

The Strange “Death” of Communism

By Cliff Kincaid

The headline, “Did the Soviet Union Really End?” seems like something out of a magazine published by the John Birch Society. But it appeared on August 17, 2016, in the *New York Times*.³⁰⁰ This op-ed by Masha Green suggested that the fall of the old Soviet Union was a deception, arranged by authorities in Moscow to confuse the West about changes in the Soviet Union and now Russia. The article echoed a defector from the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB, Anatoliy Golitsyn, whose charges were ridiculed decades ago as a fantastic “Monster Plot.” Top CIA officials, then and now, thought the Russian communists incapable of planning and carrying out such a plan.³⁰¹

Now, according to the *Washington Post*, U.S. spy agencies “are playing catch-up big time” with Russia, a senior U.S. intelligence official was quoted as saying.³⁰² The paper said that recent directives from the White House and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) “have moved Russia up the list of intelligence priorities for the first time since the Soviet Union’s collapse.”

But did the Soviet Union really collapse? And what about those communist regimes which didn’t “collapse,” such as Communist China and North Korea and Cuba? In addition, there’s the South African government, dominated by the South African Communist Party through the African National Congress. In Iran, the regime is run by the “Supreme Leader” Ali Khamenei, a Russian agent “educated” at the KGB’s Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow. What’s more, literally dozens of communist parties still exist around the world, including perhaps a dozen in the United States, and they hold annual International Meetings of Communist and Workers Parties.

Golitsyn wrote two books, *New Lies For Old* (1984) and *The Perestroika Deception* (1998) trying to alert the American people to the plot. International communism was not dead, he warned. It was changing forms and becoming more sinister in its approach to world domination.

It was Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, even while promoting the policy of “perestroika,” or the restructuring of the Soviet state, who declared, “In October 1917 we parted with the old world, rejecting it once and for all. We are moving towards a new world, the world of Communism. We shall never turn off that road!”³⁰³

Robert Buchar wrote the book *And Reality Be Damned... Undoing America: What Media Didn't Tell You about the End of the Cold War and the Fall of Communism in Europe*³⁰⁴ and produced the documentary “The Collapse of Communism: The Untold Story.” Buchar maintains that the Russians have had a long-term strategy of fooling the West and ending the Cold War on Moscow’s terms. “The West was unable to develop any counter-strategy because they refused to believe Moscow had this long-range strategy,” he says.

A political refugee from former Czechoslovakia, Buchar is not optimistic about the West waking up in time, telling this author in April 2014, “[Russian President Vladimir] Putin will get the Ukraine back and the West is not going to stop it.” Indeed, in that same month, General Philip Breedlove, the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, was warning that the United States under President Obama “was not taking steps it could to help Ukraine better defend itself.”³⁰⁵ Breedlove immediately came under attack by pro-Moscow outlets, including *Russia Today* (RT) television and *The Intercept*, a left-wing website headed by Edward Snowden collaborator Glenn Greenwald.³⁰⁶ Emails were stolen out of one Breedlove’s accounts and he was depicted as stoking tensions with Russia and threatening World War III over Russian aggression in Ukraine.

In its belated recognition that essential facts of life did not change in the transition from the old Soviet Union to Russia, the *New York Times* commented that most of the institutions of the USSR, “along with its memberships in international organizations, passed to a new country called the Russian Federation.” Columnist Green noted that these “institutions of a long-running totalitarian regime” had “turned out to be stronger than the men who had set out to reform them.” She added, “They resisted change for nearly a decade, and once Vladimir V. Putin became president, they fell into place, easing Russia’s regression. Today, life in Russia – where everything is political, where the population is mobilized around leader and nation, where censorship and one-party rule have effectively been restored – is more similar to life in the Soviet Union than at any point in the last 25 years.”

In 1991, a giant statue of the founder of the secret police, Felix Dzerzhinsky, had been removed from its pedestal in the center of Moscow. It has since been

displayed in a park not far from the Kremlin, was “lovingly restored” this summer, and “There is also talk of putting it back in its old place,” Green said.

