

CAUSA Worldview IV Counterproposal to Historical Materialism

The third fundamental area of Marxism maintains that history advances toward communism in accord with the dialectic. This is why Nikita Khrushchev confidently proclaimed in 1958. "We will bury you" and "History is on our side."

For communists, all societies are inevitably heading towards communism. We can contrast Marx's theory of history with the view of God-accepting people, which maintains that God governs history by His providence. However, many doubt the validity of this statement. In our problem-ridden world today, more and more people feel that God does not exist. He seems to be dead, or He seems to be helpless, in terms of human affairs.

A. Two crucial questions

We have seen clearly that God's purpose is to create a good world, but instead we have an evil world. In the Bible, we find assurances that God will restore this evil world to goodness. Still, there are two crucial questions that demand answers. One of those questions is: How is it that God's good world became evil? This has challenged many people. Bertrand Russell, Albert Camus and others observed the world around them and saw so much suffering, so much evil, and so much wrongdoing, that they came to the conclusion that there could not be a God. If a good God existed, how could He allow the continuation of such suffering? How could He have allowed this world to become evil in the first place? This dilemma has led some to conclude that God does not exist.

There is also another question which we have to answer. If God does exist and does want to stop human suffering and restore the world to goodness, why does it take Him so long? People have become tired of waiting.

CAUSA WORLDVIEW IV Counterproposal to Historical Materialism

Four Fundamentals of Communism

- 1. Absolute
Materialism**
- 2. Law of
Dialectics**
- 3. Historical
Materialism** **No**
- 4. Man as Product of
His Environment**

3. Historical Materialism

**History Moves Under
the Law of Dialectics**

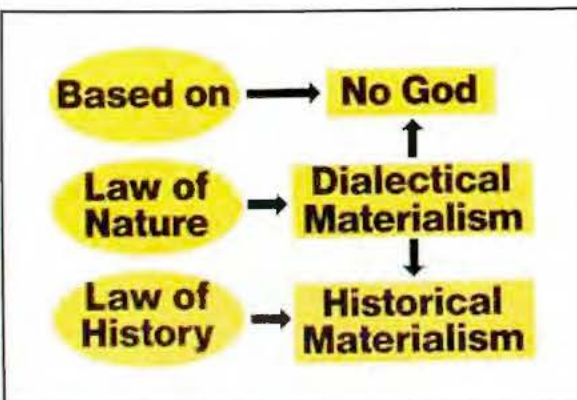
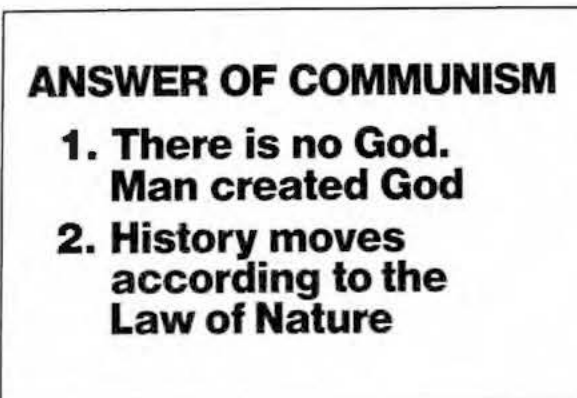
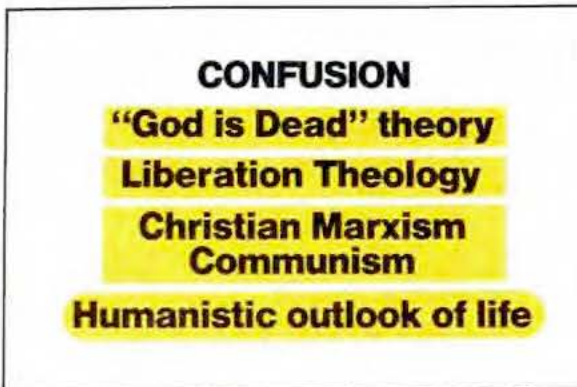
**Communism is
Inevitable** 

