

A Premature Demise

The Revival of Communism South of the Border

By William A. Borst, Ph.D.

In May of 2002 Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) declared *Communism is dead! It's even dead in Cuba*. Senator Boxer's erroneous announcement of Communism's *premature demise* must have come as a surprise to the Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro. Not only is Communism flourishing on the island concentration camp, Castro has achieved something many of his capitalist enemies could only envy. In March of 2005 Forbes Magazine announced that Castro was one of the wealthiest men in the world, with an estimated fortune of over \$550 million. According to Forbes, Castro made his fortune from a *web of state-owned businesses*, all of which have no competition in his workers' paradise. Forbes reported that his most profitable operations include a convention center, a retail conglomerate, and a company called *Medicuba* that sells Cuban-made pharmaceuticals. The Wall Street Journal of March 15, 2005 reported that Cuba's largest exports included seafood, tobacco, sugar, and nickel, all profitable to Castro.

Castro's business acumen is not limited to running his monopolies. He is highly skilled at turning real estate into wealth. In 1993 Castro sold 50% of Havana Club Rum, which he had confiscated decades before, to the French liquor company *Pernod Ricard* for \$50 million according to Forbes. While Castro bathes in his riches, the rest of Cuba which enjoyed the 11th highest living standard in the world before Castro, rations its food.

Forty-three years of atheism has taken its toll on religion in Cuba. The government keeps a tight grip on religious activities, has shut down more than 400 Catholic schools, does not allow church access to media, limits arrival of foreign priests, uses surveillance, infiltration and harassment of religious groups by *Cuban security agents*. They also spy on those who worship in churches and in their own homes. While Pope John Paul II's 1998 trip to Cuba resonated well, the Church still struggles under the restrictive forces of doctrinaire Marxism.

HOLLYWOOD'S FAVORITE DICTATOR

While Castro nears the end of his fifth decade of ruthless power, yet the evils of his regime remain the best-kept

secret in the United States. Two recent books have attempted to expose that secret. Carlos Eire's memoir, *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, explores Castro's lifetime of atrocities in poignant and vivid detail. The winner of the National Book Award in 2003, Eire's book underscores the abject fraud of Castro's so-called *glorious revolution*. Eire is a Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University. Inspired by the plight of seven-year old Elian Gonzales, Eire's book demonstrates the eagerness of many parents to flee with their children and shows why Elian Gonzales' forced return to Cuba was such a propaganda coup for Castro.

Another book that smashes the long-standing edifice of Castro's *worker's paradise*, is Cuban exile Humberto Fontova's 2005 book, *Fidel: Hollywood's Favorite Tyrant*. For reasons that border on the surreal, the majority of Hollywood stars, directors, and producers still harbor great praise and respect for Castro. Hollywood luminaries gush foamy torrents of bubbly praise for Castro, like warm champagne after an opulent Beverly Hills bash. According to Jack Nicholson, Castro was a *genius*. Director Oliver Stone saw him as *very selfless and moral, and one of the world's wisest men*. With an effervescent guile actors Ed Asner, Harry Belafonte, and Danny Glover universally have touted the praises and virtues of the Castro government. Echoing leftist Lincoln Steffens' misplaced praise for the Soviet Revolution of 1919, comedian Chevy Chase said, *Socialism works! I think Cuba might prove that!* Dan Rather called Castro Cuba's *Elvis*. Jesse Jackson believes Castro is *the most honest and courageous politician I ever met*.

Fortunately, Fontova has written an alarming and thrilling must-read book! It reveals for the first time Castro's maniacal plan for using UN operatives to blow up several New York City department stores the day after Thanksgiving in 1962. Had FBI agents not infiltrated Castro's organizations, the destruction could have exceeded that of 9/11. The book lists a litany of horrific abuses that make the prison humiliations of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo seem like school picnics. Fontova declares that Castro has imprisoned more people than Hitler or Stalin. His firing squads have killed thousands of Cubans, many of

whom have had most of their blood drained before being shot, so Castro can sell it on the black market. Fontova contends that Castro still has weapons of mass destruction.

AN ARSENAL OF TYRANNY

Castro's Cuba has served as an arsenal of tyranny and disruption throughout the hemisphere since 1960. While Asia was simmering in the 1960s, Castro was solidifying his Communist beachhead, thanks to President John F. Kennedy's non-invasion pledge during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. In the ensuing years, Cuba served as a seedbed for Communist infiltration that upset the course of democracy throughout Latin America. Fortunately, their Russian and Chinese lifelines were too long for sustained success. Communist regimes in Chile, Venezuela, Brazil, and Guatemala, toppled like blighted houses of cards.

While those in the West were circumventing the American-inspired economic boycott of Cuba, Castro was rebuilding a hemispheric network that focused on taking power by ballot, instead of bullets. A key mechanism was the Sao Paulo Forum. In the January 2005 issue of The New American, William F. Jasper described it as a veritable *Who's Who of terrorist groups and revolutionary parties that proudly boasts regular attendance by national presidents and other prominent political leaders, labor leaders, and NGOs* (non-government organizations). The SPF was founded in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1990 under the sponsorship of Castro and Brazil's Communist Workers Party. It is an extension of the Tricontinental Conference, the Soviet operation that spawned the globalist terrorist phenomenon in Havana in 1966.

