

Are You A Practicing Communist?

by George Gordon

This article illustrates the natural “competition” (perhaps, antagonism) that seems to exist between government and religion. Both belief systems vie for our allegiance. Both seek to achieve that allegiance by offering alternative “benefits”.

However, I suspect the essential difference between religion and government focuses on personal responsibility. God, and most religions, seem to want you to be individually responsible for all your actions and your life. That central concept of personal responsibility is illustrated by the promise of a “judgment day” when each of us will be judged individually by God according to our works and faith. Presumably, God will judge and reward each of us unequally according to the individual effort we each make in this life.

Government, on the other hand, inevitably advocates a collective solution to our problems that shields the individual from personal responsibility. With government, the central notion is not individual judgment, but entitlement. Once you sign up — and anyone can — for medical insurance, social security, unemployment insurance, or corporate status — your worries are over. No matter whether you work, vote, or even like govern-

ment, you are guaranteed (entitled) to receive rewards and benefits virtually equal and identical to every other government beneficiary. With government, there is little correlation between your individual effort and your individual reward.

George Gordon is longtime student of the American legal system. His understanding and courage have led him to be repeatedly arrested, sometimes beaten by police, and in several instances to not only counter-sue successfully, but insist he be paid in full in gold. His lawsuits have bankrupted one county and caused it to be annexed to another. Within the constitutionalist community, Mr. Gordon’s stature is substantial. George currently lives on a Missouri farm with his wife and children and teaches week-long seminars on common and Biblical law.

I guess I should start at the beginning: in 1979, I attended an Idaho patriots meeting that featured Steve Gibson as the principal speaker and changed my life forever.

What wonderful insight did he impart? What mystic knowledge did he pass on? None, re-

ally. All he did was look us straight in the face and call every one of us, “practicing communists”. Some people would’ve called those “fighting words,” and being a red-blooded American taxpaying pillar of the Boise business community, I wasn’t too happy to be called a “communist”. Shoot, I voted straight Republican and was a paid-up member of every major business organization in Boise!

Nevertheless, his accusation haunted me until I finally picked up a copy of the Communist Manifesto. Over the next several weeks, I researched that Manifesto, the Scriptures and even acts of Congress, to see if there were a basis in law or fact for Steve’s accusation.

There was, and here’s my report. The “normal” (secular/political) aspects of this report are in normal text; my Bible-based comments are italicized.

Carl Marx was born in 1818. In 1848, at age 30, he entered a competition sponsored by the International Socialist Union of Paris, France. His winning submission was “Ten Planks of the Communist Manifesto”. The rest, as they say, is history.

The First Plank is relatively simple: Abolition of property in

land, and application of all rents of land to public purposes.

Let's see what we have in America today. In Idaho alone, 64% of the state is public land, held "in trust" by either the state or the federal government. If you or I want to use that land, we have to go to the appropriate agency and rent it, pay royalties on anything we remove from it, or pay "use fees" if all we want to do is go camping. This money goes into the state or federal treasury.

Besides renting public lands, there are taxes on private property. Using Idaho as our example, if 64% is "public" land, then 36% must be "private" land, right?

Wrong! The state levies a property tax on such "private" land, and if you don't pay, orders a tax sale and you lose the land. Doesn't it sound like the term "property owner" really means "property renter"?

The conclusion is clear: We've lost our right to property in land in allodial freehold, and have been reduced to nothing more than feudal serfs, living on the king's land and paying our land use fees in the form of taxes. We'd come full circle from the English Plantation of Rhode Island in 1776 to the U.S. Plantation of Idaho in 1997. Can anyone argue the First Plank of the Communist Manifesto has not been installed in the United States?

But how should things be? In Leviticus 25:23 it says: "The land shall not be sold forever for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me." That's contrary to any notion of "public property" embraced by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and such things as "eminent domain".

The Second Plank reads: "A heavy progressive, or graduated, income tax."

That's obviously installed. The Federal government and all but five state governments impose some form of income tax and the Federal tax is clearly "graduated". I rest my case. Communism is alive and well in the U.S..

But Deuteronomy 14:22 reads:

"Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown." And Deuteronomy 25:14 declares: "Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small."

Is a tithe (10%) that different from a flat tax that applies equally to all? And what is our graduated income tax if not a "diverse measure" that applies unequal tax rates to various individual? Moreover, while God asks only a tithe (10%), our collective government (local, state, federal) now take roughly 55% of each of our incomes. Has the Marx's Second Plank been installed in the U.S.A.? Undeniably.

Plank Three: "Abolition of all right of inheritance."

Most people will say, "Oh, that's not in force. I know, because my Aunt just died and left me some money."

But my question is: How much did she leave *you*, and how much did she leave the *State*? The reason the State gets into the picture is almost always the result of a marriage license. When you sign that short little form, you've entered into a three-party, limited general partnership with you, your spouse and the State as equal partners. Over the life of the contract, the two active parties (husband and wife) work, create and produce

things, such as money, children, and property of all kinds.

