

Masters of Deceit + + By J. Edgar Hoover

Communists Plot Conquest of World

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These words of Russia's top Party boss and one of the highest-ranking communists in the United States reveal the nature of the enemy we face. To make the United States a communist nation is the ambition of every Party member, regardless of position or rank. He works constantly to make this dream a reality, to steal your rights, liberties, and property. Even though he lives in the United States, he is a supporter of a foreign power, espousing an alien line of thought. He is a conspirator against his country.

The communist is thinking in terms of now, in your lifetime. Remember that within four decades communism, as a state power, has spread through roughly 40 per cent of the world's population and 25 per cent of the earth's surface. Some years ago communists were complaining that their "fatherland," Soviet Russia, was encircled, a communist island in a "capitalistic" sea.

Today the situation is changed. The world communist movement is on the march, into Germany, the Balkans, the Middle East, stretching across the plains of Asia into China, Korea, and Indochina. Communists have never won over an entire country by a free election and have never hesitated to shed blood if this would best serve their purpose.

Numbers No Gauge of Power

Moreover, in noncommunist countries thousands of Party members are working for Moscow. Communists firmly believe they are destined to conquer the world.

This belief is held in the United States, too. A disciplined Party of hard-core fanatical members is now at work, with their fellow travelers, sympathizers, opportunists, and dupes. They want to add America to Soviet Russia's list of conquests.

In recent years there has been a tendency to discount the menace of domestic communists solely because of a decline in Party membership. In fact, some have gone so far as to say, "... the party ... is almost over." Let's examine that statement: In 1922, when Communist Party membership reached 12,400, William Z. Foster said, "... we no longer measure the importance of revolutionary organization by size. In some places where there are only one or two men, more results are obtained than where they have larger organizations."

This has been the communist line down through the years. Foster in 1931 stated, "Communist strength ... cannot be measured even approximately by statistics. ... The Communist parties' strength runs far beyond all formal measurements..." The Party's membership in this country reached a low in 1930 when it had 7500 members, and a peak of 80,000 in 1944; its membership at five-year intervals since 1930 has been as follows: 1935-30,000; 1940-55,000 (a drop of 15,000 from 1939); 1945-64,600 (a drop of 15,400 from 1944); 1950-43,200; 1955-22,600; and by the summer of 1957 membership had further declined.

Sudden Growth in Other Lands

However, over the years it has been estimated by the communist leaders themselves that for every Party member ten others are ready, willing, and able to do the Party's work.

Fluctuations in the membership of the Communist Party, U.S.A. have had their parallels in Party memberships in other countries. The record clearly shows that Communist Parties have the power of swift and solid growth when the opportunity arises:

In Italy, Party membership went from 6,000 in 1943 to 2,500,000 in 1951; in France, from 20,000 in 1929 to 400,000 in 1936; in Syria, from 250 in 1931 to 10,000 in 1936; in Brazil, from 25,000 in 1946 to 100,000 in 1950; and in Indonesia, from 30,000 in 1953 to 500,000 in 1955.

When the Communist Party was at its peak in the United States it was stronger in numbers than the Soviet Party was at the time it seized power in Russia.

The size of the Party in the Soviet satellites at the time each came under Soviet control discloses how a well-organized band of revolutionaries can impose its rule over the majority population:

	Date of Communist Take-over	CP Membership on That Date	Population of That Date
BULGARIA	Sept., 1945	20,000	7,020,000
ROMANIA	Mar., 1945	800,000	16,400,000
POLAND	Jan., 1949	1,000,000	25,225,000
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	May, 1948	1,325,000	12,338,000
HUNGARY	Aug., 1947	700,000	9,388,000
ALBANIA	Dec., 1945	45,000	1,120,000
YUGOSLAVIA	Mid-1945	141,000	14,500,000

Under communism, a tiny minority, perhaps ten to twenty men, would rule the United States. An open dictatorship called the "dictatorship of the proletariat" would be established. One of the most fundamental of communist concepts, meaning the forcible dictatorship of the Communist Party (conceived as the vanguard of workers), whereby capitalist opposition is crushed after the seizure of power. Communists, in all their teachings, make this point clear.

The capital city, as one communist leader pointed out, would be moved from Washington, D.C., to a large industrial center, probably Chicago. National as well as state and local governments would be eliminated. "Soviets" (meaning councils) would be formed throughout the nation. These would consist of local Communist Party henchmen who would depose and probably liquidate your mayor, chief of police, clergymen, and leading citizens.

All Our Government Would Go

The Constitution, and all our laws, would be abolished. If you owned productive property you would be arrested as an "exploiter," hauled before a revolutionary court, and sentenced to a concentration camp—that is, if you convinced the "Judge," you were worth saving at all.

All property used in production would be confiscated. This confiscation would include your home, business, bank deposits, and related personal possessions. These would "belong to everybody."