Analyst Toby Westerman, a contributor to our 2014 book *Back from the Dead: The Return of the Evil Empire*³⁰⁷ has put together a list of examples³⁰⁸ of how international communist ideology still guides the conduct of Russian President Putin, a former KGB officer and one-time head of its successor agency, the FSB. “I don’t see why it is so difficult to see the ideology behind Putin,” Westerman said, noting that Putin has declared, “There is no such thing as a former *Chekist*.” (The Cheka was the forerunner to the KGB and stood for the All-Russian Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage.)

As quoted by *Newsweek*,³⁰⁹ at a meeting with members of the All-Russia People’s Front in Stavropol, Russia, on January 25, Putin said, “You know that I, like millions of Soviet citizens, over 20 million, was a member of the Communist Party of the USSR and not only was I a member of the party but I worked for almost 20 years for an organization called the Committee for State Security,” referring to the KGB. Putin said, “I was not, as you know, a party member by necessity. I liked Communist and socialist ideas very much and I like them still.”

My group, America’s Survival, Inc., has assembled over the years various groups of analysts and researchers, and former communist intelligence officials, who have been more accurate about Soviet/Russian intentions than the U.S. intelligence officials we regularly see on national television and quoted in the major newspapers. This is primarily because we have studied communist ideology, especially Marxist dialectics, in order to understand communist techniques of deception. This is an area that goes beyond the usual lavishly financed propaganda and disinformation operations we see in such outlets as RT.

As I recounted in the America’s Survival book, *Back from the Dead: The Return of the Evil Empire* a former government official told me what happened when Golitsyn had defected in 1961 and was brought into a room to be debriefed. “He looked around and realized that half the CIA operatives in front of him were KGB double agents whose reports he had read on the other side,” this former official told me.

My coauthors and I argue in *Back from the Dead* that while Putin does not use the term “world communism” these days, there can be no doubt, having been trained in Marxism-Leninism by the KGB, he understands where the world is heading and what he is doing. In the America’s Survival book *The Sword of Revolution*, we quote a

former intelligence community insider who said: “Even though there’s no association of Putin to a Communist Party of Russia, the fact that he’s President of Russia, certainly suggests that he has the ability to control the movement of almost any political party or political organization and he obviously accepts the Communist Party of Russia.” Putin’s United Russia party officially runs the regime. The various political parties give the false impression that Russia has functioned as a democratic state.

In 2012, at the “Pumpkin Papers Irregulars” dinner in Washington, D.C., held in honor of ex-communist Whittaker Chambers, the late author and commentator M. Stanton Evans joked about his “Law of Inadequate Paranoia,” saying, “No matter how bad you think something is, when you look into it, it is always worse.” The comment generated nervous laughter among a crowd of people concerned about America’s internal security weaknesses and foreign threats. Evans talked about the problem of “literally hundreds of communists and Soviet agents in the U.S. government” during and after the World War II period that he documents in his book, *Stalin’s Secret Agents: The Subversion of Roosevelt’s Government*, co-authored with the late Herbert Romerstein.

They document how the Yalta conference, which defined post-World War II Europe and betrayed Eastern European nations to Soviet control, was influenced by the Soviet spy Alger Hiss, the first Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, a body which today continues to serve as a check on American power by America’s enemies and adversaries. Flawed from the start, the world organization has functioned as a communist front and an impediment to freedom and progress in the world. Today, it is also a front for Arab-Muslim interests operating through the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which wants to outlaw criticism of Islam.

Yalta gave rise to the Soviet empire, the betrayal of Free China, and “half a century of Cold War struggle,” Stanton Evans and Herb Romerstein note in their 2013 book *Stalin’s Secret Agents: The Subversion of Roosevelt’s Government*. The rest is history; millions would die in the Soviet Union, China, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and Communist regimes would take power in Africa and Latin America. Today, the death toll from communism stands at 100 million.

