the fight. He resigned 12-25-1991.
 - USSR dissolved in 12-26-1991, usually said as 1992.
- 1998 the Russian economy collapsed having just borrowed ????? billions from the IMF and the UN?



Mikhail
Gorbachev

\$10.2 Billion Loan To Russia Approved

Reuters

Published: March 27, 1996

- The International Monetary Fund said today that it had approved a \$10.2 billion loan for Russia. The move is expected to be helpful to President Boris N. Yeltsin in the presidential election in June.
- United States, Germany and other countries added \$30 billion months before collapse.
- Many of these last dollars paid off the highly-placed, well-connected Russian and foreign investors.
 - > From “survive-prosper.com” Dollar Collapse

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No Progress — No Hope!

This is recognized as a human need
by the Socialists Engineers

Progress in the Hearts—Yearning for a better tomorrow: A hope for a utopia!

- If there is no progress in our present condition, we despair. Progress thus becomes the hope eternal springing forth in the chest. (Pope)
- Their case? What brings progress? Science, a.k.a. technology. The inventions of the industrial age will displace workers who will organize and foment a revolution. The new will be better and stronger, and is progress in a world marching toward perfection.
- But has this been observed? Engels and Marx said—Hmmm! Then, yes. Q. But where has this happened?

What Marx Saw was Imagined

- Where? It is happening right now in the struggle between the slaves and owners, the serfs and the feudal masters, the bourgeoisie (capitalists) and the proletariat (workers). That is between the factory owners and the factory laborers.
- The dialectical conflict brings the unavoidable end—an international [world-wide] workers' revolution, transforming international society and future history.
- BUT NOT AS PREDICTED: Revolution did not come from the industrialized west but from eastern Europe where Russia was 100 years or more behind in the industrial revolution.

What Marx Saw was Imagined

- If Lenin truly had an idea to be tested or discarded, a casual comparison of these two economics would have told him to rethink Marx. But he did not. This gives substance to the idea that Lenin was not acting on altruistic impulses but was looking for a way to lead a revolution...any kind...
- He must have abandoned the idea of a spontaneous revolution in England during the train ride from Switzerland to St. Petersburg. Six months after he got to St. Petersburg, he led the Red revolution against the provisional Kerensky government. The violent Bolsheviks were victorious and destroyed the White Army.

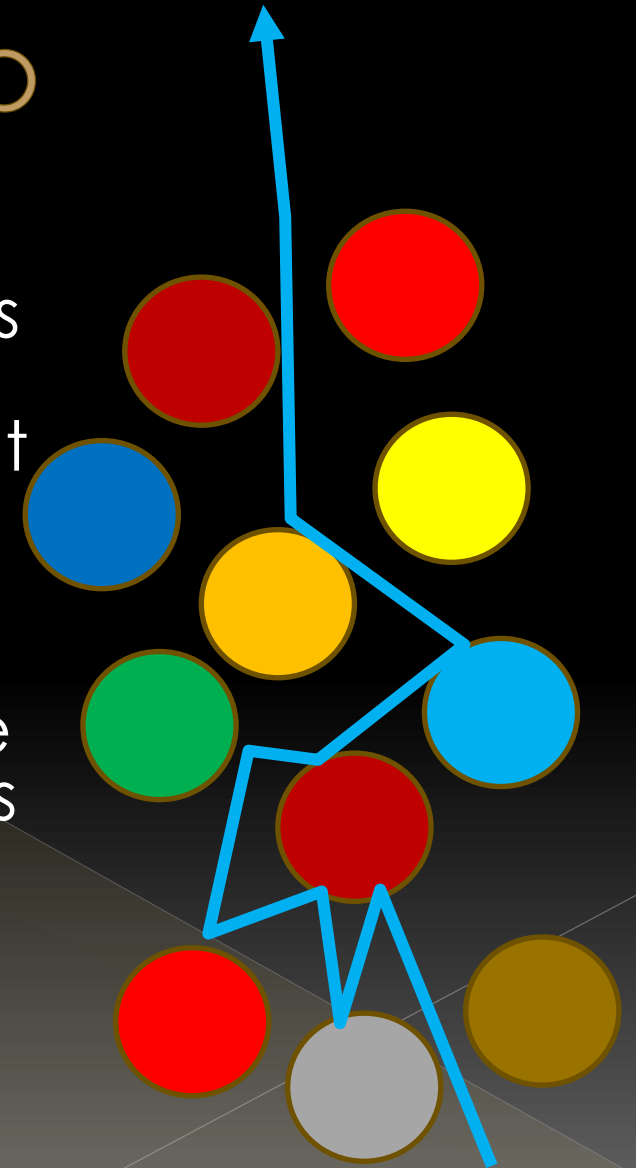
Justification of Violence—In Socialism you can always find a way to kill someone

