

*The Substance of Tyranny*

TYRANNY, LIKE DRACULA, is a deadly monster of many forms. But whether it wears the mask of the Golden Horde of Ghenghis Khan, of the monarchy of George III, of the emotional, screaming banners and slogans of Hitler, or the doctrinaire promises of Stalin and Malenkov, its substance remains the same.

During all the millennia of human struggle, mankind has been befuddled and beguiled by its inability to understand that under whatever mask, under whatever name or banner, the one single enemy is tyranny; tyranny in the name of the race, tyranny in the name of the collectivity, tyranny in the name of the masses, tyranny in the name of fear, tyranny in the name of the leader, of the monarch, of the vanguard of the proletariat, or of the ignorant civil demagogue of low repute.

The greatest tyranny of all is the tyranny of ignorance, of misunderstanding, of deceit, which has led men to believe that there is somehow a difference between one form of tyranny and another.

A basic characteristic of tyranny is its revolting contempt for the individual human being. The tyrant invades men's privacy—the privacy of the home, the privacy of conversation, even the privacy of belief.

A necessary part of the tyrant's destruction of the individual is his fanatical insistence upon abolishing the power of the human mind. Like the Nazi Hans Jhost, who shouted, "When you mention culture, I reach for my gun!" the tyrant wrecks or subverts the schools; he subjects his victims to the brainwashing of a Soviet prison; sends his fanatics to disrupt the churches, the universities, the libraries, and every other center where human beings may offer him a resistance through the power of their ideas, their knowledge, or their faith in the decency of God.

A second characteristic of tyranny is its elimination of the rule of law, and substitution of rule by personality. Communism carries on the "exceptional measures" of the Romanovs with what the Bolsheviks have called "revolutionary legality," in which the dungeon, the secret and unpredictable police, Siberia, and liquidation, have become the regular substitutes for a government by law.

In the final, pitiful, groveling chapter of tyranny, not only the opponents, but even the supporters of the totalitarian regime are reduced to sniveling, cringing, cowardly caricatures of human beings. [Copyright, 1954, by *The Denver Post*; reprinted by permission.]

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