The revolution would affect every man, woman, and child in America. Communists do not propose to remodel our government or retain any part of it. They would tear it to the ground, destroy all opposition, and then create a new government, an American province in the Soviet world empire. Their recipe for action? The 1917 Soviet revolution, tailored to modern conditions. The communists themselves have made the claim:

The principles upon which a Soviet America would be organized would be the same, in every respect, as those which guided the Soviet Union.

William Z. Foster, long-time head of the communist movement in our country, has boasted that the communist revolution, after the actual seizure of power, would "develop even more swiftly" than the Russian.

All industry would be nationalized and farms taken away from their owners. A small businessman is just as guilty as a large businessman; both must be liquidated. Rents, profits, and insurance would be abolished. Countless occupations, termed by the communists as "useless and parasitic," would be ended.

Here is a part of their list: wholesalers, jobbers, real estate men and stockbrokers, advertising specialists, travelling salesmen, lawyers, "whole raft" of government bureaucrats, police, clericals, and sundry capitalist quacks, fakery, and grafters.

The communists have a special disdain for lawyers. Perhaps it is because there will be no need for lawyers when there are no rights to defend. At any rate, Foster has said, "The pest of lawyers will be abolished."

Action would be drastic, immediate, and without appeal. An armed "Red Guard" would enforce the orders of Party henchmen.



OLD AND NEW BOSSES of the Communist Party, USA: William Z. Foster (left) photographed with Eugene Dennis in Washington in 1947, after Earl Browder was ousted as head of the Party and Foster regained its reins, with Dennis under him as General Secretary.

Foster dedicated his book, "The Twilight of World Capitalism," published in 1949, "To My Great-Grandson Joseph Manley Kolko Who Will Live in a Communist United States." (I.N.P. Photo)

Hotels, country clubs, and swimming pools would be used for the benefit of "workers," meaning, in most cases, Party bosses.

Labor Unions Would Be Obliterated

The workman in the mines, factories, and mills would be told to work certain hours for certain wages. Labor unions, as we know them, would be obliterated. All such organizations would be owned and operated by the communist government, and no longer would be permitted to organize a union or to strike against his "government."

The press would be muzzled, free speech forbidden, and complete conformity demanded. If you expressed an opinion contrary to the Party line, you should have known better and your "disappearance" would serve as a lesson for others. Fear becomes an enforcement technique. Movies, radio, and television would be taken over by the government as agencies for government propaganda.

Churches would probably not be closed immediately, but they would be heavily taxed, their property seized by the state, and religious schools liquidated. Clergymen would be required to accept the Party line: "God does not exist. Why worship Him?" say the communists.

Children would be placed in nurseries and special indoctrination schools. Women, boast the communists, would be relieved of housework. Huge factory and apartment-house kitchens would be set up, so that women would be "free" to work in factories and mines along with the men.

This picture of a communist America is not overdrawn. Here are the words of William Z. Foster:

"Enter the dictatorship of all the capitalist parties—Republican, Democratic, Progressive, Socialist, etc.—will be liquidated, the Communist party functioning alone as the Party of the toiling masses."

How Reds Use 'Thought Control'

How does the Communist Party, U.S.A. make "thought-control" work for it, and give it tremendous influence, through strategically and highly placed persons? J. Edgar Hoover explains, describing actual instances of "thought-control" exerted by the communist Party where it was not suspected by the general public, in the next installment of his own story of Communism in America and how to fight it. Read this key chapter of his best-selling book, "Masters of Deceit," in next week's Courier-Journal.

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Party influence is exerted through the communist device of thought control (controlling, in various degrees, the thinking of many Americans). The communists quickly accuse anybody who disagrees with them of being guilty of thought control; it is a favorite communist expression. Yet this same technique, applied in varying degrees to different groups of our population; is the key to communist strength in America today.

The Party's objective is to drive a wedge, however slight, into as many minds as possible. That is why, in every conceivable way, communists try to poison our thinking about the issues of the day: social reforms, peace, politics, veterans', women's, and youth problems. The more people they can influence, the stronger they will be.

Followers Can Mobilize Swiftly

Top Party officials have a definite assignment: to capture positions of power. They are the Party's frontline commanders. Communism is at war with America. The United States is a vast battlefield. A school, a labor union, a civic group, a government official, a private citizen—all are important in the never-ending struggle for power.

The whole nation, to the communists, is a gigantic checkerboard. The communist high command is constantly moving, jumping, switching, and retreating to get communist members in positions of influence. They are outnumbered; they know that. That is why they must depend on skill, maneuvering, and deception.

The communist official in our country realizes that his supporters often form a motley collection, varying greatly in loyalty; some are fanatically loyal; others are half-timers or "single-nighters." Many are "tremblers," needing constant encouragement, whereas some are just victims unwittingly caught in the party net.

But time after time the communists are able to weld these seemingly ill-assorted supporters into a unified instrument of power. They have succeeded in creating and dominating different areas of thought control. Each area contains supporters who, under Party guidance, can quickly and effectively be mobilized.

This manipulation, as applied to diverse personalities, groups, and issues, is a tribute to the communists' deceitful skill. By this technique, using its own membership as a base, the Party is today influencing literally thousands of Americans.

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