

Pincers Strategy

By G. Edward Griffin

Through most of history, totalitarians have maintained their power primarily by force of arms. People were ruled by whichever warlord fielded the mightiest army of the most deadly weapons. But as the concept of representative government spread across Europe in the 18th century, the world was introduced to the notion of controlling one's own government. At last, ruthless tyranny had been vanquished by the ballot box.

Or so it seemed. Would-be totalitarians did not vanish, but merely adapted to the new reality and found other ways to impose their rule. Instead of following military careers, they became con artists, mastering the art of convincing free men to accept their totalitarian agendas. How? By making it appear that everyone supports that agenda, from public officials to the masses in the streets.

Two-pronged Attack

That strategy is called "Revolutionary Parliamentarianism" and is well known in modern totalitarian circles. William Z. Foster, national chairman of the American Communist Party from 1933 to 1957, identified this strategy by name in his 1932 book *Toward a Soviet America*. 'In carrying out its class struggle program the Communist party practices revolutionary parliamentarianism...' Foster stated...A detailed explanation of this strategy appeared in spring in the 1950s as two chapters in a textbook used by the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia.

Written by Communist Party "theoretician" Jan Kozak, this textbook was used in a training program on how to seize power in countries that have representative government. The strategy involves a political "pincers" movement-and these are the terms Kozak uses to describe it-a "pincers" movement applying political pressure "from above" and "from below." Pressure from above is created when agents inside the government marked for takeover bring forward recommendations for new big government/police state legislation. This legislation will be promoted as a solution to some kind of national problem, but that will be a ruse. The hidden objective will be to expand the power of the bureaucracy and to move the country closer to the ultimate goal of total government. Pressure from below is created when other agents working in the media and inside grassroots organizations cooperate to create the appearance of popular demand for the proposed legislation. Naturally, the rank-and-file members of those organizations must be kept focused on the pretended humanitarian objectives. They must not be allowed to see the totalitarian objective.

The result is that the majority of the population is caught in the middle. They look "above" and see government spokesmen calling for legislation for some new expansion of government power. They look "below" and with the help of the mass media, see mobs of demonstrators shouting for the same thing. They say to themselves, "Has everyone gone crazy? Or have I?" They may still be in the majority by far, but they don't know it. They think they are hopelessly outnumbered, and they bow to what they think is the democratic will of the majority.

This process affects legislators as well. Since many of them have no higher goal to than to stay in office, it is easy for them to bend to the Insider-created pressures. They willingly pass the legislation while claiming -and sometimes actually believing-that they are merely responding to the will of the people. With that, the process starts over again with recommendations for new legislation from above, new demands from below, and new capitulation by the legislature.

Through the strategy of Revolutionary Parliamentarianism, the nation gradually becomes totalitarian, and the people are convinced that they asked for it themselves.

"We are free not because we claim freedom, but because we PRACTICE it."

-- William Faulkner