For God-accepting people

**God governs the
world and history
by His providence**

PROBLEM:

**God does not seem
to exist, or
He seems dead
or helpless in
human affairs**



In an attempt to solve this confusion, various explanations have been put forth. One of these is the "God is dead" theology. This view emerged very strongly in the 1960s through theologians such as Thomas Altizer and William Hamilton. According to this view, the traditional understanding of God had to be re-evaluated. This view particularly challenged the role of God as a parent and "problem solver." For them, God had given man freedom and dominion over the earth. It is man's role to accept responsibility for our lives and the world.

Likewise, other radical positions such as Liberation Theology and Christian Marxism have challenged the traditional view of God and emphasized that man plays the pivotal role in bringing about social change.

In the case of Russia, it was communism which took God's place. Communism seemingly solves the dilemma of human suffering. Belief in God, according to communist ideology, prevents us from understanding the real source of evil — division of labor by class. Once class relations are ended, communists claim that evil will disappear. For communism there is no God. History moves according to the laws of nature, which are dialectical. This is the view of historical materialism.

Although historical materialism has been critiqued very well by Free World thinkers, it nevertheless continues to gain new adherents. The CAUSA Worldview approaches the problem from the ground floor. Historical materialism is based on dialectical materialism, which is based on the denial of God. The foundation is false. Historical materialism is like a castle built on sand, which will be washed away by the flood.

Nevertheless, a critique of historical materialism alone is not sufficient. A view of history must be set forth which convincingly explains the patterns of history from a God-affirming point of view. CAUSA presents this view.

B. Free will and responsibility

Traditionally, Christianity has taught that God endowed man with free will. Frequently, however, we do not consider fully the implications of this belief.

In the opening passages of the Bible, it is written that God told Adam and Eve, "You may freely eat of every tree in the garden, but of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, you shall die." (Gen 2:17)

This passage, whether one takes it literally or not, has profound meaning. God gives a commandment, and He warns His children that if they fail to abide by it, the consequence shall be death. The first option is obedience — obedience to God’s word. By inference, we can conclude that through obedience, Adam and Eve shall have life. The second option is disobedience to God’s commandment. And the consequence of that disobedience is separation from God, spiritual death. That would be the opposite of God’s will.

What determines whether man would go the way of good or the way of evil? Ultimately it is man himself. Man is given the right to make decisions which will affect his eternal life. This is a tremendous freedom. Obviously, when the first ancestors disobeyed God, the result was spiritual death. Freedom is a privilege which carries with it a great responsibility. The abuse of freedom brings the destruction of life.

In the Bible there are many passages which clearly show that history is not shaped by God alone. For example, Genesis 6:6 reads, “And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.” Clearly man is responsible for things which happen against God’s will. In Exodus 32:7-14, we find that God declares His intention to have His wrath “burn hot against” the Israelites for building the golden calf. Moses pleads with God, however, and finally we read that “the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do his people.” In Isaiah 38, we find that God announces through Isaiah that he will take the life of King Hezekiah, but after Hezekiah’s prayer, God says, “I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy fears, behold I will add unto thy days fifteen years.” (Isa 38:5) These and other biblical examples attest that history is shaped by the interplay between God’s will and man’s free response to God.⁶

Unlike all other creatures, God created man with free will. Man’s responsibility, then, is to cooperate with God to achieve his own growth and maturity, as well as the perfection of the universe.

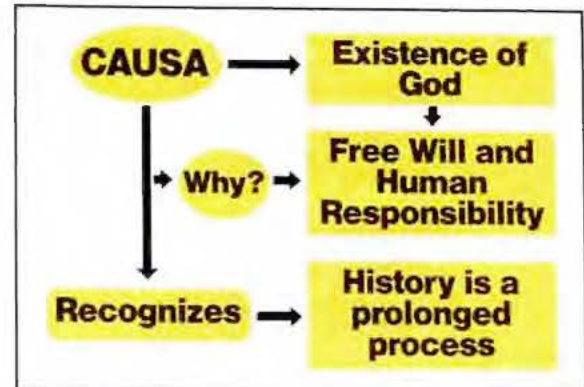
The tragedy of history is that man has failed to cooperate with God. Man violated the law and went against the will of God and unwittingly took the road of spiritual “death.” Thus, tragedy occurred in human history and tragic consequences have been continuously suffered by all of humankind.

