



Dr. Fred Schwarz

# The Schwarz Report



Dr. David Noebel

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“They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity . . .” 2 Peter 2:19

## The Katyn Forest Massacre

by Peter Hammond

One of the most extraordinary mysteries and disinformation campaigns has finally been exposed, implicating numerous prominent heads of state in the atrocities and subsequent cover up scandals. A complex edifice of deception has been thoroughly dismantled by patient and persistent perseverance and pressure.

When I first visited Poland in 1990, and saw a monument for the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre in 1940, I questioned whether they did not mean 1941? “Surely you don’t believe the Russian propaganda?” they challenged me. I did not know what they were talking about. The Polish Christians were most agitated over my ignorance on this matter.

They explained that although Great Britain and France had declared war on Germany, 3 September 1939, ostensibly because Germany had invaded Poland, so Russia also invaded Poland in 1939. “Of course most history books omit that fact.” The Katyn Forest was in Soviet territory, they pointed out. Over 22,000 Polish prisoners, including over 8,000 officers, were murdered in cold blood by the Soviet NKVD in the Spring of 1940. When this crime was discovered, Stalin’s Soviet Russia was an ally of Great Britain and the United States of America. Therefore they found it more convenient to attribute this Russian atrocity to their German enemies.

The Polish Christians informed me that the British, Americans, and French chose to participate in judicial fraud at the Nuremberg Trials by indicting the German Army with what were plainly Communist atrocities committed by Soviet Russia.

In December 1941, the head of the London based Polish government-in-exile, General Wladyslaw Sikorski enquired of Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, what had become of Polish prisoners of war captured by the Soviets during their invasion of Poland in September 1939. Stalin assured Sikorski that all Polish POWs had been released. He opined that some might have moved to Manchuria.

In 1943, a German intelligence officer, Rudolph von Gersdorff, serving with the Abwehr, received reports about mass graves of Polish military officers near Katyn. A ditch 28m long and 16m wide was found which contained the bodies of 3,000 Polish officers piled up in 12 layers. This was only the first of many such graves to be unearthed. German soldiers unearthed numerous mass graves of many thousands of Polish officers who had been massacred in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk. German news reports claimed that this was yet another evidence of the war crimes and atrocities committed by the Communist commissars of the Soviet Union. When the German government announced the discovery of the mass graves in the Katyn Forest, the London based Polish government-in-exile requested an investigation by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Stalin immediately severed diplomatic relations with it and claimed that the victims had been murdered by the Nazis.

The German government brought in a European Commission of 12 forensic experts and their staff from Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Croatia, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, and Hungary. Even Polish, American, and British Prisoners of War were included in the investigation. The reports of these neutral investigators confirmed that the victims were indeed Polish officers, NCOs, and intellectuals who were victims of Russian forces in the Summer of 1940. When the Polish government-in-exile insisted on bringing the matter before the International Red Cross,

General Sikorski died in an aircraft crash in July 1943, an event that was described as “convenient to the allied leaders.” Numerous books and documentary films have been made of “The Assassination of General Sikorski.”

The Soviets hastened to orchestrate an alternative Soviet version of the now disclosed massacre, to claim that the Polish POWs had been massacred, not by the Soviets, but by the Nazis. Nikolai Burdenko, the President of the Soviet Academy of Medicine, presided over a commission appointed by Stalin to investigate the incident. Burdenko claimed to have interviewed more than a hundred eyewitnesses who swore that the Nazis had massacred the Polish POWs in Autumn, 1941.

At the Nuremberg Tribunal of 1945-1946, the German military were proclaimed guilty of shooting Polish Prisoners of War in the Katyn Forest. So the Soviet version of the Katyn Massacre moved from war-time propaganda into school history books: The Germans shot Polish Prisoners of War in Katyn Forest in 1941.

The Polish-Soviet crisis threatened Western-Soviet relations and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Franklin Roosevelt were torn between their commitment to their Polish ally and the demands of Stalin. In private, Churchill agreed that the atrocity was most likely carried out by the Soviets. According to Edward Raczynski, Churchill admitted on 15 April 1943, during a conversation with General Sikorski: “Alas, the German revelations are probably true. The Bolsheviks can be very cruel.” However, on 24 April 1943, Churchill assured the Soviets: “We shall certainly oppose vigorously any investigation by the International Red Cross or any other body . . .” Classified UK documents concluded that Soviet guilt was “a near certainty,” but the alliance with the Soviets was deemed to be more important than the moral issue. The official version parroted the Soviet propaganda and the censors suppressed all contradictory accounts.

