

Where We Stand: A Platform for Victory Over Communism

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Why were the Communists victorious in Vietnam? One could cite many reasons, but one of the most important is that they seized the offensive in all areas, military, political and ideological. As one Vietnamese refugee friend recently reflected, "We had no theory or guideline, no ideology to counterbalance the Communists' psychological warfare."

This same problem exists today in every nation which faces a threat from Communism, be it Portugal, Angola, Korea or the United States. One of the main goals of the Freedom Leadership Foundation has been the development of such a unifying ideology over the last six years, in order to provide guidelines for non-Communist forces to act together effectively in a united front for victory in the ideological struggle. In that time certain ideals have emerged as indispensable elements in the foundation.

FREEDOM: The ideology for victory over Communism must first of all be committed to freedom. It must recognize the infinite and sacred value of each individual human soul. It respects the

right of each person to follow his own conscience in seeking truth and liberation. The ideology for victory over Communism (VOC) sees man as an essentially creative being. His creativity is best expressed when he is free to manifest his basic nature in accordance with the laws and principles of the universe. Because he is free, man is supreme among creation.

SPIRIT: VOC ideology recognizes that human rights are inalienable; that they are endowed to men and women by their Creator. This ideology recognizes human beings as spiritual as well as physical entities, and it recognizes the substantial existence of the spiritual as well as the physical world. Both matter and spirit were brought into existence by one Creator, God.

Therefore, liberation from physical or economic oppression is an urgent and critical need. Unfortunately, Communism attempts to fill this need with a program which ultimately produces greater spiritual hardships by subjugating man's basic rights, and consequently often produces greater physical hardship as well.

INTERRELATIONSHIPS: VOC ideology recognizes that human society functions most harmoniously when individuals perceive a common purpose and are willing to make sacrifices in order to achieve their common goals. It insists, however, that self-sacrifice must be a free and grateful offering by the individual concerned. Otherwise the difference between "collective purpose" and "tyranny of the majority" would be meaningless.

Both for the individual and for society, the greatest productivity is achieved in an atmosphere of freedom in which man can express his creative nature most fully. The successful balancing of group rule (democracy) with individual rights has thus far been one of the great achievements of the American system.

DYNAMICS: Harmonious interaction is based on mutual need and respect. In any relationship, an initiator and respondent exchange energies through their united effort. In this way, motion, change, growth, multiplication occur.

Both Marx and Engels were thus mistaken in their view of human and natural dynamics. Rather than negation, the basic moving force in the universe is love. Rather than contradiction, the dynamics of mutual relationships are based on give and take.

Only when the entities involved in the relationship fail to respect their mutual need and purpose does contradiction and struggle occur. Science today views the universe as a unit of ecological purpose in which mutual needs far outweigh and outnumber mutual rejections.

CHANGE and PROGRESS: Change occurs as entities interact through the process of give and take. Generally speaking, the universe operates according to orderly stages of growth, during which things change, develop, multiply and thus fulfill their purpose in the universal order. However, change can be either progressive or regressive, qualitative or simply quantitative, gradual or abrupt, depending on the direction, intensity, scope, depth and environ of the interaction.

Marx's view of this subject was a simplistic device intended to justify violent revolution on the grounds that all qualitative change entails struggle, violence and abruption. In actuality, qualitative change is usually gradual, progressing through orderly stages, and rarely requires abruption.

HISTORY: The progress of history is determined by the actions of human beings within their social environs. Behind human victory, VOC ideology perceives a restorative process, which is expressed in Christian terms as Dispensation. When men succeed in perceiving what changes are needed in order to fulfill God's purpose for their society, and when they are successful, work together for the fulfillment of that purpose, progress is achieved. In the process, God's will and man's responsibility both are critical elements. The ultimate goal of history is a world of peace and goodness in which all men live together as brothers in a universal human family.

REVOLUTION: VOC ideology sees historical progress as dependent upon the response of leading figures to the challenges of their societies in their times. It thus rejects Marxist "class" analysis of society. However, VOC ideology does recognize that at certain times revolutions against authority become necessary. This is not because of any innate law of history, as Marx asserted, but because of the failure of the ruling classes or central figures of the time to fulfill their role for the good of the whole society. The American Revolution and the Hungarian Revolution provide clear examples of this.

SUFFERING and EVIL: Mankind would not suffer as it does if there were no evil in the world. Oppression is the result of man's selfish or "fallen" nature. Men of conscience must seek to rid the world of suffering by practicing morality on progressively higher levels. Nations too must seek to live up to absolute standards of morality and value. Although moral perfection may seem impossible to many, all religions and constructive philosophies teach man to improve his moral position constantly. Nations and individuals alike are subject to the universal principle that "as ye shall sow, so shall ye reap." The Teacher of the Christians has taught us, "You must be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect." Thus, we must always be willing to examine ourselves, to learn and to change if necessary.

UNITY FOR FREEDOM: Communism is the enemy of all religious people and conscientious humanitarians alike. All such people should work together in a united front for victory over Communism. Such efforts will require mutual respect for the tenets of each other's religions or philosophies. It must be remembered that one of the most effective strategies of the Communists is "divide and conquer."

While recognizing differences, people of conscience must be able to set such differences aside when the very existence of a society which allows for discussion, questioning or expression of unpopular views is threatened. The protection of religious freedom is every bit as essential as the teaching of religious doctrine, just as the protection of academic freedom is no less important than the conduct of scientific research.

People of various concerns whose general existence might be threatened by totalitarian rule must be willing to sacrifice in part even their immediate activities within those concerns in order that the concern itself may survive and continue in its development. Only in an atmosphere in which ideas may be freely expressed can the triumph of truth be guaranteed.

WORLD PEACE and UNITY: When have created war and division in this world, and it is their responsibility to restore it. Yet without overcoming the threat of world tyranny, men can never hope to achieve a world of peace. Without assuring the continued existence of freedom, unity itself is not necessarily a desirable goal. Sincere and realistic seekers of world peace must recognize that the primary obstacle in their goals is the atheistic, totalitarian ideology of Communism.

Victory over Communism is therefore a positive and progressive movement directed not against Communists, but for their enlightenment through overcoming the outdated ideology of which they themselves have become the most tragic victims. It is important for VOC workers to keep in mind this attitude, for ultimately the united front for victory over Communism will not have achieved its goals until Communists themselves renounce the errors of Marxism and unite with us as brothers in one nation and one Family, in freedom, under God.