

MASTERS OF DECEIT

Why Americans Join Red Party

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI since 1924, emphasizes that the danger to the United States from master Red plotters is as great as ever. In this week's installment of his book, "Masters of Deceit," Hoover tells how and why Americans are induced to turn against their country and embrace communism.

By J. EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

INSTALLMENT FIVE

Why do Americans turn communist?

The answer involves many details and is not simple. Most communists are ordinary-looking people, like your seatmate on the bus or a clerk in one of your neighborhood stores.

Most communists in the United States are now native-born. A minority are naturalized citizens; only a few are aliens. Some have never gone to school and have difficulty reading and writing, but many are well educated and have college and university degrees.

A MEMBER may be earning his living in practically any occupation or profession. Not long ago a large Communist Party section listed members in these categories, tabulated as "professional and white collar": artists, actors, doctors, dentists, educators, engineers, draftsmen, lawyers, musicians, nurses, newspaper writers, office workers, salesmen—social-service workers, pharmacists, clergymen.

Members are recruited from all nationalities, races, and areas of the country. They may live in expensive mansions or tumble-down homes. They are of all ages.

Never can a communist be identified simply by his physical appearance, occupation, or clothes.

Why do these individuals join the Party, or become fellow travelers? Why, especially in this country, which has such a long and heinous record of expanding privilege and opportunity for so many?

Red Creed Rooted In Faith Vacuum

The FBI has interviewed many hundreds of Party members. A few case histories given below will illustrate the motivations of many of them in joining.

Take a youth whose identity I will conceal as "Jack," who was born in a Midwestern city. He was tall, brown-haired, and possessed a pleasant disposition. He liked school and endeavored to please his teachers. He was intensely curious concerning the world about him, especially the physical sciences.

Something happened to him while he was in high school. The faith he had felt sincerely as a child faded. By the time he was graduated, it was gone. He was left with a spiritual vacuum.

Upon entering college Jack found himself with an exceedingly curious mind but one uncontrolled by any spiritual faith. In a class on government he made the acquaintance of the "Communist Manifesto." Later he read sections of Engels which discuss Marxist theory in relation to science. He was impressed. Here were some ideas that seemed to offer something positive and new.

Leaflet Answers Youth Problems

Then one day, almost by chance, Jack came upon a leaflet distributed on the campus by a communist club. He became interested and made contact with the Party.

Here, for the first time, he seemed to find an "answer" to the problems that had plagued him. Here, in the Party's claim to be working for a better world, Jack believed he had found a new "faith," which would give meaning and validity to his life. Jack joined the Communist Party.

MANY REASONS cause individuals to join the Party, but undoubtedly most important is the Party's appeal to idealistic motivations. Its promise of a "bright new world."

"I believed that in the Communist Party was the beginning of a true brotherhood of man, working with devotion for socialism, peace and democracy," wrote Howard East, one of the Party's best-known workers, who later became bitterly disillusioned.

deeply interested. Some of his relatives had to flee from Europe because of Mussolini's persecution.

Karl went to Spain as a volunteer in the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" organized by the Communist Party, U.S.A. There in the front lines he was wounded; he still bears the effects of the injury.

This impetuous decision, taken against the advice of his family, represented a contribution of the Communist Party of the United States to international communism. Karl's idealistic fervor against fascism and injustice was translated by the Party into shot and powder for the furtherance of communist aims.

Many thousands of Americans joined the communist movement during those early days of the fight against fascism. They labored under the illusion that the Party and Soviet Russia represented something else. As one disillusioned member was later to complain: "At this time the Communist agitators stressed idealistic goals, and bragged of a growing democracy in Russia."

Racial Theme Used As Bait

Many individuals have joined the Party because of a belief it was helping achieve better relations between the races.

Ralph was typical of them. He was a Negro, proud of his race and eager to help better its status in America. While in school he prepared a thesis on this subject. In his research, he read about Karl Marx and the communist viewpoint.

The communist position appealed to Ralph because of the claims that it was working zealously for the betterment of the Negro. He succumbed and joined the Communist Party. He was to learn that the Party has no sincere concern for the Negro but was and is using deceptive propaganda appeals about the Negro to advance the communist cause.

The same communist tactic is used in the field of labor unions. "Edward" was an active member of his union. In the early 1940's he was recruited into the Communist Party: "I believed that I was joining a political party that would benefit the workingman."

Three years later he dropped out of the Party; for he had found it was not for the workingman. Rather it aimed at killing individual rights, making unions subservient to Party orders, and using union strength, influence, and finances to further communist goals.

Intellectuals Duped By Red Boats

In particular the communists have made an appeal to the so-called intellectual.

The seduction of many intellectuals by the Party stands as a disgrace. Thinking men and women, supposedly trained to analyze critically, all too often have been duped.

Party Surprised At Application

Consider another actual case, that of "Eric." He is typical of the many who joined the Party during the economic depression. Eric remembered his youth as days of "deprivation."