Why did God give man free will?

At this point, the most significant and vital question for us to ask God is this, “Mr. God, why didn’t you save yourself

The Free World has presented no clear alternative to Historical Materialism

The CAUSA Worldview has the answer

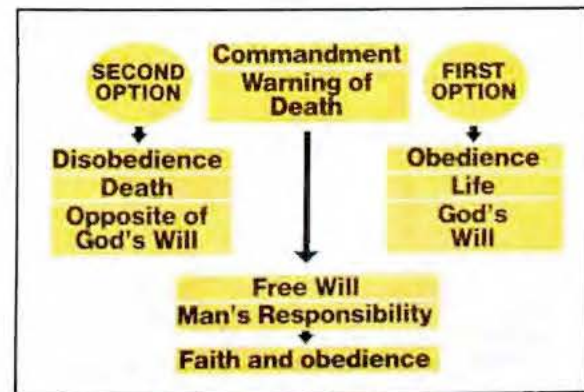


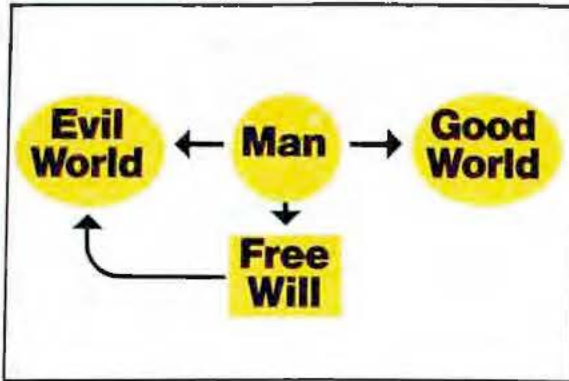
God created Man with Free Will

Free Will comes with Human Responsibility

You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.

Gen. 2:16





**Why did God
give man
Free Will?**

**He could have
saved many
headaches**

**God is love
and He created
man for love**

**Man is not created
as a robot or
machine**

God's Two Choices in Creation



a great deal of trouble? You actually invited the problem. If you had made man like any other creature, incapable of violating your principle, you would not have suffered the consequences of the human fall. Giving man free will has caused all of your problems.”

This is a very powerful question. Could it be that God was unaware of this possibility? No, He knew that if He gave man free will, there would be a possibility of man's fall. Then why was he obliged to give man free will? There must be some compelling reason why God must give man free will.

C. Three reasons for God to grant man free will

The reason can be understood in this way. God is a being of love, and He created man for love. Man therefore could not be created as a robot or a machine. A person has a mind and is not programmed. A person has a spirit. A person is capable of virtue, love, and creativity. These are qualities which stem from freedom and allow us to be God-like. God can only find real joy in a being that responds freely by personal volition.

God has a choice in creation. He can either create a free human being, or he can create something else which lacks free will, like a robot. Clearly, God wanted to create free men and women, not robots. It is free will which distinguishes man from a robot and from any other aspect of creation. It would be pointless to create human beings without giving them free will.

Specifically, we may list three reasons why God would choose to give man free will.

1. God wanted man to be a co-creator

God did not want to have man be just an animal or a robot. The loving heart of God longed for children. God therefore wanted men and women to be like Himself as his total image. Certainly the power of creativity is among the greatest characteristics of God. God wanted man to share this power of creation and to become a co-creator with God. God made man with the potential for perfection rather than as a finished product. He completed 95 percent (figuratively), and then gave man 5 percent responsibility to create himself. The 100 percent represents the perfection of man. When perfection is achieved by this formula, the result is a joint effort of both God and man. God created 95 percent, and man must create 5 percent of himself. In this respect, man is elevated to the creator level.

