Mutual Convergence of the United States and the U.S.S.R. to the Mixed Sociocultural type

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1. Three Prognoses

PRESIDENT Eisenhower and other leaders of the West assure us that the future belongs to the Capitalist (“free-enterprise”) type of society and culture. In contrast, Premier Khrushchev and other leaders of the Communist nations confidently expect the victory of the Communist type in the coming decades. In difference from both of these predictions I am inclined to think that if mankind avoids new world wars and can overcome today’s grave emergencies, the dominant type of the emerging society and culture is likely to be neither Capitalistic, nor Communistic, but a type sui generis which we can designate as the Integral type. This type will be intermediary between the Capitalist and the Communist orders and the ways of life. It is going to incorporate most of the positive values and to be free from serious defects of each type. Moreover, the emerging Integral order in its full development is likely to be not a mere eclectic mixture of the features of both types but a unified system of Integral cultural values, social institutions, and of the Integral type of personality essentially different from those of the Capitalist and the Communist patterns. If mankind does not avoid new world wars and cannot mitigate today’s grave emergencies, then its future becomes problematic and dark. Such in brief is my prognosis about the alternative future of the human world.

My main reasons for this prognosis are three: First, that in their pure or extreme form both – the Capitalist and the Communist – orders are very defective and cannot meet the needs of a good and creative life of mankind of the future. Second, both orders are serviceable only in specific conditions for specific periods. In different conditions and periods both become disserviceable and therefore unneeded. Third, progressively both orders, in the Western and the Soviet blocks of nations,\(^1\) for the last three decades have been increasingly losing

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\(^1\) In this article I limit my analysis to the Euro-American continent concentrating on the changes for the last forty years in the United States and Soviet Russia. In regard to China where the Communist system is still largely in its first, coercive, phase, I simply
their specific features and "borrowing" and incorporating in themselves the characteristics of each other. In this sense, both types have been more and more withering and are becoming more and more similar to each other in their culture, social institutions, systems of values, and ways of life. This means that both types, exemplified by the United States and the Soviet Russia, have been increasingly converging to the intermediary type different from Communism and Capitalism. This intermediary type for the time being represents as yet an eclectic mixture of the characteristics of both orders. However, given the necessary time for its peaceful development, it eventually will grow into a unified Integral — social, cultural, and personal — order in the human universe.

2. The Decay of Real Capitalism

In this article I am not going to discuss in details the first two reasons of my prognosis. For my purposes it suffices to say that if Capitalism were able to meet successfully the urgent needs of contemporary humanity, it would not have decayed as it did in the leading Capitalist countries and would not have met an increasing resistance to its development in so-called "backward countries." Any country and mankind at large rarely, if ever, discards any important value, or institution, be it political, economic, or other — as long as this value or institution renders a real service in meeting the urgent needs of a given society. If, in our case, the Capitalist sociocultural order is increasingly abandoned even in the previously Capitalist nations and replaced by the Communist, the Socialist, the Welfare State, the Guided Democracy, the Fascist, the Nazi, the " Corporative" and other orders, this means that it has increasingly become disserviceable and obsolescent. This conclusion becomes particularly forceful for the formerly Capitalist countries like Germany, England, France, the United States and most of the Western countries where the withering of Capitalism began already at the end of the nineteenth century, was initiated often by the leaders of Capitalism itself (especially by those who introduced "the corporation economy") and has progressed since "naturally," immanently, gradually, without being overthrown by violent revolutions or by military coercion of foreign

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