Since 2000 there has been a decided reversal in the political direction of Latin America. Democratic governments have fallen like dominoes in what appears as a redux of the 1960's. Viciously attacked by the left during the Vietnam War, the *Domino Theory* proved its credibility as Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam fell before the Communist onslaught that followed the American retreat from the area.

In Brazil, Latin America's largest and most populous country, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is consolidating his Marxist regime. President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina has reversed 15 years of public policy by establishing diplomatic and economic ties with Cuba. Under da Silva, the SPF features guests and observers from North Korea and Vietnam, as well as the U.S. Communist Party, the Irish Sinn Fein and the PLO. The SPF serves as a conduit through which terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, can threaten regional stability.

Ecuador is now under the control of radical Castro-Chavez protegee' Lucio Gutierrez. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC), the Communist narco-terrorist organization

that has been waging a bloody civil war for 40 years, virtually rules Columbia. Riots in Bolivia forced out President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada in 2003 and the country has nationalized its petroleum industry. Evo Morales, the leader of the *Movement Toward Socialism* may soon replace current president Carlos Mesa. Both Peru's Alejandro Toledo elected in 2000 and Uruguay's Tabare Vazquez, elected in 2004, maintain a leftist rule in their countries.

In Chile, leftist president, Ricardo Lagos has indicted former President Augusto Pinochet for political kidnapping and murder. The left has never forgiven the 89-year old Pinochet for overthrowing the Marxist regime of Salvador Allende in 1973.

THE WEREWOLF EFFECT

No one has been more closely tied with Castro than Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a self-proclaimed Communist and avowed Castro ally, who envisions himself the heir apparent to the 78-year old Castro. A former army paratrooper and the leader of an unsuccessful coup in 1992, Hugo Chavez was first elected president in 1998. He is a charismatic figure, has large popular support and draws adoring throngs of supporters from Havana to Buenos Aires.

For the past seven years, Chavez has been tightening the vise of dictatorship on his country, the largest oil-producer outside of the Middle East. He has served longer in office than any other current Latin American leader except Castro. To maintain his 70% popularity rating, Chavez has spent billions of petrodollars on ineffective social programs to placate the poor, while ignoring the nation's infrastructure of roads, sewage, and water plants.

Chavez's calculated derision of decadent oil executives has understandably incited strong opposition. Venezuela's oil magnates have done everything in their power to unseat him. There were street protests in 2001 and a two-month strike that shut down the country in 2002. The U. S. tacitly supported this coup which deposed him just for a short time. His 59% majority in the country's 2004 referendum solidified his power. Earl Smith, former American diplomat in Cuba, says that Chavez is having the same nightmarish effect on the United States *that the full moon has on werewolves*.

A BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION

Many Latin America observers believe that the torch is being passed from one dictator to another. In 1966 at the Havana Conference, Che Guevara, Castro's revolutionary alter ego, called for the *creation of two, three, many Vietnams*, hoping to ensnare the United States in a never-ending, resource-depleting string of revolutionary wars. President Chavez, who lionizes the *Cuban martyr Guevara*, has internalized Che's war cry. In 1999 he proudly declared that *I have been a Maoist all my life*.

He has sung the praises of Chairman Mao Zedung, one of the greatest mass murderers of all times. He falsely calls his program a *Bolivarian revolution*, after Simon Bolivar (1783-1930) the legendary 19th century South American revolutionary, and has called the Catholic Church *a tumor on society*.

The Miami Herald reported that Chavez had attached dozens of Castro's advisers to his intelligence services. These intelligence cadres joined over 10,000 doctors and athletic coaches working with the poor in Venezuela. Like his Cuban mentor, Chavez has ignored his constitution and shown little regard for the democratic process. Under Chavez Venezuela has radically departed from its friendly relationship with the United States. In August of 2000, Chavez became the first head of state to visit Saddam Hussein in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War. He has allied himself with China, Russia, Libya, Algeria and Syria. He routinely sings the praises of North Korean dictator Kim Jong II.

In 2004 Chavez entered into a \$5 billion arms deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He plans to buy attack transport helicopters, MiG fighters, and other sophisticated weaponry. In early May, President Bush reported that Chavez had plans to purchase 100,000 AK-47 automatic rifles from Russia for his 32,000-man army. This raises the specter that the rifles will eventually flow to Columbia's FARC.

Despite all of Castro's iconic stature, Chavez has one great advantage. His huge oil reserves serve to weave closer diplomatic and commercial ties with, not just his fellow Latin American leftists, but also with international powers like China.

SINO-DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

The growing Chinese presence in Latin America has presented another complex problem for the United States. While in global circles, China is regarded as a partner in the war against terrorism, it has been making serious in-roads south of the Texas border that could imperil American suzerainty. Chinese President Hu Jintao has been very active in enlisting the support of leftist governments in Latin America, especially in Venezuela and Brazil. In exchange for oil Hu has promised cheap electronics and other consumer goods, which were designed to come from American factories in accord with the regional rationale of NAFTA, the North America Free Trade Association.

