

## **Russia & China - the Socialism that NeVeR WeRe**

In my first newsletter, I mentioned that uncle Stephan had said “Socialism does not work. Just look at Russia and China.” and that I would “address that later within”. I realize now that I didn't really do so. Here goes.

China is a very special fuc&ed up case. So we'll do that second.

Russia is a difficult one as well, but for anyone who would care to get a pretty good summary of the history of this warlord megalomaniac chieftain driven country without being bored, try Rutherford's Ruska. The history of this part of the world is a pretty complicated one, but one thing is for sure- it has always been and remains a land of peasant farmers controlled by whomever wields the biggest club.

### **Russian government**

Just as in Mediaeval Briton, there have always been clan leaders in Ruska who worked to control larger and larger areas of land. Whether they be called Kings and Lords or Tzars and whatever, they controlled land and held their own and their close kin's vested interest paramount over that of the “lower” classes.

When the time was ripe to off the Tzar, Lenin et al, may have started off with good intentions\* but then just replaced the aristocracy with themselves including limos, caviar, and whores off to the Dacha holiday cabins. They surrounded themselves with psychopathic thugs, called them KGB and continued to screw the country, though during the Russian high period of Tretiak and Gagarin, they actually did get things better organized than the Tzar. \*Never much a fan of his and having read the most recent book about Lenin titled Lenin (200?) I am not a

fan of the man nor his claims at being a socialist/communist. I believe in the end, like Stalin, he was just a sick psychopath.

When Perestroika came, it was just a different group of oligarchs who stole power and wealth from the people. No matter what the USA or the USSR labelled the system in Russia it was never Communism or even close to Socialism. Wikipedia either term and compare to what you know about Russia.

### **China - so NOT socialist**

China left the Middle Ages somewhere around the turn of the Century. Psychopathic power brokers built armies and fought each other incessantly until Chang Ki Shek and Mao Tsi Tung fought it out. Mao seemed to have the best interests of the people at heart in the beginning and he was heading towards a socialist type of system until he went all paranoid and crazy, and started killing off all the brain power during the cultural revolution. Then he gave control to crazy students who blamed their elders for the situation, and it was a total mess... but there was never socialism in China. Nor really any kind of communism. There is not to this day. There was just a little tiny bit better sharing of resources but little caring for the masses of rice farmers. The discrepancy in wealth widens to this day. There are a group of all powerful old “emperors” driving around in Gucci shoes, limos, eating caviar with whores running their own giant fiefdom.

Other than the hippy type farms like those in the Slovan that failed, the closest thing I can think of to communism ever existing in the world would be the Israeli Kibbutz system. During its heyday, 3.5% of the population lived in these socialist farming/manufacturing communities. They lived a far more efficient way of life and produced approximately 70% of the GNP for decades. Not sure anything will be there,

but perhaps Wikipedia *Kibbutz* if you are not sure how they were structured. Suffice to say, that motivation was based on pride and social status. Each member received a certain status based on how hard they worked and how much they contributed - however, every member shared everything equally regardless of how much they were able to or did contribute. Cathy and I understood this as we learned we had very high status when we lived on Ginegar. We consumed no more perhaps less than some of the lazier volunteers, but we were afforded more social invitations and privileges. We also felt really good about our contributions which I think is more to the point in any social system, socialism and communism included.

Russia and China and pretty much any other country that has claimed to be Communist never were, therefore we cannot ever say, "Socialism doesn't work. It's never been tried much. Communist socialism as practiced on the Kibbutz worked incredibly well so therefore we

can say that socialism can work. The real trick is getting it to. Cuba as a country seems to have found a way so far.

Anyone can claim to be something they are not: **Adolph Hitler** claimed and **GW Bush** claims to be Christian. I am hard pressed to figure out which teachings of the Christ they ever followed. At one time I liked to call myself an athlete, until I realized I wasn't fooling anyone. And finally, the Vancouver Canucks have always claimed to be an NHL hockey team, We all know how true that has been.

Does Cuba follow many of the principals of Communism as outlined by Karl Marx or socialism as prescribed by Engles... so far it would seem so. Only time will tell. Fidel Castro has pretty much stayed close to his preachings. For those who never read his final speech at his trial prior to being exiled, read History Will Absolve Me. He has wavered hardly at all from what he said in the document.

**Lance Read- A Canadian in Cuba**