

Marx, America, and the Church



This was the tragedy of our time, that if one part of humanity had a perfect understanding of the essence of the communist idea (but sympathized with it), the other part, seemingly hostile to it, did not understand it, believing the symptoms of the disease to be the disease itself. — Vladimir Bukovsky, *Judgment in Moscow*, p. 721

OUTLINE

- 🕒 Main Point
- 🕒 Foundational Developments
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- 🕒 Terms
- 🕒 Taxonomy of Marxist Parties
- 🕒 Achieving the Gnosto-Hegelian Utopia
- 🕒 History of Marxism in the United States
- 🕒 Some Thoughts on the Church and It's Political Views
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MAIN POINT

Marxism in the United States

-  A much longer and deeper history than most people realize
-  Everything we see happening now is an echo of patterns and positions in the United States for over 150 years
-  Deep intellectual and philosophical tradition and without that it is difficult to confront even the wave-tops

Marxist goals

-  What most people argue about (e.g. welfare spending, taxation, private property, etc.) are surface issues to drive a deeper goal
-  The creation of a utopia built by smashing diametrically opposed forces at one another
-  The Church's failure to recognize this means we fight the wrong war and, in so doing, play into the methods and aims of Marxists

The Church and its political orientation

-  Many political positions today are insane and do not deal with core issues
-  The Church has contributed little to nothing to the discussion of any note
-  The Church is partly culpable for the growth of Marxism because we have not lived out the things we say we believe

FOUNDATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



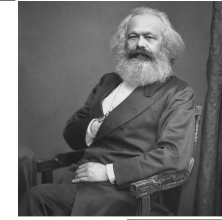
G. W. F. Hegel

- History is a force of nature
- World Spirit rests on a given people
- People with the World Spirit have the duty to progress civilization
- Thesis -> Antithesis -> Synthesis produces the World Spirit (a historical/spiritual process, not a material one)



Henri de Saint-Simon

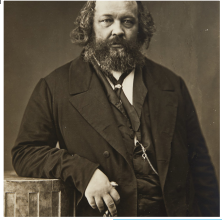
- Industrialization is a disruptive force
- Internal European peace for external colonization
- Advocated a technocratic utopia
- Capital and industry to meet needs of poor (not collectivist)
- Rationalism over religion



Karl Marx

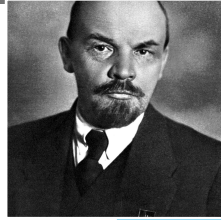
- Ideas from Hegel, Saint-Simon, and Democritus
- Economic interpretation of history (class oppression)
- Edenic Tribalism -> Slavery -> Feudalism -> Capitalism -> Communism (classless society)
- Believed revolution was needed to bring about Communism
- Made the Hegelian process materialistic (the Original Sin of Marx; making a secular religion which denies the validity of religion)

LATER DEVELOPMENTS



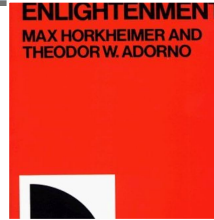
Mikhail Bakunin

- Anarchy
- Any form of power is oppressive
- Man is good, but society/power makes him evil
- Caused splits in the Communist International
- Propaganda of the deed



Vladimir Lenin

- Practical implementation of revolution
- Political, not theoretical
- Capitalism dominates governments and creates imperialism