- Lenin was an enthusiastic advocate of violence. His revolution was purposely not a peaceful transition.
 - Trotsky was his gifted military strategist.
- The purpose of the revolution was not to seize control of the State but to destroy it. The state functions in many ways—executive, cabinet officers, legislative branches, the judicial, civil service. All are agencies of the government. The goal was **not to secure** these offices but to destroy them, wipe them out of existence and build a totally different form of State.

The Inevitable Progress But the Inevitable Needs Help

Progress

- Returning to the justification of violence...
- Objective: Removing even mild dissent, such as Bukharin. Even though he was a brilliant communist intellectual, he represented a threat to Stalin.
- Simply, Bukharin questioned a premise of Marxism, that after the revolution the state government, i.e. the Bolsheviks, would become smaller rather than bigger. But for Stalin this was a threat. He found a way to kill Bukharin as a traitor because he had not yet mastered the “dialectics” and thus was a clear and present liability.



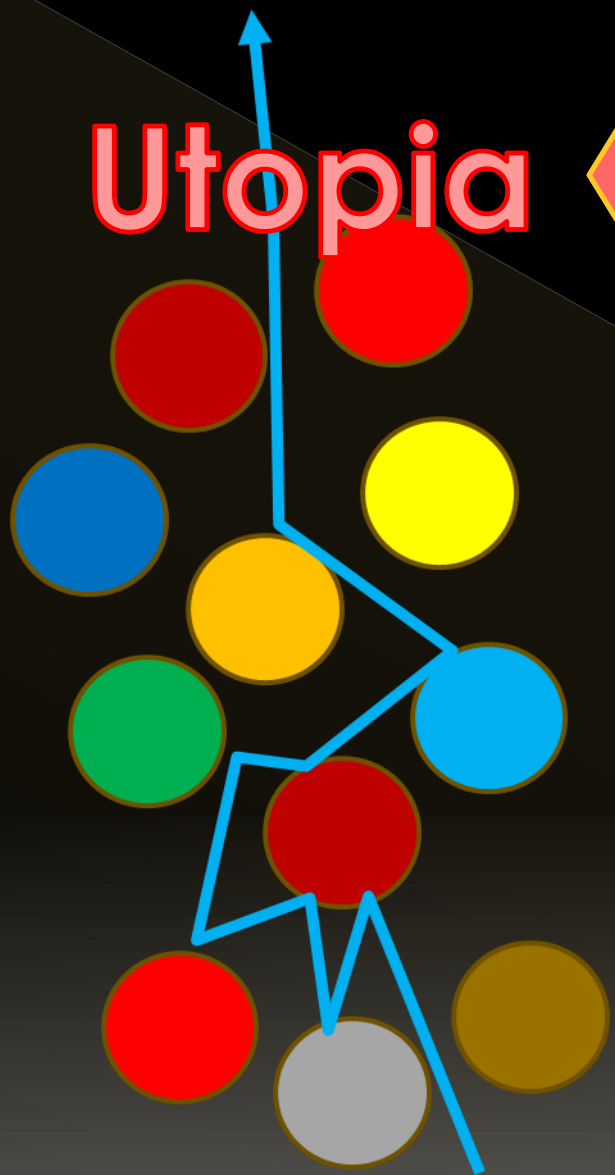
Justification for Violence

- It was the intent of the Red Revolution not only to eliminate all direct subversive resistance to Communism but also any who may in the future turn to counter-revolutionary ideas.
- This necessitated dragging a wider and wider net through smaller and smaller spaces.
- It was the task of thousands of three-member committees to decide the fate of millions of the most productive human beings in Russia/Ukraine. If they thought someone MIGHT pose a later threat by being infected with old ideas, he was either killed or sent to Siberia to work in the labor camps.