Then one day, your spouse dies and, after you bury him (or her), you sit down to see what you have. About this time, someone from the State knocks on the door saying there's a small matter of "inheritance tax". What they're really saying is: "I'm still a partner, the partnership hasn't been dissolved, I want out, so buy me out." The State figures that it's paid for your kids' education, school lunches, AFDC, etc. so they've done their part in making the partnership work. All they want is their one-third share. Which, when you look at most inheritance taxes, means you pay from 28% to 35% of the estate to Uncle Sam, or his duly appointed representative.

Again, looking at how this should be, we read in Deuteronomy 21:15-17:

"If a man have two wives, one beloved and another hated,

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and they have borne him children, both the beloved and the hated and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn. But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his."

Nothing about estate taxes, probate court, etc. The Third Plank is alive and well in the "Land of the Free".

Fourth: "Confiscation of the prop-erty of all emigrants and rebels."

Need time to think about that? If so, think about Waco, Ruby Ridge, the Montana Freemen . . . you get the idea. In legalese, this is called "municipal police power" and means that if

you get hostile and belligerent to the government, they can take everything you have under the guise of IRS liens, tax levies, seizures, fines, etc.. And if you're still mad and complaining, they can throw you in jail. Is the Fourth Plank established here? You bet.

How does Scripture deal with rebels and such? Read Leviticus 26:4-6:

"But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; and if you shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgements, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant, I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it."

At least God doesn't mess around when you screw up, He takes it all . . . your life and your toys. In this instance, the Fourth Plank doesn't violate Gods' law so much as attempt to replace God himself.

Fifth Plank: "Centralization of credit in the hands of the State by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly."

Ever hear of the "Federal Reserve System"? That's not real money in your wallet. Read what it says at the top: "Federal Reserve Note"! As in "promissory note". There's precious little "real" money left. It might not be too much longer before we move straight into electronic money, completely controlled by the banks, who ultimately answer to the Fed. We're well on our way with credit cards, checking accounts, debit cards, etc.

Do we have a central bank that operates as a monopoly? Absolutely. Then the Fifth Plank

of the Communist Manifesto has been installed and institutionalized in the "Home of the Brave" since around 1913.

But Deuteronomy 25:13-16 declares:

"Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have, that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God."

What is real money? By law it is a fixed, physical weight of silver (currently 371.26 grains of fine silver). Unless the law defining dollars is changed (which devaluation is also contrary to Biblical principle), a real "dollar" in silver should be the same now as it was twenty years ago and as it will be twenty years into the future. As such, it becomes a reliable "measure" and "store of value".

However, a Federal Reserve Note that was worth a "dollar" in 1933 is worth about three cents (in real money) today, and will soon be truly worth less than the paper it's printed on. "Inflation" is simply a fancy, modern term for "diverse weights and measures". God says have none of it. Government says it's beneficial. Who do you believe?

Sixth Plank: "Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the State."

Let's see, we have driver's licenses, vehicle registration, vehicle licensing, and that's just "private" transportation. For "public" and commercial transportation like planes, trains and buses, government control is even greater.

And don't forget "central

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control of communications" through agencies like the Federal Communications Commission. Although the Internet still offers an astonishing degree of freedom, TV, radio, cable, newspapers all bow to the mighty FCC. Executive Orders #10995 and #10999 will give government open and direct control over both transportation and the media and are just waiting to be signed. The Sixth Plank is installed in America and growing.

Look at Exodus 16:29 for God's law on travel:

"See, for that the LORD hath given you the Sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

Apparently, so long as you don't travel on the Sabbath, God doesn't see much of a need to regulate or control such things.

The Seventh Plank is a bit more complex: "Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State, the bringing into cultivation of waste lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan."

Hearing the phrase "extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State", most people would say, "Oh, you mean like those big Russian factories. We don't have

that here. We have GM, Ford, US Steel. They're all privately owned."

But are they? Every corporation and factory in the US operates and exists on the sufferance of government, which charters, licenses and regulates their existence and activities in return for a portion of the proceeds (called "taxes"). I think that qualifies as "ownership by the State".

As to "bringing into cultivation of wastelands," how many of you have seen dams like those on the Colorado River? While they do produce electricity, ask any rancher or farmer what their main purpose is, and he'll tell you: water for irrigation. In that part of the West it's: No water, no farms. So, they've installed that part of Plank No. Seven, too.

As for "improvement of the soil generally, in accordance with a common plan," how many of you have heard of the Agricultural Stabilization Center (ASC)? Any rural county has one of their offices. Their job is to hand out government information, funds and materials to help with the general improvement of the American farm. And how many farmers have taken part in government programs ranging from paid non-cultivation of land to low-interest loans for "general land improvement" (provided you do it *their* way, of course)? I think Plank Seven is also installed in America.