Frankfurt School

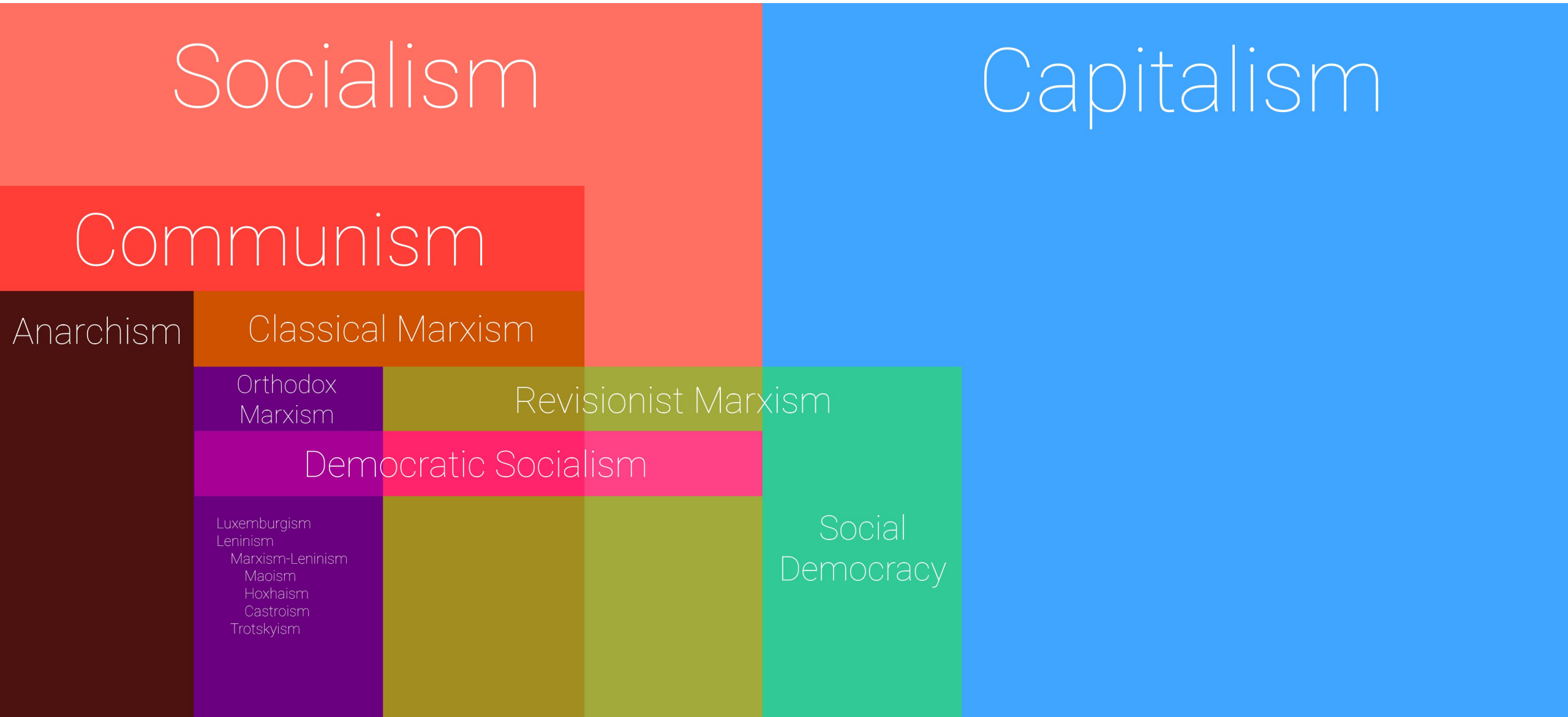
- Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse
- Not economics alone, but cultural
- Attack Christianity, morals, patriotism, etc.
- Freedom of speech only for the Left
- Dividing line is cultural not class
- Origin of modern Cultural or Race Marxism (Critical Theory/CRT)
- Made explicit what was implicit and tore it down by that act

TERMS

- 🏰 **Dialectical Materialism:** A method of reasoning about historical changes and a means of achieving a desired end through political action
- 🏰 **Historical Materialism:** The practical framework through which dialectic materialism plays out
- 🏰 **Historical Dialectic:** The process by which history moves forward by opposing forces
- 🏰 **Struggle:** The competition between two opposites which clash and produce a synthesis
- 🏰 **Praxis:** Turning theory into practice
- 🏰 **Leninism:** The use of a single, disciplined, central party to prevent the undermining of the dictatorship of the proletariat.
- 🏰 **Propaganda of the Deed:** Assassination
- 🏰 **The End of History:** The global socialist utopia; history is at an end because once achieved there would be no more class struggle which drives history
- 🏰 **Communism:** The final stage in the Marxist system of thought and/or **communists** are strict interpreters of the Marxist systems
- 🏰 **Socialism:** A stage in the process to achieve the Marxist end state and/or less strict interpreters of Marx due to many of its theoretical or practical failures

