

The Coming American Counterrevolution



Unlike the road chosen by the Roman Empire, Americans can choose a culture of life.

“The coming American counterrevolution” was recently highlighted by *The Washington Times*. It predicts that the many years “of using government to address all national problems could be swept away in favor of less expensive, decentralized bureaucracy and greater personal freedom – the return to fundamental American values.”

History proves that this “American counterrevolution” will be successful to the extent that it is a return to the responsibilities and blessings of a Christian civilization. These include civility, charity, self-government, personal freedom, and prosperity. This transformation would put us back on the road to a culture of life, rather than of death, of liberty rather than tyranny.

To understand America’s “pagan experiment” of the past generation, it is helpful to survey five deadly evils that have permeated all societies throughout history

which have chosen to rebel against God. Ask yourself: which of these have crept into the western world today?

The first deadly evil is tyranny. Tyranny dominated all ancient civilizations – except for the republic of the ancient Israelites. These tyrants were political leaders who used polytheistic gods and ideologies as a cover for their despotism, murder, and theft. Tyranny was universal from the time of Nimrod through the Roman Empire. The Caesars declared themselves to be god on earth. They demanded that all the inhabitants of the Roman Empire bow down and pay tribute to them. Because Christians in the empire refused, they were martyred for 250 years.

The second deadly evil is false religion marked by human sacrifice and bloodletting. Many people know that human sacrifice was widely practiced by pagan civilizations like the Canaanites and their Baal worship. But most do not know that the ritual of human sacrifice was the practice of civilizations around the world from China to Greece, from Rome to the Incas of Peru. Regardless of the shape of their ziggurats, pyramids, altars, or aboratoriums, this practice has thrived wherever there is a rejection of the redemptive power of biblical faith. The Romans practiced human sacrifice for 700 years in their gladiatorial games. Micah summarized the dilemma in the guilty hearts of all people. Knowing the need for a sacrifice for sin, Micah ponders, “Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

The third deadly evil is the enslavement of people and nations and the stealing of private property in the name of the state. The state usurps the God given powers of individuals and families. St. Augustine defined this big government piracy: “The dominion of bad men is

hurtful... Justice being taken away, then, what are kingdoms but great robberies? For what are robberies themselves, but little kingdoms?" As nations arose in the ancient world, men like Nimrod enslaved the people with promises of benefits while stealing their labor and freedom. Today this evil has different names - communism, socialism, fascism, etc. - but all have the same destructive end, a culture of death and dependency.

The fourth deadly evil is the creation of arbitrary, unjust laws which replace God's Law. Throughout the centuries these laws have given the tyrant increasingly more power and wealth. As a result, the people are increasingly enslaved. This practice creates an enormous burden of taxes, regulations, and laws – leaving the weak and the poor to suffer injustice.

The fifth deadly evil is the persecution of believers in the one true God, the God of the Bible. The persecution of believers began with Cain killing Abel. In the ancient world Rome was the culmination of this persecution. There were ten major persecutions in the Roman Empire, beginning with Nero. This perverted emperor burned Rome to the ground and blamed it on the Christians. Then he crucified them in his garden and lit them on fire for his dinner guests. This persecution is evident in our time. Today over 200 million Christians face potential persecution every day.

What is the alternative to this juggernaut of evil? The good news is that the one and only true God has planned the liberation of His people and nations. His solution for the enslaving power of evil is sweeping His world. It is the Gospel of Liberty in Christ. A Bible translator of the Reformation, Miles Coverdale, said, "Wherever the Scripture is known it reformeth all things, and setteth everything in order."

For example, all nations that have followed God's Gospel of liberty and His Word have experienced the power of self-government and freedom from enslaving sins. They have followed the biblical pattern to limit the power of civil government, giving almost all responsibility back to

the individual, the family, and the local community. It is historically proven that "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." That vision of true freedom under God is experiencing a rebirth even now in millions of homes and cities.

The Gospel of liberty also frees nations from the practice of human sacrifice or bloodletting. Christ was the only one who qualified to die in payment for our penalty. His perfect sacrifice frees Christians from the culture of guilt and death. When England brought the gospel to India they eliminated the Hindu practice of burning their wives alive on the funeral pyres of their dead husbands. Cortez ended the genocide of the Aztecs who had been cutting the hearts out of the innocent on their pyramids for centuries. The first Christian king of the Vikings ended their human sacrifice in 1020. Patrick of Ireland ended the cannibalism and sacrifice of the Druids.

The Gospel of liberty suppresses the great evil of enslaving people and stealing their property. Most of the Ten Commandments were given to protect individuals and families and their property from confiscation by the state or anyone else. When societies do not tolerate the neglect of parents, the murder of individuals, adultery, theft, stealing a man's reputation, or coveting his property, then that nation is bound to create a productive, loving society.

The Gospel of Liberty, when accepted by a people, also virtually eliminates enslaving laws and persecution of believers. As the Gospel is embraced, the people once again acknowledge that God's law is the foundation of our common law heritage and true liberty. Then, too, believers rise up into influential leadership positions rather than being thrown into dungeons.

The counterrevolution of love is coming. Because God is the leader – it is unstoppable. May we as Americans choose the road to a culture of life, rather than of death, of liberty rather than tyranny.

- Marshall Foster