
FROM THE REPORT
OF THE
UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE
ON
BOLSHEVISM



**SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION**

LEE S. OVERMAN, Chairman
WILLIAM H. KING
JOSIAH O. WOLCOTT
KNUTE NELSON
THOMAS STERLING

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"There must be no sagging back in the fight for Americanism merely because the war is over. . . . Any man who says he is American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag, and this excludes the red flag which symbolizes all wars against liberty and civilization, just as much as it excludes any foreign flag of a nation to which we are hostile. We have room for but one language here and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns out people as Americans of American nationality and not as dwellers in a polyglot boarding house; we have room for but one soul-loyalty and that is loyalty to the American people."—

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S last Message to the American people, written a few days before his death.

BOLSHEVISM

From the Official Report of the United States Senate Committee on Bolshevik Propaganda.

THE MEANING OF BOLSHEVISM.

The word "Bolshevism" has now become merely a generic term, and in America is nothing more than a slogan of the elements of unrest and discontent.

By reason of their ignorance as to what Bolshevism as a code of political and social morals in Russia means, almost every dissatisfied element, from the radical anarchist to the theoretical idealist, has seized upon it as approaching something of a Utopian nature. It is interesting to note that every witness called before your committee as a champion of the cause of the principles of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic admitted that he or she had never read the constitution of the government of which he was the champion.

The word Bolshevism has been so promiscuously applied to various political and social programs that we feel that it is of paramount importance that the delusions and misconceptions as to what it really is, as it exists today in Russia, should be, as far as possible, removed and that the people of the United States, should be thoroughly informed as to just what this much-discussed institution really is, both in theory and in practice.

Your committee is of the opinion that the best answer that can be given to the argument of the champions of this Russian institution is a true explanation of its real nature and the actual principles upon which it is founded as well as the unavoidable consequences that would follow its adoption. The word Bolshevik is the name of the party that controls the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic and that dictated its constitution. We are, therefore, justified in using this name to identify the constitution which it dictated and in accepting that constitution and the laws that have been prescribed under it as the platform and program of Bolshevism. Senate Report, Page 27-28.

IT IS NOT DEMOCRACY.

It is the dictatorship of a class and is not a democratic form of government. In its actual application it has become an autocracy of a few individuals who exercise their authority and suppress all opposition by fear, terrorism, and force. It has developed into as much of an autocracy, though more cruel in its methods, as the monarchical government of the Czar's regime. Senate Report, Page 28.

AN ENEMY OF CHRISTIANITY.

Every activity of the Bolshevik government indicates clearly the antipathy of the Bolsheviki toward Christianity and the Christian religion. Its program is a direct challenge to that religion. The Christian Church and Bolshevism can not both survive. . . . Religion can only be taught or studied privately. All churches and religious organizations are prohibited from owning property of any kind. . . . The clergy and all servants or employees of church bodies are expressly disfranchised and deprived of all right to hold public positions. Senate Report, Page 36.

CHRIST REPLACED BY KARL MARX.

The full significance of the attitude of the Bolsheviki toward Christianity is most fully manifested in the fact that, though by Russian custom and decree under the old regime, every newspaper or periodical published on Easter Sunday in the Russian Empire was required to carry the headline, "Christ is risen" on Easter Sunday in 1918, all Bolshevik papers substituted for this sacred sentiment the headline and slogan, "One hundred years ago today Karl Marx was born." Thus the issue has been framed between the gospel of Karl Marx and the teachings of Christ. We reiterate, therefore, that Bolshevism and the Christian religion can not both survive. Senate Report, Page 36.

WOMAN DEGRADED.

Bolshevism accords to the family no such sacred place in society as modern civilization

accords to it. Conflicting reports have been passing current during the last few months relative to the nationalization of women by the new Russian government. Two or three local soviets have apparently thus degraded the womanhood of their particular districts, but the central government has refrained from adopting any such policy in the whole nation. They have, however, promulgated decrees relating to marriage and divorce which practically establishes a state of free love. Their effect has been to furnish a vehicle for the legalization of prostitution by permitting the annulment of the marriage bonds at the whim of the parties, recognizing their collusive purposes as a ground for the severance of the matrimonial state. Senate Report, Page 36.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH DENIED.

The freedom of the press and of speech, though heralded by the advocates of Bolshevism as necessary to the intelligent participation of the people in popular government, has been abrogated in Russia, and by the usual confiscatory method of the accepted formula all of the mechanical devices and materials necessary for the publication of periodicals and all places of meeting and public assemblage have been seized by the Bolshevik government. Senate Report, Page 36-37.