The British Foreign Secretary pointed out several inconsistencies, and near impossibilities, in the Soviet version. Churchill’s post-war account of Katyn skirts over the Katyn Massacre by referring to the 1944 Soviet Enquiry which attributed guilt to the Germans adding cryptically: “belief seems an act of faith.”

When US Navy Lieutenant Commander George Earle produced a report concluding that the massacres were committed by the Soviet Union, President Roosevelt ordered Earle’s report to be suppressed. When Earle formally requested permission to publish his findings, the President issued a written order forbidding it. Earle was reassigned and spent the rest of the War in the remote

island of American Samoa.

Two senior American Prisoners of War, Lieutenant Colonel Donald Stewart and Colonel John van Vliet, taken by the Germans to Katyn for investigation, submitted a report after their release in 1945, that the Soviets were definitely responsible for the Massacre. George Marshall’s Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Major General Clayton Bissell, destroyed the report. During the 1951-1952 Congressional Investigations, General Bissell defended his action before Congress arguing that it was not in the US interest to antagonize the Soviet Union, which was America’s ally.

The Americans and British were embarrassed by the Soviet inclusion of the Katyn Forest Massacre in the indictments against the German military at Nuremberg. Soviet General Roman Redenko, at the Nuremberg Tribunal stated that “One of the most important criminal acts for which the major war criminals are responsible was the mass execution of Polish Prisoners of War shot in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk by the German Fascist invaders.” Katyn was: “The worst massacre of Prisoners of War in history.”

For sheer bare-faced hypocrisy this accusation was classic. All present at the trial, including the one making the accusation, knew that this was judicial fraud and farce.

The Black Book of Censorship in the People’s Republic of Poland expressly stated: “Any attempt to burden the Soviet Union with the responsibility for the deaths of Polish officers in Katyn Forest is forbidden.” Further evidence that everyone knew who was really responsible, was that even the most simple memorial erected in Poland such as Katyn 1940, was confiscated by police and destroyed. The Polish practice was to erect memorial crosses on All Saints’ Day. These were always dismantled by the police. If Katyn had really been a Nazi atrocity, it would not have been a taboo subject in Communist controlled countries. Not only did the Soviet Union forbid any monuments to be erected to victims of the Katyn Massacre, but the British government also objected to plans to build a Katyn monument in the UK.

### **Disinformation Campaign**

In the 1960s, the Soviets launched a Disinformation Offensive to sidetrack the persistent accusations of Soviet atrocities and massacres throughout Eastern Europe. A village in Belarus, Khatyn, whose name is very similar to Katyn, was chosen as a site for a memorial to commemorate the victims of Nazi atrocities. Apparently 149 Khatyn villagers had been massacred by Ukrainian and Belarus soldiers fighting for the Nazis in March 1943.

This Khatyn Memorial became an obligatory stop for all foreign visitors. This Disinformation Campaign scored its major success in 1974 when US President Richard Nixon was brought to Khatyn to remember the Polish victims of the Nazis! From this time all Soviet publications displaced Katyn with Khatyn, including in Polish encyclopaedias and historical dictionaries.

Every Soviet leader had to deal with the persistent Polish charges of the Katyn Forest Massacre. The Polish Solidarity movement in the 1980s used underground printing presses to expose the Soviet duplicity and print the facts about the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Mikhail Gorbachev launched an historical commission in 1987 to create a new Soviet version of what had actually happened at Katyn. Gorbachev's Politburo proposed in 1988 to build a memorial to the victims of the massacre "executed by Hitlerites in Katyn" alongside a memorial to 500 Soviet POWs supposedly also killed at Katyn by the Germans—a myth created by the Burdenko Commission with absolutely no evidence that it ever happened at all. Gorbachev also offered the Poles "a simplified procedure" for relatives wishing to visit the sites where their loved ones lay buried.

