

THE PRESENT SOCIAL CRISIS

I. Introduction.

- A. Review of Political and economic tendencies since the world war.
 - 1. Democracy on retreat before authoritarianism.
 - 2. a. Liquidation of Liberalism.
 - 2. Development of economic nationalism and progressive abandonment of economic liberalism.
- BB Definition of terms.
 - 1. Liberalism.
 - a. In fundamental sense the maximum freedom of self-determinism and government limited to function of umpire.
 - b. Recent and incorrect usage: emphasis of collectivistic consciousness.
 - 2. Conservatism.
 - a. The view which places the burden of proof on the proponents of change.
 - (1) May be either Liberal or Tory.
 - 3. Toryism.
 - a. Championship of entrenched privilege.
 - 4. Reformism.
 - a. Standpoint of those who would modify details without changing root structure.
 - 5. Radicalism.
 - a. Standpoint of those seeking root-changes in social form, or methodology.
 - (b) Materialistic Communism an example of proposed change in root-form.
 - (2) Satyagraha of Gandhi; a radical change of root-methodology.
 - 6. Progressivism.
 - a. The view that Change as such is essentially meritorious.
 - (1) Diametric opposite of conservatism.
 - 7. Authoritarian Statism.
 - a. The doctrine of the primacy of the State in all domains.
 - (1) Mussolini's thesis; "All within the state."
 - (2) Diametrically opposed to Liberalism.
 - (3) Illustrations: Italy, Germany, Russia and the "New Deal"
- C. Formulation of speaker's standpoint as base of reference for this discourse.
 - 1. Liberal in fundamental sense; radical in methodological sense; conservative relative to traditional American political phil.

II. Outline of Spenglerian thesis relative to Western Culture.

- AA Evidences pointing to decline.
 - 1. Liquidation of Liberalism and founding of Dictatorships.
 - a. Men cease to look to themselves but to dictator.
 - 2. Cultural peak, corresponding to that of Plato in Classical Culture, attained in 18th century.
 - 3. Biological decay.
 - a. Reduced decedents of superior types that tend to produce superiority.
 - b. Proportional increase of decedents of mediocre types that tend then to produce mediocracy.
 - c. Culture and civilization produced and sustained by a relatively small handful of the superior types.
 - 4. The shift from Culture to Civilization.
 - aa. Culture inherent in creative productiveness on the levels of idea and feeling.
 - b. Crystallization of Culture in external form and choking the creative spirit.

III. The American stage.

A. America part of Western Culture.

1. However, evidence exists that in America are found both the forces of age and extreme youth.

a. Keyserling in "America Set Free".

B. The New Deal.

1. Considered as a technique in handling a problem in political and economic pathology.

2. Considered as a revolution in political philosophy.

a. Outline of traditional American political philosophy.

(1) Doctrine of Natural Rights and consequent derivation of governmental authority.

(2) American revolution really waged against Machiavellian thesis, "the King or Government can do no wrong".

(3) Asserted moral right of man to revolt against the government that trespassed upon the Natural Rights of man.

(a) Essentially Gandhi's thesis.

(4) Implied principle of laissez-faire in economics, politics, intellectual world and religion.

(a) Government function essentially reduced to that of umpire

(b) Jefferson's thesis: "That government governs best which governs least".

b. Correlation of American political philosophy with central thesis of Luther through the Puritans.

(1) Essential Protestant thesis: Individual man's relationship with God immediate and not dependent upon a Pope or episcopal hierarchy.

(a) Gives inherent authority to individual man hence implies democracy.

(b) Primacy of individual conscience.

Radical contradiction to view of Materialistic Communists.

c. Effect: an enormous release of creative and dynamic energy producing outstanding achievement in conquest of a continent.

2(a) Planned economy implies:

a. Substitution of privileges for Natural Rights.

b. Authoritarian State.

c. Regimentation of thought, hence.

(1) Restriction of freedom of speech.

(2) Ultimately the imposition of the episcopal or Catholic principle in religion.

3. Radical issue in labor disputes.

a. Assertion of Power as mass prerogative.

b. Denial of principle that right to power is proportional to Capacity.

(1) Discussion of Capacity

(a) Defined as function of ability and character

(2) Power proportional to Capacity essential to building and maintaining of highest society.

c. Mass-power leads to decay since mass-consciousness is essentially destructive.

IV. The problem ultimately becomes one of Religion.

A. Immediatism vs. Hierarchicalism.