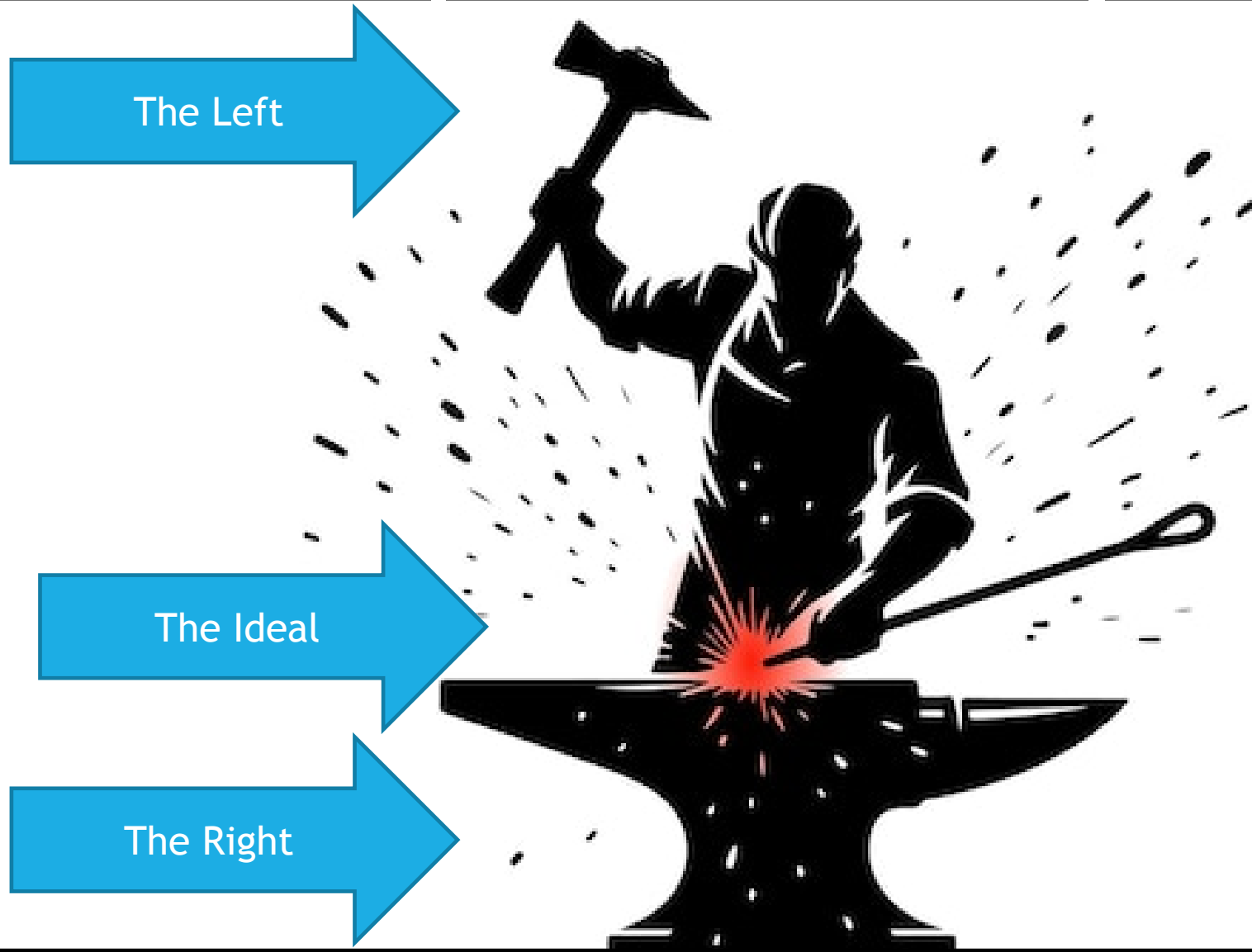
**“The spirit I, that endlessly denies. And rightly, too; for all that comes to birth Is fit for overthrow, as nothing worth;
Wherefore the world were better sterilized; Thus all that's here as Evil recognized Is gain to me, and downfall, ruin, sin The
very element I prosper in.” — *Mephistopheles in Faust Part 1* p. 75 by Goethe**