THE INHERITANCE OF PROPERTY FORBIDDEN.

The apparent purpose of the Bolshevik government is to make the Russian citizen, and especially the women and children, the wards and dependents of that government. Not satisfied with the degree of dependency incurred by the economic and industrial control assumed by its functionaries, it has destroyed the natural ambition and made impossible of accomplishment the moral obligation of the father to provide, care for, and adequately protect the child of his blood and the mother of that child against the misfortunes of orphanhood and widowhood. To accomplish this it has by decree expressly abolished and prohibited all right of inheritance either by law or will. Upon death all of the decedent's estate

is confiscated by the State, and all heirs who are physically incapable of working become pensioners of the State to the extent that the assets confiscated by the government make such pensions possible. Senate Report, Page 37.

THE "PARLOR BOLSHEVISTS."

This is the program that the revolutionary elements and the so-called "Parlor Bolsheviks" would have this country accept as a substitute for the Government of the United States, which recognizes that "all men are created equal," and that "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are the inalienable rights of all its citizens. This is the formula they would have adopted to supersede the Government which was established by all the people of the United States "in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity," and "promote the general welfare." The mere recital of the program is a sufficient denunciation of it and of the individuals and groups which advocate and defend it. Senate Report, Page 39.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S CONDEMNATION OF BOLSHEVISM.

This Government is in receipt of information from reliable sources revealing that the peaceable Russian citizens of Moscow, Petrograd, and other cities are suffering from an openly-avowed campaign of mass terrorism and are subject to wholesale executions. Thousands of persons have been shot without even a form of trial; ill-administered prisons are filled beyond capacity, and every night scores of Russian citizens are recklessly put to death; and irresponsible hands are venting their brutal passions in the daily massacres of untold innocents. (From the telegram of the U. S. Government sent September 21, 1918, to the Allied and neutral governments asking them to join in a protest against the Bolshevik terror.)

SAMUEL GOMPERS AGAINST BOLSHEVISM.

All of you know me or know of my attitude in regard to labor conditions know my abso-

lute opposition to Bolshevism in theory and to Bolshevism in fact.

In theory Bolshevism is an impossibility. In fact, if it were put into operation, or could be put into operation, it would mean the decadence or perversion of the civilization of our time. To me the story of the desperate Samson who pulled the Temple down on his head, is an example of what is meant by Bolshevism. I am not willing that all of the genius of past ages should be flung to the winds. . . . be destroyed by maddened desperation. And so I may say to you that it is well for us to see now that our own house is kept in order. (From a speech, Mr. Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, before the National Civic Federation, April 12, 1919.)

THE END OF CIVILIZATION.

(On his way back to Holland from Russia, Dr. Oudendijk, the Dutch Minister in Petrograd, said:) I wish to give a solemn warning to the working classes of all nations. Bolshevism, I say without exaggeration, is the end of civilization. I have known Russia intimately for twenty years and never have the working classes of Russia suffered as they are suffering at the present moment. I have never seen or dreamed of the possibility of such corruption, tyranny, and the absence of all semblance of freedom as there are in Russia at the present moment.

Translated into practice, the five points of Bolshevism really comes to this: (1) High wages; (2) don't work; (3) take other people's property; (4) no punishment; (5) no taxation; and I suppose there will always be a certain number of people who will adopt a program which in practice amounts to this. (The Literary Digest, January 11, 1919, from London Times.)

A CALAMITY FOR THE WORLD. OPINION OF THE GRANDMOTHER OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

(Mme. Catherine Breshkovsky, who has spent more than thirty-two of seventy-three years of life in Russian and Siberian prisons,

is so beloved by her people as to rejoice in the title of "Babushka," the "Grandmother of the Russian Revolution," said:)

It is a calamity, not alone for Russia but for the world at large, to permit Bolshevism to flourish and expand

The situation in Russia is deplorable. There is no exaggeration in cable dispatches which state that our people are literally starving to death. There is bread in some places, but not in all. There are no means of transportation; the railroads have completely broken down. The people in the cities who have some supplies refuse to sell anything. We have no clothes, no tools, no instruments, no medicine, and little or no food. The stocks in the co-operative stores of the villages are almost totally depleted.

At the start the Bolsheviki had the people with them. They promised peace, bread, clothes, education—they gave, ah, they gave only money, and that to themselves. We Russians are ashamed to say that, rich as our country is, we are beggars.