He worked at odd jobs, such as helping the milkman and caring for chickens. He became more and more dissatisfied.

One day at a secondhand bookstore, Eric came upon some pamphlets that painted an exaggerated picture of economic conditions in America.

"The effect upon me was profound; I don't believe that anything I have ever read has had the same impact upon me since," he said.

He felt a "terrible compulsion... to do something to help better the conditions brought out in the report." He was swept up by a desire to wipe out prejudice, to "help bring the underdog of our civilization up to a place of dignity."

Eric had never talked to a Party member. He had formed a false impression of the Communist Party from communist propaganda.

Eric on his own initiative went to a corner drug store, looked up the Party's address in the telephone directory, and called headquarters. He remembered how Party officials seemed "surprised" when he telephoned his desire to join.

Eric went to Party headquarters. There, in the presence of an eighteen-year-old girl and a dark-haired, stooped man, Eric signed an application card for Party membership.

CONSIDER NOW "Karl," who as a young man was deeply affected by the economic depression as Eric was. He began to read communist literature and in 1933, joined the Young Communist League.

When the Spanish Civil War came in 1936, Karl, because of communist agitation, became



Heads Navy Nurse Corps

Captain Ruth A. Houghton, USN, of Andover, Mass., graduate of Boston College and Catholic University of America, has been sworn in as Director of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, with which she has been affiliated since 1935. She will also serve as Director, Nurses Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. (NC Photos)

daughters of well-to-do parents they harbor a "guilt complex" about the very privileges that America has given them.

Or, because of some setback in life, they are angry at society in general and turn to communism as a way to "get even."

Naturally, many new party members have been recruited from the families of Party members. In America today many children, growing up in communist homes, are mentally captives of this alien ideology.

These youngsters are taught from the earliest years that God does not exist.

Party parents provide special Marxist instruction for their children. When the child grows up, he is given Party tasks: distributing literature, taking up collections at rallies, walking in picket lines. He begins to get the "feel" of Party life.

Party morality is constantly being inculcated in these youthful minds, a belief that whatever helps the Party is good, whatever hinders it is immoral.

As the cases cited indicate, the individual reasons for joining the Party are many, varied, and complicated. Any attempt to apply generalized, ready-made remedies may leave the problem unsolved.

We must try to see and understand all the forces, events, ideas, and motivations that brought about the tragic decision.

It is most important, I think, to realize that the Communist Party is attempting to promote and exploit the rise of materialism, irreligion, and lack of faith in our society in every way it can.

We should be alert to help any communist back on the road to good citizenship as soon as he shows the slightest indication that he is disillusioned with what he has found inside the Communist Party circles.

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NEXT WEEK — Why Communists quit the Party.

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Nazi Chief's Son To Be Ordained

By FATHER PLACID JORDAN, O.S.B. (N.C.W.C. News Service)

Ingolstadt, Germany — On the desk of a seminarian who will soon be ordained stands a picture of the man who was probably the bitterest foe of the Church during the Nazi days of Germany.

The seminarian is Brother Martin who is now completing his studies at the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

The man whose picture he treasures is Martin Bormann, Sr., his father and once the dreaded chief of Hitler's Chancery in Berlin.

Next to his picture stands a wood-carved statue of the Blessed Mother.

BROTHER MARTIN will be ordained in the Jesuit Church of Innsbruck on July 26.

Thus the son of the man who was chiefly responsible for the cruel persecution of the Church in Germany during the Hitler period, will atone for his father by dedicating his whole life to the missions of Christianity.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to which he now belongs, will assign him to a station in the Belgian Congo soon after his ordination.

Brother Martin does not know what happened to his father.

Some say he lost his life in May, 1945, while the fierce battle of Berlin was raging. Others claim he managed to escape and now lives incognito somewhere overseas. He was sentenced to death by the war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg in absentia.

At any rate, Brother Martin prays for his father every day. He prays for his conversion and for the peace of his soul.

Brother Martin was born in the suburb of Gruenwald near Munich on April 14, 1930, and Hitler was his god-father, as he was of all his childhood friends.

He was educated in an "order castle" reserved to the Nazi elite and thoroughly imbued with Nazi ideas.

Then came the collapse. Along with others who were of the Allied secret list, he escaped into the mountains and eventually found refuge in a Catholic farmer's family in the neighboring Tyrol.

There, under the influence of his hosts who were good, pious people, and under the impact of the tragedy he had witnessed in his own country, he found his way to the Faith and became a Catholic.

He made contact with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart nearby, who instructed him in the Faith, and finally decided to apply for admission to their minor seminary here.

He was a shy young boy



'Happy Warrior' Smile

New York—(NC)—Alfred E. Smith, Jr. (left) flashes a smile reminiscent of his late father as he examines a copy of "Sidewalk Statesman," a young folk's biography of Al Smith. Thomas Kennedy of P. J. Kennedy & Sons, New York publishers looks on.

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