Michael Ledeen, who worked as a consultant to the National Security Council, Department of State, and Department of Defense during the Reagan administration, when Soviet involvement in global terrorism was highlighted, wrote about the dangers of moles in government affecting policy. In his 2007 book, *The War Against the Terror Masters: Why It Happened. Where We Are Now. How We’ll Win*, Ledeen

wrote about the discovery of Soviet moles in the CIA, such as Aldrich Ames and Harold Nicholson, and the discovery of one such mole in the FBI, Robert Hanssen. Ledeen writes:

The discovery that Soviet moles had been at work at the highest levels of the American intelligence community had particular importance in our efforts to combat the terror masters. Agency [CIA] analysts had long insisted that there was no conclusive evidence of Soviet involvement in international terrorism. One now had to wonder if that conclusion had been fed to us through the KGB moles in our midst.

Ledeen wrote about how the intelligence community ignored inside information provided by Soviet defectors, such as the Mitrokhin documents, which exposed the nature of Soviet-backed international terrorism, as well as the identities of “thousands of foreign agents – Western politicians, journalists, movie makers, military officers, and diplomats.”

The CPUSA has historically been one of the most loyal, pro-Soviet communist parties in the world and reportedly received substantial financial support from the Soviet Union. Although the CPUSA is not necessarily the preeminent communist organization on the U.S. political scene these days, it still maintains links to the Russian Communist Party and is able to organize and deploy activists in some critical election contests.

Since 1988, the CPUSA has not run its own candidates for president and vice-president, preferring instead to work through the Democratic Party. Its support for Obama in 2008 and 2012 was open and outspoken, with various CPUSA officials, including Jarvis Tyner, openly expressing support for the U.S. President and his agenda. “Better stick with him,” Tyner told me in 2010.

America’s Survival’s 2015 book on Marxist dialectics *The Sword of Revolution and the Communist Apocalypse* documents that there are literally dozens of Marxist and communist groups working in minority communities, on college campuses, and in society at large today. They include:

- Democratic Socialists of America (which backed Obama’s political career)
- Communist Party USA
- The Revolutionary Communist Party
- The League of Revolutionaries for a New America
- Socialist Workers Party
- Party for Socialism and Liberation

- Party of Communists, USA
- Labor United in Class Struggle
- U.S. Friends of the Soviet People
- Workers World Party

Some of the most important of these are the Communist Party USA, the Workers World Party (WWP) and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. They collaborate with the Russian, Chinese, North Korean, Cuban, and Iranian governments. In fact, the WWP was investigated by the House Internal Security Committee for its support of the North Korean regime and Arab terrorist groups. But the House Committee was disbanded by liberals in Congress. The WWP organized a 2014 Washington, D.C. pro-Castro event under the watchful eyes of José Ramón Cabañas, Chief of the Cuban Interests Section (and now the Embassy of Cuba). WWP operative Sara Flounders was a speaker at the 2014 “Rhodes Forum,” which is sponsored by Vladimir Putin’s close associate and former KGB official Vladimir Yakunin. It is also known as the “World Public Forum Dialogue of Civilizations.”

Bella Dodd, an organizer for the Communist Party who sat on the CPUSA’s National Council, gave a series of lectures in the 1950s, examining communist subversion of society and the Catholic Church in particular. She came back to the church, under the guidance of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, who “knew that a nominal Christian with a memory of the Cross can be easily twisted to the purposes of evil by men who masquerade as saviors.”³¹⁰ Her expertise had been in organizing teachers and professors for the communist cause. This is the subject of America’s Survival’s 2016 book *Marxist Madrassas: The Hostile Takeover of Higher Education in America*.³¹¹

We have seen a massive security meltdown under Obama. NSA leaker Edward Snowden fled to China and then Russia. His handler, writer Glenn Greenwald, has Marxist and Islamist links. He has, for example, appeared before a Muslim Brotherhood front group, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and a Marxist-Leninist conference co-sponsored by The International Socialist Organization (publisher of *Socialist Worker*). Greenwald proudly accepted “the Izzy Award” in 2014 named in honor of Soviet agent and left-wing journalist I.F. Stone.

On the other hand, anti-communism might be a problem if you want to work for the U.S. Government.