However, the Polish historians tenaciously exposed the Russian responsibility, and the Catholic church in Poland labelled the Katyn Massacre "one of the worst crimes in the history of mankind."

Gorbachev's trusted advisor, Valentin Falin, reported that Polish historians subverted the Soviet Commission by producing their own evidence exposing the 1944 Burdenko Report as spurious. Without waiting for the Soviet Commission's response, the Poles began publishing the facts. The problem stubbornly refused to go away. Even the communist puppet government of Jaruzelski was forced to admit that "the liquidation of the Polish officers was the responsibility of the USSR."

### **Admission**

On the symbolic date of 13 April 1990, 47 years after Berlin radio had announced the discovery of the massacre site, Gorbachev handed over two boxes of evidence to the Poles. The documents made clear that the Katyn Massacre was the work of the head of the NKVD, Lavrenty Beria. Gorbachev attempted to convince the Poles that more than 20,000 Polish nationals had been executed by the secret police chief without any authority from the Soviet Politburo!

This limited confession and additional attempts at deception only enraged the Polish people further. An investigation conducted by the Prosecutor General's

Office of the Soviet Union in 1991, and later by the Russian Federation, confirmed Soviet responsibility for the massacres. However the Russian Federation later tried to diminish the number of the deaths to 1,803 Polish citizens. They also refused to classify the action as a war crime, or as an act of genocide. They declared the investigation closed on the grounds that the perpetrators of the massacre were already dead.

### **Finally the Truth Comes Out**

In October 1992, Boris Yeltsin, who had replaced Gorbachev, lowered the Soviet flag, abolished the Soviet Union and handed over "newly found" secret documents from the Soviet Politburo to Polish president Lech Walensa. The Politburo order dated 5 March 1940, was entitled, Question of the NKVD. In it Beria informed Stalin that 14,736 Polish officers, officials, police officials, gendarmes, and other intellectuals were being held in prison camps in occupied Polish territory and that 18,632 similar people were being held in camps in the Western Provinces of Ukraine and Belarus. Beria requested permission to shoot them all.

Stalin's "in favour" and bold signature are scrawled at the top of Beria's question. Five other Politburo members also signed and approved the execution order. The document was labelled Top Secret. Of the total killed, about 8,000 were Polish military officers taken prisoner during the September 1939 Soviet invasion of Poland. Another 6,000 were police officers, with the rest being Polish Intelligentsia arrested for being "bourgeois". The Katyn Forest Massacre was justified by Stalin's Politburo as necessary to deprive a potential future Polish military of its leadership. Since Russia intended to keep the Eastern portion of Poland, he was determined to deprive it of a large proportion of its military and intellectual elite.

Those who were murdered, in the first batch alone, included: an Admiral, 2 Generals, 24 Colonels, 79 Lieutenant Colonels, 258 Majors, 654 Captains, 17 Naval Captains, 3,420 NCOs, 7 Chaplains, 20 University Professors, 300 Physicians, hundreds of lawyers, engineers and teachers, more than one hundred writers and journalists, and over 200 pilots. Altogether during the massacres, the NKVD murdered 14 Polish Generals. Vasili Mikhailovich Blokhin, the Chief Executioner for the NKVD, is reported to have personally shot and killed 7,000 of the condemned from the Ostashkov Camp, over a period of 28 days in April 1940.

Further documents revealed that every Soviet chairman since Joseph Stalin had signed out the Politburo's Katyn file and were well aware of the Russian complicity

in this crime. In a Memo dated 20 March 1959, to Chairman Khrushchev, Interior Minister Alexander Shelepin reported: “The Committee of State Security . . . has held, since 1940, case files and other materials regarding prisoners and interned officers, policemen, gendarmes, military settlers, landowners, etc., persons from former bourgeois Poland who were shot in the same year. In all, on the basis of the decision of a special Troika of the NKVD, USSR, 21,857 people were shot . . . the entire operation was carried out on the basis of the decision of the Central Committee of 5 March 1940. Since 1940, no information from these files was released to anyone. All of the files, numbering 21,857, have been stored in a sealed location. To Soviet organs, all of these files represent neither operational interest, nor historical value. It is also doubtful that they could be of any real value to our Polish friends. Quite the contrary, any unforeseen incident may lead to revealing the operation with all the undesirable consequences for our state. This is especially so because regarding those shot in the Katyn Forest, there is an official version supported by an Investigation carried out on the initiative of the Soviet state in 1944, by the Burdenko Commission . . . which concluded that all of the Poles liquidated there are considered to have been killed by the German invaders. The conclusions of the commission became firmly established in international public opinion. It seems appropriate to destroy all of the records regarding the persons shot in 1940, in the above mentioned operation.”