The Chinese first secured entry into Latin America through the Panama Canal. When President Jimmy Carter opened the Panama Canal to the Chinese in 1980, he exposed America's southern flank to an eager *Red Dragon*. According to William Norman Grigg in the January 21, 2005 issue of The New American, China has intensified its economic and military involvement in the region through its base in the Canal Zone. Utilizing Hutchinson VWhampoa, a Hong Kong based company, Beijing has dug its claws deeply into the American sphere of

interest. Hutchinson's partner, the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), has more than 600 merchant ships described in their military literature as *warships* or *zhanjian*.

Using a modern form of *Sino-Dollar Diplomacy*, President Hu has also offered capital investment wherever he has traveled. Most of this has been paid for in recycled dollars from the huge American trade deficit with China. The Chinese president has promised to spend as much as \$100 billion in the next decade in Latin America in return for commodities, such as food, oil, copper, and nickel.

A TECHNICAL COUP

As if things were not tough enough for the Bush Administration, in his March 2, 2005 weekly column Robert Novak decried the evil influence threatening much of Latin America after the installation of hard-line Sandinista General Omar Halleslevens as chief of the Nicaraguan Army. Novak suggests that the Sandinistas are back in control of Nicaragua. The CIA has reported that Halleslevens was in the inner-circle for fifteen years and was responsible for funneling arms to several regional terrorist organizations. U.S. officials call this a *technical coup*, effectively stripping President Enrique Bolanos* of his legitimate power. This could signal a return of the infamous Daniel Ortega, the former Sandinista president, who has vowed to undermine the Bolanos' government.

Novak also warns that while President Bush is preaching democracy to a skeptical world, there is serious trouble brewing in his own backyard that requires his immediate attention. Communism, like other insidious ideas, requires constant vigilance. Failure to do so will endanger America's economic and political welfare for several generations.

**CMF has had ties with President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua, who is a graduate of St. Louis University and his brother, Dr. Alexander Bolanos, a refugee and a temporary St. Louis resident, who spoke nationwide against the Sandinistas on behalf of freedom in Nicaragua. Dr. Bolanos credited CMF's tremendous anti-communist efforts with helping the defeat of Sandinistas and election of his brother. CMF was honored to be invite to the Inauguration of President Bolanos in January of 2002.*

William A. Borst is a weekly radio talk show host. He is the author of Liberalism: Fatal Consequences and The Scorpion and the Frog: A Natural Conspiracy, both available from him at PO Box 16271, St. Louis, MO 63105, for \$17.50 ppd. (Consequences) and (Scorpion) for \$19.95 soft and \$35 hardcover ppd.

CMF Conference in 2005

LOUISVILLE, KY—The 20th Annual Church Teaches Forum was held June 10-11 with 700 persons in steady attendance, among them many families. There were seven major talks by seven members of the clergy on the Holy Eucharist, as Pope John Paul II had inaugurated this entire year as the Year of the Holy Eucharist. M.C. Fr. Abbot Edmund McCaffrey and Pat Monaghan were forceful leaders of the Forum, which is well managed by a Board of Directors who donate their work for the success of the Forum.

The day's full program is co-sponsored by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation and Catholics United for the Faith. Audio tapes of all the talks are available for the first time. Order a complete set for \$30 from Church Teaches Forum, 902 W. Stephen Foster Ave., Bardstown, KY 40004, 800-842-2871.

Special attention and honor was given to Ursula and Joseph Benedict Smrt of Knox, Indiana who are long-time members of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation and Church Teaches Forum. Joseph Smrt was featured on the front page of *The Courier Journal* as he saluted at a ceremony in honor of Flag Day. The Smrts have 4 children, one son, a colonel, just returned from a year in Iraq.

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FLIP SIDE—The primary focus of the culture of death is abortion and its flip side, euthanasia. These twin killers are intent on attacking God's most important creation, namely humans made in His image. The Terri Shiavo case is an example of how the country is failing its test to protect those who are most vulnerable. Ask for 6/05

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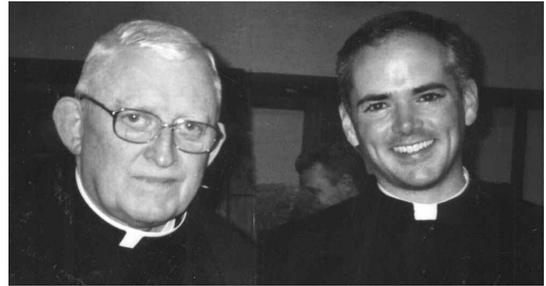
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50 copies	\$11.00	1000 copies	\$160.00

MATTHEW 16:14

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me, says the Lord."

News and Notes



Fr. Abbot Edmund McCaffrey and Fr. Gregory Wilson



Joseph Smrt, Pres. Eleanor Schlafly and Ursula Smrt

Joseph Smrt, 89, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, saluted the retiring of the colors at a recent Flag Day ceremony.



Picture courtesy of ©The Courier Journal

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