

The Moral Society

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The peace, harmony, freedom and happiness of any political or economic system ultimately depends on its moral basis. The goal of any society should be to create the environment where man can fully realize his creative and spiritual desires. Only good men can make a moral society and only a society based on morality and the pursuit of goodness will be everlasting.

The Roman Empire fell because it became morally weak and corrupt. Likewise, the French Revolution ended with anarchy and finally the establishment of a military dictatorship under Napoleon because it was inspired by atheist materialist philosophies which destroyed much of the moral basis of French society. On the other hand, we can

see that the American Revolution was successful because it reaffirmed those basic morals and values "endowed by our Creator."

External not enough. The primary problem throughout history and especially in this century is that man has been seeking to structure a peaceful and free society by depending too greatly on external methods or ideals. Two of the most graphic examples of this, although very far apart in their nature, are totalitarian Communism and political democracy.

Communism has failed dramatically to create a society of true peace, freedom and happiness not only because of its economic and political totalitarianism but also because it is downright immoral in its essence.

Great "immoral" Society

Communism is rooted in materialism, setting forth that economic determinism is the sole guiding force in history. Communism does not concern itself with moral or spiritual values but believes that man's "human essence" is formed by economic (materialistic) conditions. Consequently, Communism has sought to create a "new man" by imposing external materialistic controls while denying any underlying spiritual or moral principles. Thus, it has created the great "immoral" society.

Political democracy, although mainly external in form and ideal, did have at least a moral foundation to a certain degree. Largely due to our forefathers' religious belief that man's conscience is sacred and transcendent of any government or religious control, the idea of individual freedom was strengthened.

Shortcomings of Political Democracy

Democratic society has developed as the champion protectorate of the "open society," assuring expression of all views and assuming external subjugation of falsehood "where reason is left free to combat it." Unfortunately the open democratic society, as a structural end in itself, lacks a unifying moral goal capable of realizing true peace, freedom and social justice.

An open democratic society is highly desirable in its outward form but has many weaknesses when not accompanied by a moral goal.

The open society often suffers from various maladies like cultural, historical, and moral relativism. Cultural relativism refrains from all judgment of any activity in a society having other than a Judeo-Christian, technological culture. Historical relativism views truths, morals, and values that were valid in the past as no longer relevant today. The most dangerous, however, is that of moral relativism, which is typified by saying, "Well, if those Vietnamese want to be ruled by Communism, that's their business, not mine."

Necessity of Moral Goal

The open or totalitarian society can prevent its own collapse only when it is centered around a common moral vision. Since Communism rejects man's innate spiritual existence and moral character, then its collapse is inevitable. Merely substituting a controlled society with an open one, however, will not produce a lasting result unless a moral goal is clarified and propagated. To create a moral and open society, each man's common spiritual existence and purpose must be recognized on the individual and social levels.

All men are essentially spiritual beings, children of God, who reflect a divine nature. Man's nature is founded upon the polarity of spirit or heart (feeling) and mind (reason) which seek, respectively, love and truth. To become a whole being, one must realize the qualities of love and truth.

To create good, love depends on truth. To know what is *good*, man needs truth. Without knowing truth man's love can be misdirected or become self-centered. A society of self-centered, uncaring men would lead to eventual disaster; in the long run, both the individual purpose and the purpose of an organized society would be jeopardized.

Man's desire for democratic freedom is only an outward reflection of his desire to know true spiritual freedom. Thus democratic society exists to compliment this inward purpose through the world's great religions. This striving for spiritual truth should never be restricted; in fact, it should be socially encouraged.

This striving for moral selfhood, centered on a spiritual truth, can likewise serve as a common center for social unity. A proton and electron form an atom because each contains a common aspect of character which heads towards the purpose of constructing an atom.

Man can likewise be united because *mind* or *spirit* are common to every person. The quality of a moral society reflects the degree of unity among men centered on realizing fulfillment of their common spiritual essence. The most moral act is that which brings man closer to his spiritual fulfillment and unity with God, the source of love and truth.

Since this purpose is common among all men, then the standards of a moral existence should eventually be applied universally. Our goal as a people should be to create a moral and unified nation. That nation in turn should create moral and harmonious world. Only when such a people, nation, and world exist can the long cherished hope of a truly democratic world of peace and freedom be realized.