

The Khomeini Government in Iran and the Logic of Evil (2)

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I will continue the criticism of Iran from last month. The view of the U.S.-Iran conflict by the world community is myopic, and aside from not really sympathizing with the situation the United States is in, the countermeasures taken are totally inappropriate, and this is fostering a soft attitude toward the lawlessness of Iran which now appears to be no more than a group of terrorists and kidnappers. There may have been some actions which were excessive on the part of the aides to the Shah of Iran and his secret police towards dissidents and leftist radicals, but did this really fully justify the opposition who were dissatisfied with the conditions in Iran to oppose the rule of the Shah?

The wealth and prosperity of the Shah and his clan, and the tortures of dissidents for a developing country like Iran was not something unique to the Shah's rule, and had existed from long before. The way of life of Islamic people which dictates "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," at times becomes so cruel as to shock those in more civilized countries.

Thus, to these people who still retain the customs of nomadic tribes such as slaughtering their cattle for food, and who have antiquated attitudes which think nothing of killing people, the pressure of a feudalistic system such as the Shah's could not have been so unbearable.

What really increased dissent in Iran was the wave of modernization adopted by the Shah and the improved quality of education. This was only an increasing trend towards democracy, and there must have been quite a number of merchants and intellectuals who benefited from this modernization.

Why did modernization and democratization increase dissent? This is most likely connected with the leftist factions backed by

the Soviet Union which abetted the anti-liberalism campaign waged by the radical Moslems. It is clear that if it were not for the efforts of the deposed Shah to improve the life of the citizens and to raise the intellectual level of his country, the strategy of the leftist faction would not have been able to lead Iran to have a revolution and bring an end to the Shah's rule. As is clear from many examples in the past, the clandestine activity towards a socialist revolution is only possible in a free society.

I do not say that all conditions in Iran were ideal under the Shah, but I do feel there is something which remains unresolved in examining the revolution of Iran when only the claims of the citizens are taken into account. When this "something" is calmly analyzed, the following possibility comes to light. If the agitation of the leftist factions did not interfere, communication between the Shah and his subjects would have been much easier, and the Shah would have governed more wisely so that the democratization and modernization of Iran would have proceeded more smoothly.

What is always responsible for causing internal conflict? It is nothing other than communist and socialist ideology. Although this may not always be apparent on the surface, there is no country other than the Soviet Union which interferes more with the internal affairs of other countries.

At any rate, the Shah of Iran, who the citizens lost trust in, was deposed and he became a scapegoat along with many of his supporters who were cruelly murdered for revenge. The Shah, in other words, had to bear the brunt of all the complaints and anger of the citizens of Iran who were unable to keep up with the fast pace of modernization. Concerning the Shah of Iran I can only say, "ye who have not sinned cast the first stone." This is because the Shah did not punish his citizens for just his self-interests.

No matter how confused the situation becomes, Heaven does not lose sight of the essence of righteousness, faith and love. Whether one is rich or poor, Heaven will judge all persons equally, and one can rest assured as long as one has good intentions without any hypocrisy. The criticism of the United States by Iran and their abuse of the hostages, however, is misdirected and is a lawless act which should not be forgiven.

From this perspective we respect Egypt's President Sadat and agree with the practical and wise statements of Prime Minister Begin of Israel. We also agree with the brave statements of England's Prime Minister Thatcher whose sense of justice was not blinded by the wave of criticism directed towards the United States about the mission to rescue the hostages. Further, we highly value and bow our heads to the noble souls of the United States Marines who volunteered for the rescue mission ordered by President Carter knowing full well how dangerous it was and willingly gave up their lives.

The countries of the European Economic Community and Japan, and especially the mass media of these respective countries where the interests of one's own country comes before the value of human lives, and where calculation and speculation dictate people's behavior, people must have forgotten about the rights of the hostages in the case of the embassy hostages in Iran. Once someone is captured as a hostage, he immediately has the right to escape, and any method employed by his comrades or countrymen to save him are justified.

The boycott of the Moscow Olympics did not go very smoothly because of the egoism and selfishness of some athletes. Japan which is trying to go along with the weak willed EC countries which are unable even to argue against the obstinate IOC commissioner, probably has never put themselves in the shoes of those suffering from the Iranian hostage incident, as well as by the invasion of Afghanistan. The opposition parties and some

members of the progressive liberals (members of the New Liberalism Club) who criticise the promise of Prime Minister Ohira to support the action of the United States as just being a case of following the leader, are either totally ignoring the humanitarian issue of the lives of the hostages who were not directly connected to the events in Iran, or have forgotten about them altogether.

For the opposition parties of Japan (i.e. the Communist Party and the coalition of the Socialist and Clean Government Parties) all situations provide material for propagandizing anti-American ideology. You must not be fooled by the false rallying cry of these parties which sympathize with Iran. It is not right to say that one cause of the Iranian revolution lies with the American government and the CIA which kept its distance from the lives of the Iranians and did not interfere in their affairs. Nor is it right to say the United States was wrong to give the Shah of Iran political asylum even temporarily. It is not excusable to substitute such opinions for the criticism of Soviet Union's obvious agitation behind the scenes, and its meddling in domestic affairs to further its expansionist policies. You must be told clearly once again that in no way are the revolutionary government and the reactionary students justified in ignoring international law; this is stated especially in view of the anti-government elements in Japan which always try to use the above method of substitution to accuse the United States.

Although the United States stands out as a superpower among the advanced countries, it is an extremely sensible nation with people who have an honest opinion regarding what is good and evil, and what is just. It is not a country which plans its strategy solely in its own self-interests. This is why God find this country acceptable. The American people most often follow their conscience, and this nation rarely bends over backwards to make friends for its own benefit.

Japan, along with the countries of the European Economic

Community, must once more calmly assess which side it is going to take between the United States and the Soviet Union. Also, they have to decide which side is in the wrong between the United States and Iran to make true friends with the nation in the right. A wise decision must be made, not only for the benefit of one's country, but with the full knowledge that the very survival of the country and the glove are at stake.

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