Shelepin’s recommendation to purge the records was carried out with over 21,000 case files destroyed. However, the Politburo Execution Order and Memo from Beria remained in the official record. Files later released from Gorbachev’s time included advice from advisors, that should the truth of the Katyn Forest Massacre come out, people could be convinced that the Soviet Union was no better than, and may have been worse than, Nazi Germany during the war, and that the Soviet Union bears no less responsibility for the war.

Polish historians point out that during the 1930s, hundreds-of-thousands of Poles living in the Western areas of the Soviet Union were marked out for persecution by Stalin—either execution, or deportation to Central Asia.

The Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939, was followed by more waves of arrests and mass deportations to the East. When the Katyn Forest Massacre took place, hundreds-of-thousands of Poles, mostly the better-educated and economically active citizens, were already in exile in Siberia, or in labour camps in Central Asia. They were herded there in horribly overcrowded freight trains and at least one out of every five of them died during transportation to the Soviet concentration camps.

Between 320,000, to possibly up to 1 million, Polish citizens were deported to the Soviet Union. Of one group of 12,000 Poles incarcerated in Delstroy, near Kolyma, in 1940, only 583 survived by 1942. Over 570,000 Polish citizens were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps by the Soviets during the war. Polish prisoners were subjected to lengthy interrogations between October 1939 and February 1940. These interviews were a selection process to determine who would live and who would die. According to NKVD reports, if the prisoners could not be persuaded to adopt a pro-communist attitude, they were declared “hardened and uncompromising enemies of Soviet authority” and condemned to death.

When Germany launched Operation Barbarossa in the Summer of 1941, the NKVD concentration camp guards massacred thousands of Polish prisoners before fleeing eastwards to avoid the German advance.

When the war was reaching its end and the Red Army was at the very gates of Warsaw, radio broadcasts from Russia urged the Polish citizens to rise up in revolt! The Soviet Army was then ordered to stand by and render no assistance as the Germans crushed the Warsaw Uprising. Stalin said that it was better that all resistance in Poland be crushed before a Soviet occupation.

The Polish Christians in 1990 reminded me that only the South African Air Force had flown in weapons and aid to the Polish underground during the Warsaw Uprising. I was surprised. I had read that the RAF had done so—but that was another lie. It was actually the SAAF, but because of apartheid, historians had expunged South Africa’s role and replaced it with the RAF. The fact that history books could be re-written to conform to politically correct dictates is disturbing.

Polish citizens strenuously objected to any sugges-

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. The Schwarz Report is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and Dr. Michael Bauman and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade’s address is P.O. Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is (719) 685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address.

tion that they had been “liberated” by the Soviets. “The Soviets never liberated anyone!” they insisted. The first act of the Soviets on occupying Poland was arresting all leaders of the underground army and government. Polish Christians pointed out that most of the atrocities attributed to the Germans were actually communist atrocities committed by the Soviets and conveniently blamed on their enemies. Polish relatives of the victims continued to urge the European Court of Human Rights to rule on the crimes of the Stalin regime.

### **Putin’s Perspective**

To Vladimir Putin’s Russia, the Katyn Forest Massacre is an inconvenient truth that taints Russian war-time heroism. Putin’s chief military prosecutor, Alexander Savenkov, issued a ruling on Katyn on 11 March 2005, in which they acknowledged that the NKVD Troika found 14,542 Polish citizens held in NKVD camps, guilty of committing state crimes and made a decision to shoot them in the Spring of 1940. Putin’s representative claims that these Soviet officials “abused their authority,” but that no criminal cases could be opened against them because the guilty parties had since died. The Polish claim of genocide was rejected and although they agreed to hand over 67 of the 183 volumes of evidence, two thirds of the remaining evidence was to remain classified.

