

## Tyranny and Dictatorship

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"It required a great power, a mighty influence, to free the thinking and living of the Western peoples from the withering grasp of a totalitarian ecclesiastical domination. Secularism did break the bonds of church control, and now in turn it threatens to establish a new and godless type of mastery over the hearts and minds of modern man. The tyrannical and dictatorial political state is the direct offspring of scientific materialism and philosophic secularism. Secularism no sooner frees man from the domination of the institutionalized church than it sells him into slavish bondage to the totalitarian state. Secularism frees man from ecclesiastical slavery only to betray him into the tyranny of political and economic slavery." (TUB 195:8.4) [also, see TUB 89:10.2]

The spiritual blindness of this secularism is a pernicious influence that debases genuine political liberals into leftists, drives them into a dictatorship of ideological totalitarianism, and cultivates a tyranny of external-based, centralized, collectivist control (see my reflections entitled "Political Philosophy"). The "dictation" for this developing "tyrannical and dictatorial [i.e., fascist] political state" is founded on the supposed authority of science: "The spiritually blind individual who logically follows scientific dictation, social usage, and religious [or ideological] dogma stands in grave danger of sacrificing his moral freedom and losing his spiritual liberty. Such a soul is destined to become an intellectual parrot, a social automaton, and a slave to religious [or secular] authority." (TUB 132:2.4) [also, see TUB 103:7.7]

A black flood of spiritual darkness is drowning the individual liberties of Western civilization, as the various godless isms increasingly gain the material power which they desire above all else. "The inherent weakness of secularism is that it discards ethics and religion for politics and power. You simply cannot establish the brotherhood of men while ignoring or denying the fatherhood of God." (TUB 195:8.11) As the free exercise of religion and the freedom of speech are assailed by the ever "more militant attitude" (TUB 195:8.5) of the secularists, it is the duty of loyal religionists to stand up for light and life and truth. Jesus encouraged us to "employ [our] powers of speech to liberate [our] fellows from the bondage of darkness and from the slavery of ignorance" (TUB 132:4.7). "There cannot be peace between light and darkness, between life and death, between truth and error." (TUB 175:1.2)

(reflections by Chris Halvorson)