TAXONOMY OF MARXIST PARTIES



“The basic division within the Socialist movement after 1848 was between those who wished to abolish or reduce the functions of the state and those who wished to increase these functions by giving economic activities to the state.” — Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope*, p. 376

ACHIEVING THE GNOSTO-HEGELIAN UTOPIA



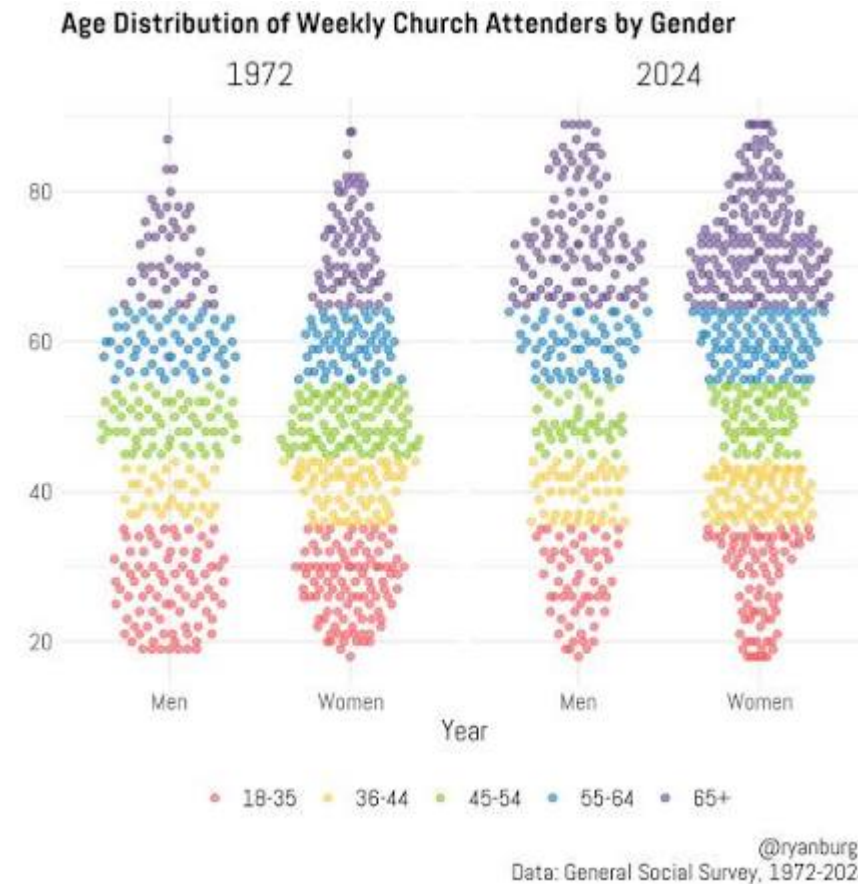
“And since that heart, Karl is obviously animated and governed by a demon not granted to all men, is that demon Heavenly or Faustian, and will you ever... be capable of truly domestic happiness... will you ever be capable of imparting happiness to those immediately around you?” — Letter from Heinrich Marx to his son, Karl, via Paul Kengor in *Marx and the Devil*