The Polish parliament was outraged and demanded that Russia’s Katyn archives all be declassified and that Russian courts rule that the Katyn Forest Massacre was an act of genocide. Communists throughout the world would prefer the truth about Katyn to be buried, but Christians in Poland and throughout Eastern Europe are determined to exhume the secrets and expose the true nature of Soviet Communism.

Human Rights societies continued to pressure the Russian government until, in November 2010, the Russian Duma approved the declaration blaming Stalin and other Soviet officials for having personally ordered the Massacre of Polish Prisoners of War. This was only after the disastrous plane crash of Polish leaders en route to Katyn for the 70th Anniversary Commemoration.

On 10 April 2010, an aircraft carrying Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, and 87 other politicians and high-ranking army officers, crashed near Smolensk, killing all 96 on board the aircraft. The passengers were to attend a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre. The Polish people were convinced that they were the victims of a communist terror campaign which assassinated their president and senior leaders on the eve of the most important and solemn anniversary of this massacre. Many observed that it was like the assas-

sination of General Sikorski in 1943. In the furore following the death flight of the Polish government, the Russian Duma finally acknowledged Russia’s guilt for the Katyn Forest Massacre.

In 2011, the European Court of Human Rights declared admissible two complaints of relatives of the massacre victims against Russia concerning the inadequacy of their investigations. In a ruling on 16 April 2012, the court found that Russia had violated the rights of victims’ relatives and described the Massacre as a war-crime. It has taken 71 years, but facts are stubborn things.

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## **The Naked Truth**

by James C. Bowers

**Editor’s Note:** In 1958 W. Cleon Skousen published his book *The Naked Communist*. In the book Skousen lists the 45 goals of the Communists in 1958. Bowers’ book *The Naked Truth* takes a look at these goals and how they have fared over these many years. The following article is from Bowers’ book, chapter 23. Here he deals with communist goals 40 and 41. His book of 166 pages may be ordered from The Schwarz Report Press, Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 for \$12. You may also order via telephone at 719-685-9043 or online at [www.schwarzreport.org](http://www.schwarzreport.org).

**Goal No. 40:** Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.

**Goal No. 41:** Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents. Attribute prejudices, mental blocks, and retarding of children to the suppressive influence of parents.

Goal No. 40 is one Goal that needs little comment, as almost everyone knows something of the facts in this area. From 1958 to 1990, the divorce rate increased over 100%, to where one out of every two marriages ended in divorce. It has flattened out for the last 20 years, but for an even more troubling reason: there are fewer now marrying, since a huge number of people simply cohabitate. Of those who eventually do marry, incredibly, over half of them cohabited prior to marriage.<sup>1</sup> In 1958, the cohabitation rate was almost zero!

The culmination of this staggering trend was summarized in an article in the *St. Petersburg Times* (August 17, 2011) when it reported that the number of Americans with children who live together without marrying has increased twelvefold since 1970. The report says children now are more likely to have unmarried parents than divorced parents!

*The Phyllis Schlafly Report* of January 2011 also reported some of the results of this sad trend: “Forty-five years ago, a liberal in Lyndon Johnson’s Labor Department, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, shocked the nation with a report called ‘The Negro Family: The Case for National Action.’ The Great Society’s welfare handouts to women were breaking up black families by making husbands irrelevant. Since the Moynihan Report, out-of-wedlock births in the United States have grown to 72.3% for blacks, 52.5% for Hispanics, and 28.6% for whites. For the population as a whole, out-of-wedlock births have risen from 6% in 1960 to 40.6% today.” [The “Great Society” Section of Chapter 18 also discusses this important, but tragic, situation].

As with all of these Goals, people can explain away the results, citing other causes and other reasons, insisting that none of them have anything to do with communism. That is possible, but it is very significant that all of these were documented as specific Goals of worldwide communism fifty years ago and they continue to be accomplished—each and every one!