Michael J. Sulick, who worked for the CIA for 28 years, served as chief of CIA counterintelligence from 2002 to 2004, and as director of the National Clandestine Service from 2007 to 2010, insists that “Senator Joseph McCarthy’s shrill

allegations of pervasive communist infiltration of the US government denigrated scores of civil servants but again surfaced no real spies.” Sulick, author of *American Spies: Espionage against the United States from the Cold War to the Present*, says McCarthy was “discredited” and that he ran a “misguided crusade” that “raised American suspicions of government efforts to prevent foreign espionage.”

Among his targets, McCarthy, who ran the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, investigated *Amerasia*, a pro-Communist magazine, and State Department diplomat John Stewart Service, who was arrested for passing classified information to its editor. Another McCarthy target, Owen Lattimore of the Institute for Pacific Relations, was a communist who was deemed so dangerous that he should be detained in the event of a national emergency.

In fact, the late author M. Stanton Evans produced a “‘McCarthyism’ by the Numbers” table³¹² naming 50 people identified by McCarthy, his aides, or in his committee hearings, and what is now known about them, based on official records. They are Soviet agents, Communists, suspects, or persons who “took the fifth” rather than talk about communist or Soviet activities. Evans also discussed this issue in his 2009 book *Blacklisted by History: The Untold Story of Senator Joe McCarthy and His Fight against America’s Enemies*.

The parents of Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* journalist David Maraniss were among those who pled the Fifth in the 1950s. His parents were both CPUSA members. His status as a red-diaper baby explained why he passed up the opportunity back in 2008 to win another journalism award when he covered up Barack Obama’s personal relationship with communist Frank Marshall Davis. Maraniss probably decided it was better for Obama to win the presidency than for the truth to come out.³¹³

The CIA, however, is beginning to admit some errors. Former CIA historian Benjamin Fischer wrote in a 2016 article “Double Troubles: The CIA and Double Agents during the Cold War”³¹⁴ describing in some detail not only how Soviet-bloc intelligence deceived the West, but how the intelligence community did not inform Congress about the deception. Fischer explains how the KGB fed false data through dozens of double-agents as well as moles in such agencies as the CIA. His article notes: “Intelligence officers have a saying that the only thing worse than knowing there is a mole in your organization is finding the mole.”

Fischer helps set the record straight about why massive failures of intelligence or policy occur. Still, as analyst Jeff Nyquist told the author, Fischer “misses the whole

game – that the Russians had perfect cover during glasnost and perestroika to run a massive deception operation, namely the ‘collapse of communism’ deception.”

As *the New York Times* column by Masha Green suggests, the “death” of the USSR and the liberalization of Russia have to be understood as designed to allow the KGB operatives running Russia to regroup, and solidify and expand their power. This is basically the view of Anatoliy Golitsyn, the Soviet defector. Considering the nature of the deception and why the U.S. intelligence community was admittedly caught off-guard, it seems now advisable to go back and consider the outlook of James Angleton, former head of the CIA’s Counterintelligence Staff, who believed the CIA had been deeply penetrated by Soviet agents and was determined to find the Soviet “moles.” He had described Golitsyn, who was born in Ukraine, as “the most valuable defector ever to reach the West.”

Robert Buchar interviewed Tennent H. “Pete” Bagley, who became CIA chief of counterintelligence, for his documentary *The Collapse of Communism: The Untold Story*.³¹⁵ Bagley, an associate of infamous CIA counterintelligence director James Jesus Angelton, said in the film:

Golitsyn was certainly telling the truth as he knew it. And there comes the other story. Because Golitsyn had a lot of information about penetrations of Western governments, when that information was passed to the Western governments they became outraged and unhappy because no government wants to discover penetrations in its mist. It’s not in the interest of the government, it’s not in the interest of the people in power to find out they had been fooled, they had been manipulated and therefore they will take every piece of information they can to reject this.

It is beginning to dawn on some of our military and congressional leaders that we have been fooled, and that our national survival is at stake. The term, “existential threat” is being regularly used by top military officials to describe Putin’s Russia.

