

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

3/19/2017

In this series we have looked at our history from America's point of view.

Today we want to consider what people in other parts of the world thought about our Christian History.

I. HOW THE WORLD HAS VIEWED AMERICA

- A. The world experienced the brutality of other nations.
 - 1. The atheistic communist regimes had their chance and failed
 - a. Stalin—Soviet Union
 - b. Mao--China
 - c. Pol Pot--Cambodia
 - d. Hitler—Germany
 - 2. These leaders were responsible for the killings of millions of people
- B. In comparison the world noted that America was not only free but Christian
 - 1. The president of the United Nations General Assembly who served from 1949-1950 declared; "Never forget, Americans, that yours is a spiritual country. Yes, I know you're a practical people. Like others, I've marveled at your factories, your skyscrapers, and your arsenals. But underlying everything else is the fact that America began as a God-loving, God-fearing, God-worshipping people."
 - 2. The Ambassador to the United Nations from Lebanon stated in 1958: "The good (in the United States) would never have come into being without the blessing and power of Jesus Christ...Whoever tries to conceive the American word without taking full account of the suffering and love and salvation of Christ is only dreaming. I know how

embarrassing this matter is to politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen and cynics; but whatever these honored men think, the irrefutable truth is that the soul of America is at its best and highest, Christian.”

3. America’s friend Margaret Thatcher former Prime Minister of Great Britain stated; “If you accept freedom, you’ve got to have principles about the responsibility—Your Founding Fathers came over with that. They came over with the doctrines of the New Testament as well as the Old. They looked after one another, not only as a matter of necessity, but as a matter of duty to their God. There is no other country in the world which started that way.”

II. DIFFERENT FOUNDINGS HAS PRODUCED DIFFERENT RESULTS

- A. France underwent a different founding
 1. They experienced what they called “Enlightenment era philosophies.”
 2. They sought to exalt man over God.
 3. They further sought to eliminate Christianity’s influence from government
 4. They produced one of the most bloody and shameful periods in their history.
 5. In **1789** t the French Revolution brought a regime to power in France which instituted a program of de-Christianization. (note the date)
 - a. They imposed death sentences on clergymen
 - b. They closed churches
 - c. They destroyed religious monuments
 - d. They outlawed public worship
 - e. They stopped religion education

6. The French replaced the Christian calendar with the French Republican calendar;
 - a. It imposed a 10 day week
 - b. The calendar eliminated the Sabbath.
 7. They enthroned the goddess "reason" inside the Notre Dame Cathedral.
- B. America's Founders were utterly appalled by France's attempt to impose state-sanctioned atheism
1. Four decades before the onset of the France Revolution Benjamin Franklin recognized their direction and wrote a pamphlet in 1754 aimed at Europe's Christian families; "Bad examples to youth are more rare in America, which must be a comfortable consideration to parents. To this may be added, that serious religion, under its various denominations, is not only tolerated, but respected and practiced. Atheism is unknown there; infidelity rare and secret; so that persons may live to a great age in that country without having either piety shocked by meeting with either an Atheist or Infidel."
 2. In 1796 George Washington delivered his farewell address pleading with future generation to avoid atheistic regimes; "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles."
 3. Alexander Hamilton stated in 1798 about the French Revolution; "The attempt by the rulers of a nation to destroy all religious opinion, and to pervert a whole nation to atheism, is a phenomenon of wickedness."
- C. French writers after the fact of their countries failures wrote about America.
1. Tocqueville visited America and wrote his observation; Upon my arrival in the United States the religious aspect of the country was the first

thing that struck my attention...In France I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America I found they were intimately united and that they reigned in common over the same country....The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other.”

2. French historian Murat stated: “There is no country in which the people are so religious as in the United States; to the eyes of a foreigner they even appear to be too much so...But while a death-struggle is waging in Europe...it is curious to observe the tranquility which prevails in the United States”
3. Beaumont another French historian wrote; “Religion in America is not only a moral institution but also a political institution. All of the American constitutions exhort the citizens to practice religious worship as a safeguard both to good morals and to public liberties. In the United States, the law is never atheistic.”
4. A British feminist who was a Unitarian and writer of that period stated; “The institutions in America are, as I have said, planted deep into Christianity.”

III. SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT FOUNDINGS

- A. Throughout history foreign observers have recognized that America’s successes have come because of its unique allegiance to both God and the Bible.
- B. Early on our founders understood the importance of those great truths!
- C. America cannot expect to retain its freedoms or blessings if we seek to denounce God and His Word and turn to secularism.
- D. Time has proven that nations without Gods blessings cannot endure!