As for Goal No. 41, it is a long established goal of the progressives to get the children out of the home and into government schools at the earliest possible age. As tax policies and inflation have purposely been created to force women into the workforce, the daycare industry has boomed. Having government daycare or “Head Start” type programs is the logical consequence of these economic policies. Generations are now growing up with very bitter children who believe they have been abandoned and are not loved. After school, some go home to an empty house with unsupervised Cable TV and the Internet. Worse, some don’t go home at all, but rather to gang activities

where they get the “belonging” they never receive from their absent parents. Still worse, but commonplace, many only have a single parent. Any wonder why so many of today’s young people are hostile and bitter and strike out at society? [Ann Coulter’s book, *Godless*, has an important chapter on this topic].

Chapter 18 (Goal No. 32) briefly discusses the disastrous law passed in 1965 as part of the Great Society legislation. The so-called, “Aid to Families with Dependent Children” (AFDC) bill was the key ingredient that put in motion the destruction of black families in America. Paying young women more and more money for each and every illegitimate child she bore as long as no male (father or not) was in the house, was obviously a recipe for failure. While these policies also affected white women, the proportion of blacks was, as planned, overwhelming. The sad stories from this blunder are numerous. An interesting article in the *Washington Post* told about a recent example of this in a high school in Alexandria, Virginia. The teacher was frustrated about how poorly some of the students were performing. The class included both African-Americans and black kids who had recently emigrated from Africa. In a moment of exasperation, the teacher blurted out this question to the native born students: “Why don’t you American guys study like the kids from Africa?” An American black replied, “It’s because they have fathers who kick their butts and make them study.” The teacher then asked the American blacks to raise their hands if they had a father in the home. Not one hand went up. This showed (with an admittedly small sample) that it isn’t a matter of race and it isn’t about money, as this school had so much money that every student had been given a laptop computer. The basic lack of a father in the home was the key defining difference. The 1996 Welfare Reform addressed this issue when the Republican Congress pressed President Bill Clinton into signing the bill. Unfortunately, before the tremendous long term benefits could take hold, President Obama had those desperately needed reforms repealed as a part of the hidden items in the Stimulus Bill shoved through Congress with little time allowed for anyone to even read the bill.<sup>2</sup>

**SIDE NOTE:** From Marxism to Feminism: The planned destruction of the American family Statement of Bill Wood FC-8 Hearing on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse July 17, 2003 TESTIMONY FOR THE UNITED STATES WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The planned destruction of the family was part of the Communist agenda from its inception by Karl Marx and Frederic Engels. It became government policy in the USSR in about 1917. It was so successful in the USSR that

it threatened to destroy society in the USSR. Curiously, while in the 1940s the USSR took steps to repair the damages its family-hostile policies had caused, American Communists imported the Soviet agenda for the planned destruction of the family into the USA. It has been and continues to be promoted by left-leaning liberals in the West ever since.

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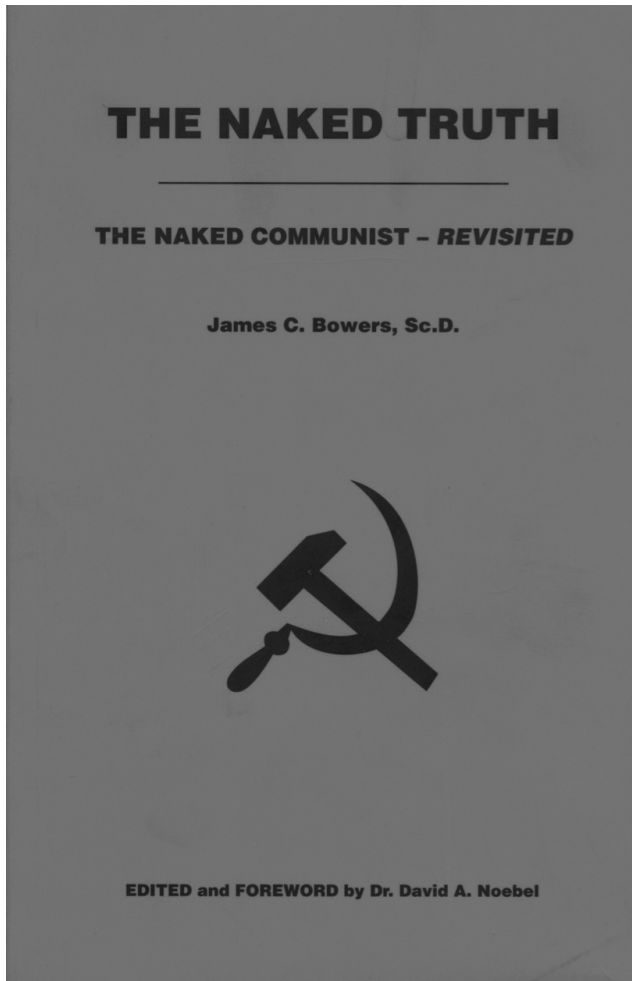
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## Labor Unions and the Myth of Free Riders