Christian Ideals are Absent in Socialism

Christianity is a enormous threat to the Godless
They prefer the destructive elements of socialism rather
than enjoy the benefits of God's providential care in the
gift of biblical economics



Utopia

← No government needed; a perfected humanity

Bukharin did not see this progress and was shot for his “blindness”

Socialism-Utopia

But what is the dialectic to bring this change about?
↕ Communism

↕ Capitalism (Marx)

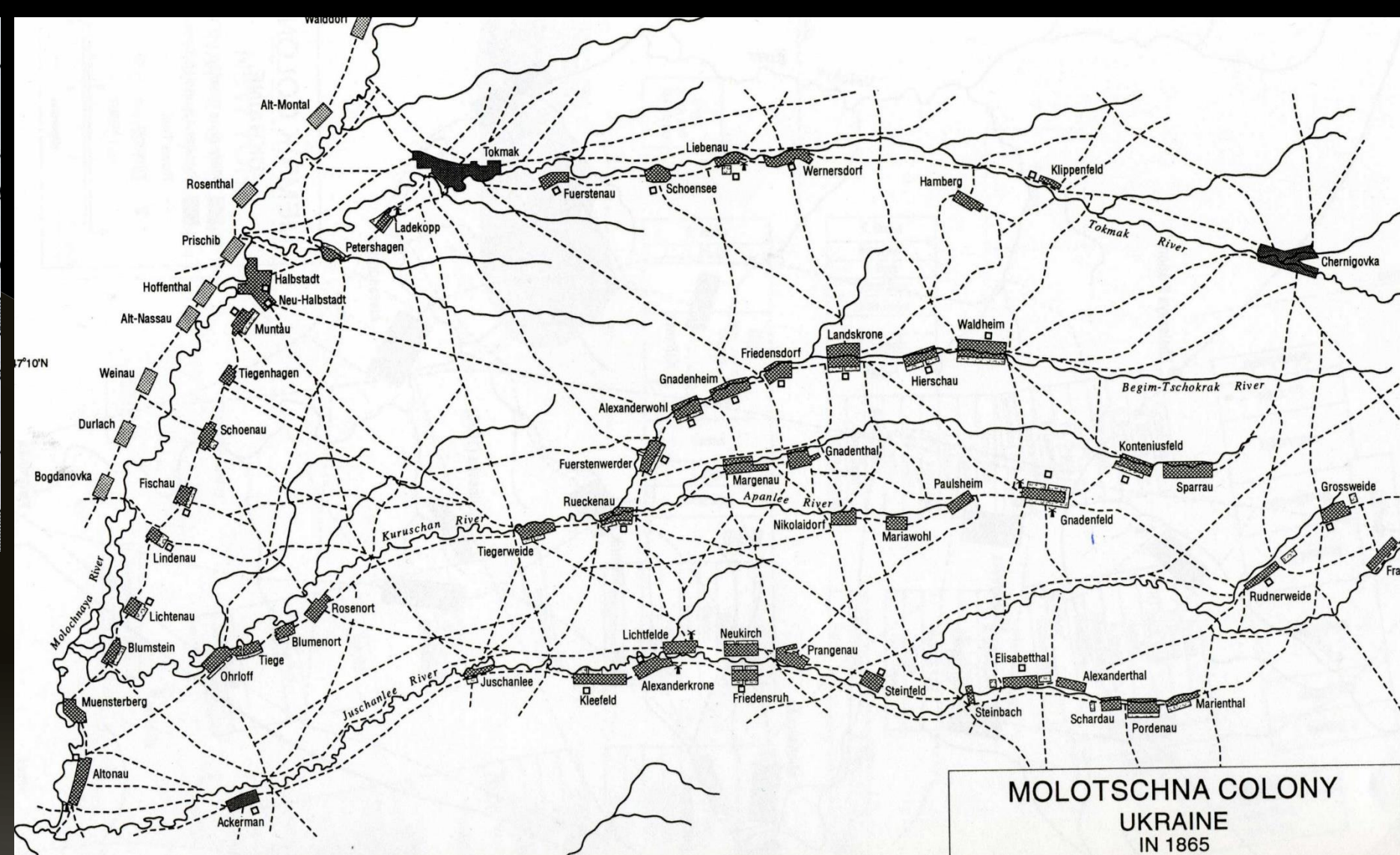
Mably, Morely, Babeuf, Owen, Marx, Engel, Lenin, Stalin
Misunderstood the revolution