Before the *New York Times* ran the August 2016 article “Did the Soviet Union Really End,” Air Force General Philip M. Breedlove, NATO’s supreme allied commander for Europe and commander of U.S. European Command, provided what the Pentagon called a “command update” during a news conference at the Pentagon on June 30, 2016. Breedlove said “for the last 12 to 14 years, we’ve been looking at Russia as a partner. We’ve been making decisions about force structure, basing investments, et cetera, et cetera, looking to Russia as a partner.”³¹⁶ Bluntly speaking, he was saying that the U.S. had been caught unprepared for Russian aggression. Breedlove’s remarks constituted an acknowledgement of an intelligence failure.

Breedlove has also described the exodus of refugees from the Middle East as a form of “weaponization” used by Russia and its ally Syria to destabilize Europe,³¹⁷ a view that suggests that ISIS is part of a Russian plan.

The scope of the intelligence failure regarding Russia was addressed by the Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), who admitted to CNN’s Jake Tapper on April 12, 2016, that the U.S. government had badly “misjudged” the intentions of Putin “for many, many years.” He declared, “The biggest intelligence failure that we have had since 9/11 has been the inability to predict the leadership plans and intentions of the Putin regime in Russia.”³¹⁸

After the Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008, Rep. Nunes noted, the U.S. continued to engage diplomatically with the Russians, and “we continued to talk to the Russians, and then they invaded Eastern Ukraine.”

“We missed that,” he said. “And then we completely missed entirely when they put a new base, a new base with aircraft into the Mediterranean, into Syria. We just missed it. We were blind.”

During this period of “blindness,” the U.S. Congress passed permanent normal trade relations, or PNTR, to expand trade and aid to Russia. PNTR for Russia passed the House by a vote of 365-43 and the Senate by 92-4. The New START treaty, passed by the Senate in response to Obama’s demand, has left Russia with a nuclear weapons advantage. Meanwhile, Russia is violating the terms of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with the United States.

In his 2014 book, *A Very Principled Boy: The Life of Duncan Lee, Red Spy and Cold Warrior*, former CIA officer Mark A. Bradley tells the story of communist Duncan Lee, who infiltrated the CIA’s predecessor Office of Strategic Services (OSS) for the Soviets and was never prosecuted or convicted. Communist defector Elizabeth Bentley had exposed Lee, but he continued to deny serving the communists until his death. He was eventually exposed definitively as a Soviet agent by the Venona intercepts of Soviet messages by the NSA. One of the Venona messages named Lee, who worked directly for OSS director Donovan, by the cover name “Koch.”

Donovan had called him a “very principled boy” who would not betray his country.

The NSA intercepts were not used at the time to prosecute Lee because of the need to keep the nature and success of the surveillance a secret from the Soviets.

“The sad truth,” notes writer Mark LaRochelle, “is that Lee was just one of many identified Soviet agents in the OSS. Others, as we now know from numerous

impeccable sources, included Maurice Halperin, Carl Marzani, Franz Neumann, Helen Tenney, Julius and Bella Joseph and Lee's Oxford classmate, Donald Niven Wheeler."³¹⁹ In fact, says historian Harvey Klehr, there were at least 16 Soviet agents in the OSS.

McCarthy had been vindicated by the NSA intercepts known as Venona, the code name given to the deciphered Soviet spy communications that had been recorded during and after World War II. They were KGB and GRU messages between Moscow and the Soviet espionage network in the United States.

These included messages related to Soviet espionage efforts against U.S. atomic bomb research involving Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, Americans convicted and executed for passing nuclear weapons secrets to the Soviet Union. The National Cryptologic Museum³²⁰ features an exhibit on Venona, highlighting such traitors as State Department official Alger Hiss, Department of Justice official Judith Coplon, and Department of the Treasury official Harry Dexter White.

Tragically, however, the NSA itself has been infiltrated and compromised. Edward Snowden, now living in Moscow, looks increasingly like the NSA equivalent of Philip Agee, who defected from the CIA and became a Soviet and Cuban agent. Agee died in Havana after writing several books with the help of Cuban intelligence. Snowden, a former consultant to the CIA and NSA, has been charged with espionage.