In order to become a co-creator with God, man's 5 percent responsibility must be fulfilled by his own free will. Otherwise, the purpose of creation will be left unfulfilled.

Let us illustrate with an analogy. Let us say that God is building a wall, and there are 100 bricks to lay to complete it. God has laid 95 bricks and asks his son to lay the last 5 bricks to finish the wall. Man responds to God and lays the last 5 bricks to perfection. A beautiful wall is completed and God turns to His son and pats Him on the shoulder, giving him praise by saying "My son, it is a job well done. This wall is a joint venture between you and me. You and I are both creators of this wall."

God wants to give this kind of credit to man. He wants to see the honor of co-creatorship bestowed upon man so that man, as the child of God, can share in the creativity of God.

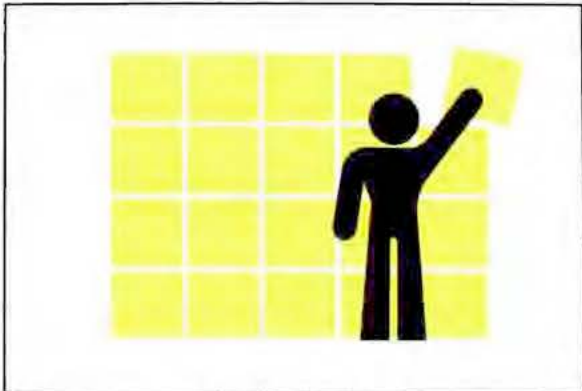
What has happened is that man has dropped the bricks and has not finished the wall. God is certainly capable of saying to His son, "My son, you are having some difficulty, so let Me do it." If God did that, at that moment, man would lose his potential to be a co-creator and could no longer be a child of God reflecting His perfect image.

That is why God cannot take over man's duty but is instead always urging man to fulfill his responsibility in history.

God is like the greatest high school football coach. The coach will do everything possible to teach and inspire his players. He will push them, give them pep talks, scold them, etc. The only thing that the coach cannot do is go onto the field and play the game for them. If he does, they are no longer the players. The coach becomes the player and the game is meaningless. Similarly, God can do so much, but he cannot take over man's duty without taking away man's free will, and that would nullify man's unique position as God's child, turning him into a machine or robot.

Tragically, human history has been a record of the many failures of man. It was not God who failed; it has always been man who failed God. Still God must be patient and wait until one day when man will fulfill his responsibility. Man always has the final word, because faith must be exercised voluntarily. In this way we can understand the anguish of God. He is still waiting for man to come forward and carry the ball into the end zone. It might take tens of thousands of years, but God always has hope, because once the game is won, it can never be reversed. Once man reaches perfection, he would remain perfected forever. It is a worthwhile wait.

3 Reasons for Free Will and Human Responsibility



When someone is ignorant of this law, it is very easy for him to deny God. Communism could only come into being because of ignorance of man's portion of responsibility. Communist doctrine says there is no God, but ironically it is only because God has given freedom to man that communism is possible.

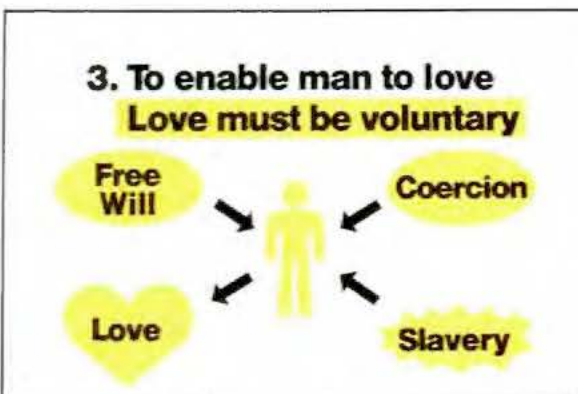
There is only one way to end communism. That is when man fully understands God's principles and laws and fulfills His desires by totally fulfilling his 5 percent responsibility. The full potential of man is realized by uniting completely with God and making the living God triumphant and real in every man's heart. This is our sacred responsibility.



