

## Incitement to religious hatred...

There's nothing so hilariously paradoxical as a gang of unreconstructed lefties marching in defence of freedom of speech. Here comes Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie, Ludovic Kennedy and whole tribes of the lumpen intelligentsia protesting that the Bill to outlaw incitement to religious hatred will put an end to rational discussion. Since when did that agglomeration of ideological irrationalists have any use for reason – or even the law of non-contradiction?

The widespread assumption that political freedom is the special preserve of the Left is one of the most unaccountable of all superstitions. Heroes of the Left such as Stalin and Mao murdered people in their tens of millions not for daring to *speak* freely, but on the mere grounds that they were suspected of *thinking* freely. The forty-five years history of eastern Europe under totalitarian socialism – and of their support for this McEwan, Foot, Hobsbawm, Dawkins and the rest have never repented – is the history of repression and the denial of free speech.

A history teacher at Prague university outlined to me the typical experience: “I knew that the university syllabus was lies. The students knew I was teaching lies. I knew that the papers they handed in were full of the approved lies. And they knew that the comments I made on them were also lies. When the Velvet Revolution came, the students greeted me with a round of applause and said, ‘You don’t have to lie to us any longer, Sir’.”

That teacher’s wife said, “The worst of it was how it corrupted the very young children. When they got to school in the mornings, they were asked, ‘Did your mummy and daddy have anyone round to dinner last night? Did you hear what they were talking about?’”

And today we have thought-crime institutionalised in Britain as political correctness.

If you feel yourself becoming seduced by the sentimental slogans about “comrades” and “the class struggle”, and you are ever tempted to doubt the genocidal repressiveness of the Socialist regimes, just ask yourself the question, “Who built the Berlin Wall? Was it to keep West Berliners *out*?”

Usually at this point the Left mentions Hitler whom they mythologically cast as some sort of demonic incarnation of the Right. They need to be reminded, Hitler was a National Socialist. Just like Stalin, he was a rampant collectivist, teaching that the individual is subordinate to the state, monopolising national assets, the means of production, spending and borrowing on a scale that even Gordon Brown has not matched – yet.

It is time that this lie of the Left’s commitment to personal freedom was everywhere exposed. The Left, Revolutionary, Socialist-totalitarian movements have always taught the subjugation of the individual before the state. In a satanic parody of the Christian gospel they have declared that we have to die now so that we might live in the distant future. Socialist ethics is eschatologically utilitarian: that is to say any good it might promise is always indefinitely postponed. In 1793 it was said that thousands

had to be guillotined to make way for the era of freedom. Under Marxist-Leninism, the masses were urged to forget the suffering that was being inflicted on them and look forward to the Dictatorship of the Proletariat – an event always likely to be longer postponed than the Second Coming and the end of the world.

Socialism is always totalitarian. It has to be in order to have any hope of achieving its aim of the perfectly ordered perfect society. It has to command in order to coerce people against their own perceived interests and wishes.

Moreover, Socialists make the fundamental mistake of believing that such a society is possible. Even a revolutionary socialist – if he ever pauses long enough to stop singing and wipes away the crocodile tears – will admit that he has his faults, that he is an imperfect human being. Yet out of the millions of people flawed as himself, he proposes to create the perfect society. And nobody laughs. As I was saying, they have no time for reason, these ideologues.

With even one eye open towards history, it is insane to believe, as Rousseau believed, in original goodness, that men are born free but everywhere in chains under the influence of civilisation. And Socialists are not humanists: it is time that the high moral ground they have fraudulently occupied for so long was pulled from under them. Voltaire despised the mass of the people, calling them riff raff. Socialists do not even pretend to *like* people. They like “humanity” – and its infinitely delayed dawn which can only come after centuries of repression and mass slaughter.

Socialism is not on the side of life; it is the culture of death. Mass abortion as a means of contraception. Euthanasia for those whose existence is not convenient. Why is it so easily forgotten that it was the Socialist pioneers Wells, Shaw and Bertrand Russell who preached eugenics? Socialism seeks to extinguish all the creative and life-giving qualities such as individual enterprise, laudable ambition, self-reliance and self-improvement and to supplant these with a culture of dependency and a labyrinth of regulations and controls. They believe that the individual human spirit must be stifled.

The most clear-sighted among the Socialists – if you will forgive the oxymoron – will admit all this. For they do not believe in commonplace moral agency and the daily effort to improve one’s practical lot, or even practical politics: they believe in “theory”. They are fundamentalist theoreticians as blinkered and hidebound as any biblical fundamentalist in the Bible belt. They have done what George Eliot said we must never do – “lapse from the picture to the diagram”.

For Socialists, the individual is politically and ontologically insignificant, worthless and therefore expendable. All that matters to them is the perfect system, never realised or even realisable, but eternally present to the dialectical consciousness. They are as T.S. Eliot prophesied of them: “...men dreaming of systems so perfect that no one will need to be good”.

They love humanity – but deep down they hate people.

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