by Dr. Michael Bauman

Labor unions make constant, even habitual, reference to someone they call the “free rider,” by which they mean a person who enjoys the benefits of union activity but who does not pay for them. But the free rider, at least as he or she is understood and depicted by the unions, does not exist.

Here’s what I mean: Men and women who, for various reasons, refused to consent to the Communist party and its tactics in the old Soviet Union were not free riders on the train to the peoples’ socialist utopia, even if they were able to keep their jobs in the process. Those jobs were not free. Indeed, they came at an extremely high price, the price of freedom. Those dissident workers were convinced that the destination was a delusion and that the journey to it was an exercise in oppressive compulsion, of which they wanted no part, even if the Soviet Union allegedly paid for the ticket.

Labor unions, much like the Soviet Union, do not want individual workers to have the choice to go their own way to their own destinations. Labor unions wish to eliminate free workers and their free choices. Therefore unions do their best to get the legislators they pay for with political donations drawn from union dues to pass laws forbidding the existence of the dissenters, the so-called free riders. Because they wish to stay in office, the bought-and-paid-for legislators (who are overwhelmingly Democratic) do as they are told, constricting or prohibiting the right to work. They also enact the exclusive bargaining principle, which makes it illegal for independent workers in a union shop to negotiate contracts with the company for themselves. They are required by law to accept whatever the union negotiates for them, like it or not. In that case, they are not free riders but forced riders.

Yet, despite the political and personal opposition arrayed against them, dissenters prefer to go their own direction by their own means. They do so for many reasons: Perhaps they have examined the union, its leadership, its goals, and its methods and cannot consent. Perhaps they have had a long, fruitful, enjoyable, respectful, and mutually beneficial relationship with their employer and do not wish to see that relationship suspended or distorted as it must be if the union intrudes. Perhaps they think unionism itself is inimical to personal ambition, to incentive, and

to freedom. Perhaps they simply haven't made up their minds on the issue of unions, whether for or against. For whatever reason(s), they are not onboard.

To label such independents "free riders" and not also "innocent victims" is to tell but half their story, as if they were merely the beneficiaries of the union and not also its casualties, as if independent workers did not get caught up in strikes and other job actions that they do not condone but cannot evade. Whenever the union so decides, independents are involuntarily deprived of their living even though those strikes and job actions are built upon principles to which they do not consent and are called for reasons and purposes they might personally denounce. Nevertheless, the independent workers must endure these shut downs and job actions without the benefit of union strike funds, and must do so despite their disagreements and disapproval.

Take, for example, the great American steel strike of 1959, which lasted so long and cost steel workers, both union and non-union, so much in lost wages that it would have taken more than 120 years of their union-won wage increases to balance the gain/loss scales. I say "would

have" because it never happened and never will. That strike opened the door for foreign steel makers and their cheaper steel to enter American markets, which caused nearly a quarter million—more than 200,000—American steel workers to lose their jobs permanently, including the so-called free riders, who never consented to the strike or to the economic disaster it produced for them.

Not to mention the threats to their family, their property, and themselves (sometimes fatal) that independents have had to face from union goons in order to maintain their occupational autonomy.

Independent workers are being taken along for a ride by the unions, that's for sure. But the ride is not free.

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**Book:** *The Naked Truth* (Jim Bowers) accounts for how communists have succeeded in implementing key goals outlined more than 50 years ago.

**DVD:** *Agenda* (produced by Summit grad Curtis Bowers) illustrates in striking detail how Marxist thought has infiltrated various levels of society in the 21st century.