2. *Man is the child of God*

God is a free being, and He is our Father. We are created in the image of God. Clearly, a child should reflect the total image of his parent. God, the Father, has free will, therefore his sons and daughters must also have free will. God has responsibility, therefore men and women must share the responsibility.

In the ideal of God's creation, every person would live as a child of God. The nature and characteristics of these children must be identical with those of God. God is a free being, therefore man must be free. Endowed with the remarkable gifts of free will and creativity, men and women may be called the "second selves" of God.



3. *Love must be voluntary*

The third important reason God gave man free will is that God wants to achieve His purpose of creation in the voluntary give and take of love with man.

You cannot force someone to love you. Love must be exercised in freedom. Love by coercion is no longer love, it is slavery. That is an essential characteristic of love. Only by experiencing voluntary love coming freely from his children can God achieve joy and satisfaction.

Let us take an example. Most of us wear a watch. You may be very fond of your watch, especially if it keeps good time. Yet, your appreciation for the watch is limited. You take it for granted that the watch will keep good time. It is set to keep time and has no free will to do otherwise. The watch performs according to the program of the watchmaker. No one says thank you every day to their watch.

On the other hand, the relationship between parents and their children is totally different. There is no limit to the

**THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE
OF HUMAN SUFFERING
IS THE ABUSE OF LOVE**

depth of love and appreciation in this relationship. If the parents come back from a trip and their child is waiting at the airport, how do they feel? What if the child has even saved his allowance without buying candy and bought flowers to give them? They will be overjoyed. They undoubtedly will kiss their child and they may even shed tears. Why? It is a little deed of love and comes from the exercise of free will by the child.

By the same token, God is giving His entire love to man through His free will. God in turn longs for man to freely return his love to God. That love alone can give God joy and satisfaction. God does not want to receive love any other way, and for this reason God created man with total free will. Our human responsibility is to understand God and freely respond to His love.

Chained "patriotism"

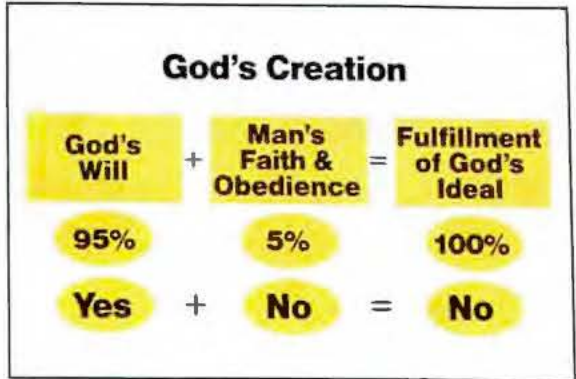
Dr. Pak often illustrates this by telling a story about one of his experiences during the Korean War. Dr. Pak spent most of the Korean War on the front line. Once there was a hill which was being fiercely defended by the enemy, and which seemed impossible to occupy. The enemy was strongly entrenched in bunkers. They seemed absolutely committed to hold on no matter what. The United Nations forces attacked with mortars, and by air, employing various tactics. Dr. Pak's company was given the mission to occupy the hill, and the fighting was terrible. Every inch up the hill was bought with blood.

Dr. Pak says that he was amazed at those North Korean enemy soldiers because they just would not stop fighting. They were being hit by artillery; they were being hit from the air; they were assaulted by infantry; but they just would not stop. They seemed determined to defend that hill.

Finally, in order to conquer the hill, every single North Korean soldier had to be killed. Dr. Pak said that when he entered the bunker, he felt that he needed to salute those men for their valor. He was ready to do so when suddenly he saw something which absolutely appalled him.

When he looked at the soldiers, he noticed that every single one of them had his foot chained to the concrete floor of the bunker. They were not heroes; they were slaves who had been programmed to die. It was a chained patriotism.

