

THE COMPARISON OF GOVERNMENTS. 17 March 1948 4 Feb

Australians know that the Democratic Government under which they live guarantees a way of life that provides freedom for the individual and peace in the homes. They know they can work for themselves and their families sure in the knowledge that a social framework has been evolved through the generations which makes their own advancement possible. It is the pride of all Liberal Democrats that their system allows greater freedom and greater individual initiative than any other form of Government. We also know that these human things are not found in every country but perhaps we do not know why and wherein other countries differ from us.

In relating one government to another three types must be considered. There is our own democratic government which allows free expression of the will of the people, there are regimes that rely solely on force to defend themselves both within and without and most dangerously there are regimes, like Russian Communism, which secure support for their rule by whipping up the fanaticism of their people for some cause, in this case the cause is domination of the world by the proletariat.

The Force Governments of Dictators, as in South America, rely only on strength to maintain their position. They make no pretence at moral justification and their one purpose is to prevent one person or group of people winning public support that could threaten the government's position. Communism on the other hand offers a false answer to all the worlds problems and for this reason can attract the support of people who are too lazy to recognise the real value in life for themselves and who do not realise that this doctrine can only bring bloodshed and strife.

In Russian Communism what religion the country has and material power are both embodied in the government which demands fanatical belief in the future course of history and in the destiny of the proletariat. Belief in such things, if it really grips a nation whether it be right or wrong, is extraordinarily dangerous. We have seen how Hitler, making the German people believe in their destiny as a ruling race, led to a vast war. It was the belief of nearly every German that he should dominate the people of other countries that led to his whole hearted support for Nazi Germany. It could be the belief of every Communist in the inevitability of their revolution that may lead to the final step, actual war against the Democracies.

2. Governments.

It is a sad fact of life and history that the beliefs and emotions that have gripped nations have often worked for evil. It is the attractiveness of an all embracing doctrine that secures fanatical support. The truth and real Democratic way of life cannot be expressed in one catch phrase or sentence, as can the essence of Communism, it must be lived and experienced so that through time we will learn tolerance, sympathy and goodwill towards all men. It is our proud belief that the Liberal Democrats are on their way to finding these things, but the final achievement can only come through constant vigilance and efforts, for both inside and outside a country there are discontented elements, the failures of mankind, or those who want something for nothing, who are all too ready to destroy our happiness and prosperity and who if we give them a chance will hinder the development of our nation.

Mr Fraser Radio 3 H.W. 14th March 1954.