Agee was on the board of the Organizing Committee for a Fifth Estate, an anti-intelligence group, along with such leftist notables as Marcus Raskin of the Institute for Policy Studies, and Communist ACLU official Frank Donner. The former director of the ACLU's Project on Political Surveillance, Frank Donner was a member of the Communist Party who traveled to Russia and had contacts with Russian espionage agents, according to his FBI file. He wrote several books attacking U.S. intelligence agencies, including the NSA. He especially hated the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which grilled him on his CPUSA activities. He took the Fifth. But Donner had the last laugh, as the committee and its successor, the House Committee on Internal Security, were abolished in the 1970s.

Today, the Congress has no committees, subcommittees, or panels, devoted exclusively to internal security.

"America has really dropped the ball on internal security for the last thirty years," says analyst Trevor Loudon, whose new film, *The Enemies Within* profiles 14 Senators and more than fifty Representatives.³²¹ "Could your Congressman pass an FBI background check?" is the question posed on the cover of the DVD version of

the film. In fact, however, the FBI only provides background information about federal employees, not elected officials.

Former FBI supervisor Max Noel told me that the FBI once utilized a CARL test when it conducted background checks on people for high-level positions. The acronym CARL stands for Character, Associates, Reputation, and Loyalty. No such vetting was done in Obama's case. He could never have passed. Nor could many members of Congress, including some on the intelligence oversight committees.

Loudon is suggesting passage of the Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act, to close down the activities of this particular radical Muslim organization and its front groups. He hopes that such legislation could spark creation of new congressional bodies to take internal security seriously again.

It is significant that the Council on American Islamic Relations, a Muslim Brotherhood front, has joined with communists and other radicals who also object to NSA surveillance programs. CAIR was actually part of a press conference on Capitol Hill, where it joined with a "who's who" of the far-left, including Code Pink, the Bradley Manning Support Network, the Institute for Policy Studies, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Manning is a former Army analyst who went on trial for espionage for leaking classified information to WikiLeaks and is now serving 35 years in prison.

There is a reference in former CIA director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's book, *Worthy Fights*, about his meeting with Alexander Vasilyevich Bortnikov, the head of the FSB, which was held in a building that still contained a bust of Lenin. Yet Panetta said he believed that the "superpower conflict of the Cold War" was over. There was another reference in the book to Putin and his "KGB years," having been a Soviet spy, but nothing of substance about his work in East Germany, where he had been based.

A couple of years before then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Russian reset, which failed and backfired, a very important book came out, titled, *Comrade J: The Untold Secrets of Russia's Master Spy in America After the End of the Cold War*, based on interviews with Sergei Tretyakov, the former Russian spymaster based at the U.N. Tretyakov was quoted as saying, "I want to warn Americans...You believe because the Soviet Union no longer exists, Russia now is your friend. It isn't, and I can show you how the SVR (i.e., KGB) is trying to destroy the U.S. even today and even more than the KGB did during the Cold War."

Since intelligence operations continued as if nothing had happened, after the “collapse” of the Soviet Union, why isn’t it reasonable to assume that the Russians maintained contacts with international terrorist groups? Perhaps this helps explain why Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford made it clear the military would not share intelligence with Russia as part of Obama’s new Syria policy. “The U.S. military role will not include intelligence sharing with the Russians,” he declared. At the same hearing, conducted by the Senate Armed Services Committee, Dunford labeled Moscow the “most significant challenge” to U.S. national security interests.

His warning was an indication that another “Team B” exercise, once commissioned by the CIA to conduct an alternative assessment of the threats the Soviet Union posed to the security of the United States, has to be unleashed on the intelligence community, in order to determine who blinded us and why. Did “diversity” get in the way of identifying the enemy?

At the same time, the Congress has to take its responsibilities seriously. The liberals will raise a hue and cry, and some conservatives may balk, but it is mandatory and necessary to begin addressing what an old congressional committee used to call “un-American activities” at the highest levels of the U.S. Government.