

The Marxist Religion

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By Richard McDonough

EL CERRITO, Calif.—Marx is famous for his anti-religious views. He has said the following.

- "Religion is the opiate of the masses."
- Religion is like the addictive drug of "money worship" that people take to deaden the pain of their oppression by capitalism.

Enlightened science vs. religious superstition

For Marx, these religious superstitions must be replaced by the enlightened science of Marxism that, stating the "laws of [economic] motion" in human history, will liberate human beings from capitalist oppression for a full rewarding human life.

Karl Popper, however, showed that Marxism is not a genuine science because it is not falsifiable. Whenever Marxist predictions fail, which they regularly do, instead of revising their theories to take account of the facts, Marxists employ ad hoc hypotheses to save their theory, e.g., when the socialist revolution did not occur when and where Marxism predicted it would, Marxists just made excuses.

Competition with his materialist religion

In fact, Marxism is not absolutely opposed to religion. Marx is hostile to *traditional* religions because it aims to *replace* traditional religious belief in a transcendent God with a *materialist* religion that *deifies man himself*. Marx is hostile to Christianity and Judaism because he sees them as *competitors* with Marxism's own *materialist* religion.

Compare the core biblical salvation story with Marx's picture of the journey from capitalist oppression to the liberating socialist/communist revolution.

Garden of Eden

In the biblical story, humanity begins in an innocent paradise of union with God in the Garden of Eden until the Fall in which Adam and Eve commit the Original Sin of disobeying God.

Consequently, they and their descendants are expelled from paradise and forced to travel a long painful historical journey until the Messiah emerges from the "chosen people," the Jews, and, in the final confrontation between good and evil in the apocalypse, redeems humanity.

Tribal communism

In the Marxist story humanity, begins in a primitive idyllic tribal communism in which everything is shared equally between members of the tribe.

Unfortunately, the emergence of private property leads to a lengthy historical class struggle between the capitalists and the workers (the "proletariat") until, in the penultimate battle, the socialist revolution, the workers free humanity from capitalist oppression and bring about a full-fledged communist Utopia.

Bible story in materialistic terms

Marx has simply replaced the original idyllic Judeo-Christian paradise, the Garden of Eden, with the original idyllic primitive tribal communism.

- The Judeo-Christian original sin of disobeying God is replaced by Marxism's original sin of creating and instituting property.
- The Judeo-Christian struggle between good and evil is replaced by Marx's class struggle between capitalists and workers.
- The Bible's "chosen people," who are the Jews, are replaced by the proletariat (workers) who are chosen by Marx's "laws of [economic] motion" to lead the revolution.
- The Bible's final apocalyptic battle between good and evil is replaced by the socialist revolution.
- The biblical notion of heaven is replaced by Marx's *materialist* heaven (communism) on earth.
- The Bible's ultimate *communion with God* is replaced by Marx's *communism (communion) with one's fellow man*.

In brief, the Marxist account of the historical struggle that begins with the original tribal communism and ends with a return to a more enlightened communism at the end of history is simply the biblical salvation story translated into Marx's "materialist" terms. Indeed, Marx would have understood this himself as he was very familiar with Old and New Testament imagery and doctrine as well as patristic literature.

Marx's science is exciting

Marx promised his readers a *science* that reveals the "laws of [economic] motion" of human history (reminiscent of Newton's laws of motion in the physical universe). In Newton's case, one gets a set of equations that purport to describe the laws of mechanics in the physical universe.

What Marx gave his readers, by contrast, is a drama of human salvation modeled on the Judeo-Christian salvation story.

Whereas Newton's mechanics can be difficult, tedious, and dull, with no drama, Marx's account is *exciting*.

There are wars and revolution. There are good guys and bad guys, a heroic savior (socialism), an *inevitable* victory at the end leading to heaven on earth (communism) and universal happiness. Whereas Newton gives one a science, a *genuine* science with no drama, Marx gives one dramatic *story* of suffering and ultimate triumph.

Quasi-religious faith

This helps explain why it is virtually impossible to have a rational discussion with many Marxists and "liberals" (hereafter, "leftists") who have been influenced, perhaps unknowingly, by Marxism.

Since Marxism is not a science but, rather, a quasi-religious *faith* (a "materialist" faith to be sure but still a faith), leftists influenced by Marxism no more need to prove their claims than Christians need prove that Christ rose from the dead.

For many on the Left it is sufficient to *tell the story* and gives some anecdotes, often unverified, about various kinds of alleged oppression.

Quasi-moral outlook

Indeed, all the current favorite liberal storylines, the claim that the U.S. is governed by an oppressive patriarchy, that the U.S. exploits and destroys the natural environment, that the police's job is to defend the capitalist establishment against the workers, etc., originate in the Marxism.

For the typical Marxist (or influenced liberal), Marxism is not really a science, but a kind of quasi-moral outlook on the world that gives meaning and purpose to their lives. Engels even says the proletariat will "redeem" mankind.

If one believes" the Marxist story, either in its radical or its liberal form, he believes the following.

- One is a good person on the right side of history.
- One is playing an important role in a heroic struggle to correct historical injustices and lead long suffering humanity to the promised-land (communism).
- As a soldier for the forces of light against darkness, one deserves to get one's way politically.
- Since one's political opponents who do not have faith in the One True Materialist Religion are standing in the way of progress towards the promised-land (communism), all standards of decency are suspended.
- Since these nonbelievers, including their children, are standing in the way of the promised land they deserve to be cancelled, censored or threatened.

Marxist supreme being

There is, however, one very important difference between the biblical and the Marxist salvation stories—which can be recognized in a quote from 1844.

- In 1844 Karl Marx wrote: *"The criticism of religion ends with the precept that the Supreme Being for man is man."*

That self-worship (narcissism) is fundamentally the same message the serpent (Satan) gave to Adam and Eve in Eden: Ye shall be as gods.

The effects of this pervasive narcissism can be seen everywhere.

- There are the serial criminals who proudly walk out of the same stores every day past the staff with their bags of loot.
- There are the spoiled snarling adolescents at our universities (who at 19 already know everything) apparently went to university—not to learn, but to teach.
- There are the "journalists" who never apologized for the series of hoaxes they have shamelessly perpetrated on the American people.

It is not difficult to discern that there is going to be an enormous price to pay for all this silliness and evil.