But look at portions of Leviticus 25:8-24 to see how God handles this:

"And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month . . . and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. . . . In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession. And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another

". . . The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land."

There's more, but it looks like God has a very specific plan to keep things going and protect the land which communism and big government have sought to replace.

The Eighth Plank reads: "Equal liability of all to labor, establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture."

How many heard President Clinton say at the recent Volunteer Summit that to be a good citizen you had to get a job and pay taxes? How about the 1996 "workfare" bill which requires welfare recipients to work for their "benefits"? I'm not saying the idea of working is wrong, but the government is implementing "workfare" so Americans have to work on *government's* terms such as by having insurance, a SSN, and filing a 1040 each April.

As for "industrial armies", we had the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and the Works Project Administration (WPA) in the 1930's, and Americorps and remnants of the Peace Corps today. The Eighth Plank is firmly installed.

What does Scripture advise? Deuteronomy 24:14-15:

"Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates; at his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it; lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be sin unto thee."

Let's see . . . simple, straightforward, and no hidden catches to make sure that he's really a slave, with no say and no rights. Equal rights for both "brethren" and "strangers"; no "oppression" (taking unfair advantage) of hired servants by

employers; and payment in full at the end of the day (no delays, no promissory notes, no withholding).

The Ninth Plank is one of the most ambitious: "Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country by a more equitable distribution of population over the country."

This needs to be handled in two parts. The first is relatively simple. Ever hear of Archer Daniel Midland (ADM) or visited a major dairy or meat outfit recently? In the multinational agri-conglomerates and "factory" farms you'll see Marx's "combination of agriculture and manufacturing" has been installed in America for decades.

The second part of Plank Nine is a little harder to see. Because there are still cities and still rural areas, you may think that the "gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country" has not been implemented. But look again. In 1920, the US population was about 100 million and the number of people living on farms was about 44 million — nearly half the population was on a farm or rural setting. By 1940, the population on farms had dropped to 32 million. In 1950, 15 million. 1970, 6 million. 1985, 3 million. And the estimate is that by 2000 there will be roughly 100,000 farmers or *agribusiness corporations* producing all agricultural products in the US. Farm population is now only a fraction of one percent of the total American population.

Cities have also taken a hit in terms of the overall population. While some cities like Los Angeles have grown, others like Chicago and St. Louis have actually lost population over the past 40 years. Cause? The

largest population migration since the Middle Ages. Result? The ubiquitous suburbs, neither urban nor rural but, just as Marx required, a blend of both. The Ninth Plank is also firmly installed in today's United States.

In Leviticus 25:1-7, God says in part:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, . . . When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. . . . for it is a year of rest unto the land. . . ."

Pretty simple. No talk of anything but good stewardship and obeying the Law, and surely no implication that urban and rural areas should be forcefully combined.

Finally, the tenth Plank: "Free Education for all children in public schools; abolition of children's factory labor in its present form; combination of education with industrial production."

Did you attend public school? How about your kids? The first public schools were founded in the 1830s and, as late as the WWI, they weren't too common outside the big cities. Now, they're everywhere, while non-public school education is the fast-fading exception. Moreover, even so-called "private" schools, and their curriculum, are now government controlled. Any school that accepts government funding must abide by government strictures.

As for the "abolition of children's factory labor", our government took care of that before WWI. They just shipped the con-

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cept of child factory labor overseas. Do American children work in factories? No. Do they wear athletic shoes manufactured by children in Asian factories? Yes.

As to "combining education with industrial production", the U.S. is beginning to follow the Japanese and Germans, test students for their "potential" and, if they don't score high enough, ship them to factories for a nice "apprentice" education. Model programs have already been set up in some big cities. Plank No. 10 has not only been installed here in America, but is expanding rapidly under the guise of the Goals 2000 education program.

But Deuteronomy 4:9-10 declares:

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life, but teach them thy sons, and thy son's sons; specially the day that thou

stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children."

Sounds like a simple plan for home schooling, not cramming thirty kids into an overcrowded room with one frazzled babysitter, who has to make sure she follows the government mandated "truth of the week".

Now take a simple test. For each of the 10 Planks in which you participate or by which you are affected, give yourself 10 points. Most people won't give themselves 100 points, but I'd bet that you have at least 50 on your list. To the extent you get any points, you are a "practicing communist".

Can you be a "practicing communist" and also truly religious? Maybe not. The closer I look, the more I realize the antagonism between secular government and religion is so fundamental, that in their purest forms, the two institutions are not only mutually exclusive, but fundamentally antagonistic. God's emphasis on individual responsibility is contrary to any notion of collectivist benefits. Government's emphasis on equal benefits regardless of individual effort is contrary to any notion of personal responsibility. We really can't serve two masters.

George Gordon's been showing people how to stop "practicing Communism" for 18 years and he can show you, too. For further info, write to: George Gordon's School of Common Law, P.O. Box 297, Isabella, Mo. 65676.

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