HISTORY OF MARXISM IN THE UNITED STATES

- 📍 **1857:** Communist Club of New York founded by Freidrich Sorge and Joseph Weydemeyer
- 📍 **1872:** First International HQ moved to New York, supported largely by immigrant populations
- 📍 **1876-7:** Workingmen's Party of the United States (later SLP) founded; 6,500 members by the 1890s
- 📍 **1886:** Haymarket Affiar; riots in Chicago sparked by anarchists
- 📍 **1892:** Attempted assassination of Henry Clay Fink by anarchists
- 📍 **1901:** Formation of the Socialist Party of America; assassination of William McKinley by an anarchist
- 📍 **1905:** Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) formed in Chicago as a revolutionary union
- 📍 **1912:** Eugene V. Debs (SPA) runs for president with 6% of the popular vote
- 📍 **1917-19:** Socialist-communist split in the US over Russian Revolution; First Red Scare
- 📍 **1919-20s:** CPUSA actions directed by Soviets/Comintern
- 📍 **1930s:** Peak CPUSA membership
- 📍 **1930s-50s:** Frankfurt School lays the academic foundation for Critical Theory
- 📍 **1940s-50s:** Second Red Scare; McCarthyism
- 📍 **1962:** Port Huron Statement manifesto for activist Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)
- 📍 **1966:** Black Panther Party founded as Marxist/racial organization for revolution
- 📍 **1970s-80s:** Critical Race Theory (CRT) pulls from Frankfort school ans substitutes race for class
- 📍 **2013:** Foundation of Black Lives Matter by self-described "trained Marxists" Cullors and Garza
- 📍 **Present:** DSA party/wing of the Democrat Party

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE CHURCH AND IT'S POLITICAL VIEWS

- 🏰 The problem of the arbitrary Left-Right paradigm
 - 🏰 Right defined by opposition to the Left, but no rel ideas of its own
 - 🏰 The current Right has the same underlying principles as the Left but does not take them to their logical endpoint
 - 🏰 The Church has an opportunity here, but has failed to take it, because...
- 🏰 The Church has lost its moral authority
 - 🏰 Rampant hypocrisy
 - 🏰 Failure of discipleship, especially younger people
 - 🏰 The rise of Marxist ideas in America can be partly blamed on practical failures in the Church (e.g. Neustadt and May)
- 🏰 Thoughts from a priest escaping the Spanish Civil War
- 🏰 The Church has failed to provide alternatives
 - 🏰 We are not to be a political organization, *per se*, but if we have the spirit of God and are led by Him, why have we failed to augment the conversation?
 - 🏰 The Church holds the views of whatever the Right party is extant at the time (even if we don't like them). How convenient.



“At no time in the history of Europe, or even perhaps of the world, has so passionate a hatred of religion and all its works been shown. Yet one priest, who, while 1,215 monks, nuns, and priests died in the province of Barcelona, managed to escape to France through the help of President Companys, was generous enough to admit that ‘the reds have destroyed our churches, but we first had destroyed the church.’ — Hugh Thomas, *The Spanish Civil War*, p. 232-3

LESSONS FOR US

The importance of James 2:14-18

-  Correct doctrine means nothing unless we live it out
-  Our failure to do that weakens us and emboldens the enemy

Training the next generation

-  Our families and the younger people in the Church (c.f. Ecclesiastes 4:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
-  Need to understand what the actual views of people are, not a version that makes us feel self-satisfied
-  Have we equipped the next generations or only pretended to equip them?
-  Our failure to truly understand Marxist ideas has allowed Marxism to grow, and God will hold us accountable for that
-  Do not use Strawman arguments; use Strongman arguments, and do it with True Believers

The political views of the Church are immature

-  We are not to see temporal power, but we also have nothing to offer to political discourse
-  When we pray to God about elections, do we pray for His will, or for our arbitrary political choices?
-  Search the Scriptures diligently to see how a nation should truly be run, then create positions based on that

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. — James 2:14-18

ADDITIONAL READING AND RESOURCES