↕ Feudal System

- **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** was formed when representatives of various Mennonite conferences met July 27-28, 1920

The Ukraine after Communism

12 years after Independence
1992-2004























*Industry and building wealth--
Mennonites were targeted by the
Stalinist regime for extinction*























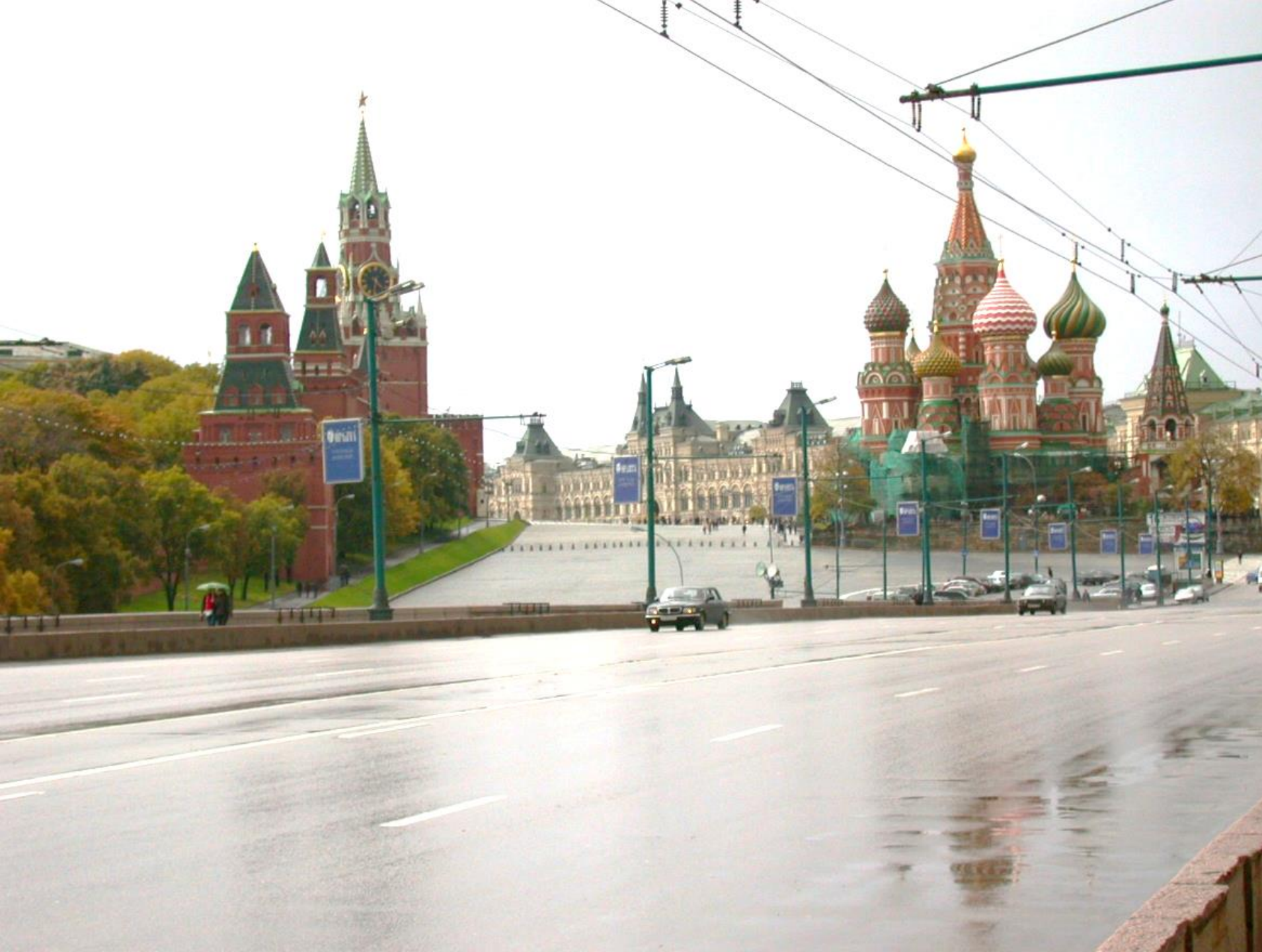




2004















Thus Far—