

WORDLVIEW-MARXISM FACT SHEET

KEY FACTS:

- **Current Communist Countries (2006):**
 - China: Population 1,298,847,624
 - Cuba: Population 11,308,764
 - Laos: Population 6,068,117
 - North Korea: Population 22,697,553
 - Vietnam: 82,689,518
- **Current Number of Citizens in Communist Countries (2006):** 1.5 billion
- **People Killed by Communism:** 110,000,000¹

KEY VERSES:

Exodus 20:15–17	Acts 5:1–4
Psalms 14	Ephesians 4:28

KEY QUOTES:

Marxist

"... I think I have to give an even broader historical characterization of the moment in which American Marxists find themselves and in which our pedagogical work takes its significance. Lenin said that the two necessary [but not sufficient] preconditions for social revolution are a class-conscious proletariat and a revolutionary intelligentsia. If, as intellectuals, we can necessarily play only a marginal role in the development of the former, the task of creating the latter is clearly our fundamental one. To create a Marxist culture in this country, to make Marxism an unavoidable presence and a distinct, original, and unmistakable voice in American social, cultural, and intellectual life, in short to form a Marxist intelligentsia for the struggles of the future—this seems to me the supreme mission of a Marxist pedagogy and a radical intellectual life today."²

Critique

"Marx...taught that God was a projection of man's radical alienation: from himself, from his labor, and from a human community cruelly divided by class barriers. Man's salvation, in Marx's view, thus lay within history, in the creation of a mundane utopia whose coming would be hastened when men were no longer bewitched by the false promises of a kingdom to come in the time beyond time.

Lenin, in turn, believed that the advent of this radically secular version of the coming kingdom could be dramatically accelerated by revolutionary action: a conviction by which he justified the homicidal cruelties of the secret police, who became an omnipresent reality in all communist states. Whereas Marx simply treated religion contemptuously as a source of man's alienation, Lenin hated the church and saw in it a powerful rival for hearts and minds....

The communist animus against religion—and especially Christianity—was no accident: It was an essential part of the Marxist-Leninist package. A communism that had a benign view of Christianity was no more possible than a communism that had a benign view of democracy, or of market economies. Something had to give.

As things worked out, of course, it was communism that 'gave.' And the delicious irony was that it 'gave' because what generations of communists took to be mere fantasy—the

¹ <http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/NOTE5.HTM>

² Frederic Jameson (Duke University) quoted in Stephen H. Balch and Herbert I. London, "The Tenured Left," *Commentary* 82: 4 (October 1986), p. 45.

³ George Weigel, "The Collapse of Communism" in *The World & I* vol. 8 (May 1993), pp. 372–73.

*Christian faith of the people of central and eastern Europe – proved more attractive, more resilient, more revolutionary, and more accurate to human experience than the secular doctrine that proclaimed itself the ultimate expression of revolutionary consciousness....*³

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