

Just as communism is not monolithic, neither is it unchanging. Obviously, the relationships among the Communist nations and parties are in a state of flux. More so since the August 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia than ever before. Not so apparent are the changes taking place within each Communist country in the methods of economic organization and in the mechanics of political control. But these changes are nonetheless real and important. Consumer choice operating in the marketplace is of growing importance; decentralized management governed by the profit mechanism is expanding in the U.S.S.R. and other Communist industrial establishments; and freedom to criticize and to deviate from the Party line is becoming less dangerous. We should be under no illusions, however, that these changes mark the beginning of our style of capitalist democracy in the U.S.S.R. They do not, but they are changes toward a system more compatible with our concepts of freedom.

When we can see the Communist system in a perspective more approaching reality—as pluralistic, nationalistic, competitive, changing, under the constant pressure of demands for individual and national autonomy—the imminent possibility of either the ideology or any of its varied national practitioners seriously threatening to conquer the rest of the world becomes highly questionable. If overwhelming Communist military power cannot hold Czechoslovakia within the orbit of Communist orthodoxy in Europe; if North Korea and North Vietnam, on the borders of the world's largest and most paranoid Communist country, can still make clear with impunity their commitment to their own nationalist goals independently of Chinese approval, what real prospect is there of any foreign Communist nation absorbing England or Germany, much less the United States?

That there is evil in the dogma and practices of communism cannot and should not be denied. That we should resist the imposition of this evil on ourselves is indisputable. That we should assist any other nation to achieve the form of political and economic organization it desires without external coercion seems most reasonable. But for us to assume a world view that has us absolutely committed to slaying the dragon of communism with the sword of Galahad is insanity. And for us to see every move toward the overthrow of domestic dictatorial elites in the underdeveloped world as an externally controlled Communist conspiracy is equally insane.

The corollary to seeing communism in its true perspective is, of course, seeing our own system as it is. Obsession with the evils of communism is all too frequently a cover for complete refusal to see evil and to consider changes in our system, particularly changes which operate adversely to the presumed interests of the current holders of power. While we talk in the language of our revolutionary forefathers about individual freedom, our Nation today has become a vast corporate state ruled by varied bureaucracies, of which the most powerful are the least susceptible to or concerned about individual freedom. This is another reality we must face, if we hope to create national harmony, not just "manage" discontent. I shall speak more on this later.

Returning to the problem of the U.S. role in the world, if we can disengage from Vietnam, change our policy toward China, and cease living by the shibboleths of cold war anti-communism, have we not then solved most of our foreign policy problems? Unfortunately, such is not the case. These delusions of the past have served to screen from us the ugly face of humanity's real and more complicated