The farmers will not sell to the Bolsheviki, consequently many of the people of Russia are starving. We have no schools, no communication, no transportation, no bread, no peace, no industry, Russia is destroyed. Not even paper have we to print our alphabet. Consequently, education is at a standstill. Even the newspapers have been suppressed, except those of the Bolsheviki. You in America know nothing save what they tell you; the truth is suppressed. The only hope for Russia is the overthrow of the Bolshevist forces and the election of a Constituent Assembly. (N. Y. Times, January 26, 1919.)

RELIGION CALLED A "SOCIAL EVIL" BELIEF IN GOD DENOUNCED.

In Revolutionary Russia a struggle against religion is in full force. At Moscow the doors of the churches are nailed shut and on the doors of the cathedral of Vassily Blagenny and upon the image of the Blessed Virgin a placard has been affixed with the following inscription: "Religion is the opium of the people."

As can be seen, the revolutionary proletariat begins at last to understand that religion is not a matter of the free choice of the individual as the Socialists claim, but on the contrary it is a social evil, a reactionary factor and a disease against which it is necessary to fight to the end. Just so long as the public believes in God in heaven there will be slavery on earth. (From Russian N. Y. Weekly Bread and Liberty, March 5, 1919. Notice this is a part of the propaganda here in the United States.)

KARL MARX AGAINST NATIONAL LOYALTY, LAW, MORALITY, RELIGION.

Modern industrial labor, modern subjection to capital has stripped him (the proletarian) of every trace of national character. Law, morality, religion, are to him so many bourgeois prejudices, behind which lurk in ambush just as many bourgeois interests The working men have no country.

KARL MARX AGAINST THE FAMILY.

Abolition of the family! Even the most radical flare up at this infamous proposal of the Communists The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course We replace home education by social The bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child, becomes all the more disgusting, the more by the action of Modern Industry, all family ties among the proletarians are torn asunder.

KARL MARX WOULD COMMUNIZE WOMEN.

But you Communists would introduce community of women, screams the whole bourgeois chorus! The Communists have no need to introduce community of women; it has existed almost from time immemorial our bourgeois take the greatest pleasure in seducing each others' wives. Bourgeois marriage is in reality a system of wives in common, and thus, at the most, what the Com-

munists might possibly be reproached with, is that they desire to introduce, in substitution for a hypocritically concealed, an openly legalized community of women.

(Three quotations from the famous Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx and Fred Engels, issued in 1848, and constituting the Program of the Bolsheviki and of all the Communists, as Marx' "Das Kapital" constitutes their Bible.)

LENINE OPPOSES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL.

While the old bourgeoisie democratic constitutions, for instance, proclaimed formal equality and the right of free assemblage, the constitution of the Soviet Republic repudiates the hypocrisy of a formal equality of all human beings Since we here are concerned with the task of overthrowing the bourgeoisie, only fools or traitors will insist on the formal equality of the bourgeoisie.—(N. Lenine, "A Letter to American Workingmen," in Class Struggle, December 1918.)

OUR SECRETARY OF LABOR ON BOLSHEVISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is not very generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact that the strikes that took place at Seattle, at Butte, at Paterson, at Lawrence and at a number of other places recently were not industrial, economic disputes, in their origin, no matter how much economics may have been involved in the dispute. A deliberate attempt was made to create a social and political revolution that would establish a Soviet form of Government in the United States and put into effect the economic theories of the Bolsheviki of Russia.

It failed because for two years the Department of Labor and other agencies of the Government have been fighting that false philosophy, not by the utilization of force, but by appeal to the judgment and to the reason of our people.—(From Sec. Wilson's address to the Conference of U. S. Governors and Mayors at Washington, March 3, 1919.)

RAYMOND ROBINS CONDEMNS THE BOLSHEVIK PROGRAM.

I know the beast. I know it, and I know my country and have confidence enough in its institutions to be able to tell the truth about it. And, Senator, I believe that when we know the beast, with the united intelligence of the free men and women of America, I have faith enough in our institutions to believe that we will throw that foreign culture, born out of a foreign despotism, back out of our land, not by treating it with the method of tyranny, not by a witch hunt, nor by hysteria, but by strong, intelligent action, the intelligent action of Senators of the United States making a report that gets before the people the truth of the situation and mobilizes the consciences and the intelligence of the men and women of our land. (Testimony before the Overman Committee, Page 893.)

*The American Committee
of Minneapolis
439 Metropolitan Bank Building*