Love must be free. Love of nation, love of parents, love of the world, love of God. It must be free. Otherwise it is not love, it is only coercion.



Human failure began evil history



Free Will and Human Responsibility

Man holds the key to the consummation of human history



D. Human failure prolongs restoration history

In creation, God takes 95 percent responsibility, and He delivers on His share. He then calls upon man to have faith and obedience to His word. This is man's 5 percent responsibility. If that had been accomplished, God's ideal could have been realized. God's responsibility was fulfilled, but man's responsibility was not. Thus, the end result was a failure. In other words, God can do all kinds of things, but until man responds to God's will, God's ideal cannot be accomplished.

The CAUSA Worldview responds to the objections of Russell, Camus, and others. Why is there suffering in the world? Because of man's failure to respond to God. Why does God not force man to respond? Because at that moment, man would no longer be man. Man would be a robot. There would be no basis for human dignity. Time and again in history, God has sent individuals to try to reach out and alleviate mankind's suffering. God has reached out, but it is up to man to respond.

Man's responsibility in restoration

The same reasoning can be applied to the course of history. Human failure began an evil history. We did not fulfill our responsibility to God. All of history since that time has been a history of restoration. God has a will to restore this world (95 percent), but it can only be restored through man's response to God (5 percent). Man's free will and human responsibility are the key to a successful consummation of the process of restoration.

The central truth of the Judeo-Christian tradition is that God loves the world and will send the Messiah to save it. God sending His son, the Christ, represents His 95 percent responsibility. Man, in turn, must receive Christ and believe in Him, thus fulfilling his 5 percent responsibility. This is expressed in the New Testament: "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) The word "whoever" implies that man has a choice. Refusal to believe means no salvation.

In a very famous passage of the Bible it is written that a blind man came to Jesus hoping to have his sight restored. Everyone scoffed. They maintained that it was impossible to be able to heal that man. Jesus took dirt, and spat upon the dirt, and made a paste and put it on the man's eyes and asked him to go and wash his eyes in the waters of Siloam. (John 9:1-7)

For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
that **whoever believes** in him
should not perish but have
eternal life.

John 3:16



For the blind man, it was a test. He must demonstrate his 5 percent responsibility, that is, his faith and obedience in the words of Jesus. If the blind man would have only a worldly viewpoint, Jesus' words would seem completely absurd. Somebody had just spit and put mud on his face.

The blind man believed. He went to the waters, washed his eyes, and he could see. God does everything He can do (95 percent), but man must respond (5 percent), just as the blind man did.

In the case of the Exodus, the opposite occurred. God reached out but the Israelites did not respond. When they did not respond, the times became more difficult.

It is not that God fails: the point is that man fails, and about this God can do nothing. If God intervened, then He would violate free will, the very basis upon which man is different from all the rest of creation. Every time that man fails to respond, there is a delay of the providential history. When can we build a God-centered world, a just world? Man's response to God will answer that question.

E. Conclusion

There are three steps in the process of restoring God's ideal. First of all, men must find God — not only intellectually and philosophically, but in their hearts. Secondly, men must know God's will. Thirdly, men must have faith and obedience to God's will. All of this is the human responsibility.

Without the fulfillment of these three steps, the fulfillment of the history of restoration is impossible. God is waiting in anguish for man's faithful and obedient response to Him. And yet, most men and women are unaware of God's painful situation.

"God proposes, and man disposes." We must come to know and appreciate the suffering heart of God. Like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, God is suffering because of His children. He wants to give them His total love. In order to receive the love of God, men and women must genuinely assume the position of the children of God out of their own free will.

**God never fails.
Man fails to
respond to
God's will**

**Prolongation of the goal
of human history**

Human Responsibility

**Faith and
Obedience
to God's Will**

Conclusion

3 Steps to Restoration

- 1. Man must find God**
- 2. Man must know His will**
- 3. Man must have faith and obedience to His will**