

Cold War's end brings changes

By Darren Welsh

Political science vocabulary is changing. Democracy and communism both have been bent and confused by their leaders. There is physical and ideological change taking place today, and more is on the way.

The United States has a foreign and national policy far from any true "democracy." Heavily funded "moral majority" groups are passing statutes

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on moral issues and tax breaks while "minority" organizations struggle to raise money to pass legislation or hold on to freedoms previously granted.

The Soviets have stayed as far away from true "communism," closer to the vague term totalitarianism. The people of the USSR aren't as equal as they should be in communism. Similar to the democratic example, levels of classes often determine fate.

Post World War II was the beginning of the Cold War with communism and democracy at either ends. Nearly fifty years later, the end of that war is near. The Eastern bloc in Europe is trying to change, cracking the door to "democracy."

As we have seen, the result is overwhelming. The citizens are taking more than previously imaginable. Without the military oppression used in China during the summer of 1989, the Eastern bloc change will continue whether the government likes it or not.

The face of the "communist" world will be unrecognizable by 2000. The U.S. seems destined for change, even if only in its foreign policy.

"Democracy for the World" has been the motto for years in the U.S.; The exact opposite of its enemy, the Soviets. The U.S. examples of democracy around the world are in turmoil. The U.S. "bloc" (Central America) can boast some of the most oppressive governments to date.

Nicaragua recently overthrew its "democratic" regime, but at a high cost that it is still repaying. The revolution and civil war that followed were so expensive in human and economical resources, it has managed to deter other nearby nations from following suit.

How long will the United States be able to continue on its path of "democracy?" The current Soviet example hints there is not much time left before the United States will begin to follow in the world's path of change.

Both superpowers' economies have been injured by their desire to make the world their way. America's economy has always been at an advantage, with free enterprise as the strong part of the system.

But recently the "communist" camp has addressed the burden the economy has been forced to carry while the "communist" doctrine pursued its interests in the world. The Soviets are slowing down in the race they understand is unwinnable, especially with a contender like the United States.

America's war machine has put it in debt further than any nation in world history. The military budget has not yet been seen by lawmakers as the major problem. In view of the Soviets, it seems the United States will soon begin to realize their economy is too heavily burdened. Both sides' war machines are too expensive, and not respected by their own people, let alone those it meant to "protect."

The communist ideology is in a struggle for power in Eastern Europe. It has less of a strong hold, and is beginning to allow new terms, such as "social democracy" to fall under its umbrella.

Without the catalyst to keep the U.S. Cold War machine going, the Pentagon won't be able to justify the costs as easily as they could in the past. The war machine will have to find a new enemy. "Communism" will leave our vocabulary, and

"social democracy" may be the next political term taught to be feared and studied by our youth.

The world's complex circumstances we are reading about in the newspapers today make it difficult to come up with terms to engulf and blanket as "democracy" and "communism" once did.

Post World War II politics allowed the United States and the USSR to protect their interests, while "protecting" their satellite nations, either in the name of "democracy" or "communism." The U.S. public has grown to accept military spending to combat Soviet "communism."

The term "social democracy" will be harder to sell as the aggressor. As the threat is not felt anymore by the people of America, they are going to begin to ask where the million of dollars go.

For years to come, there will be rhetoric that the Warsaw Pact is still a threat; that their reform is only strategy to weaken the NATO Alliance.

The change in the East is an example that America can also overcome its burden of bureaucracy protecting the war machine. Words like "communism" and "democracy," which blanketed interests of imperialist nations, need to be understood for what they really stand for.

Today, neither of those terms represent what they were intended for. The Soviets are letting their "communist" financial burdens go free in Eastern Europe. The Soviet concessions may seem a victory for the "moral majorities" of the United States.

It is a victory in the fight for world peace. "Democracy" needs to be the next to concede. The United States needs to work for simple terms like "freedom." Most unfortunately, freedom from unexplained spending in the name of democracy.

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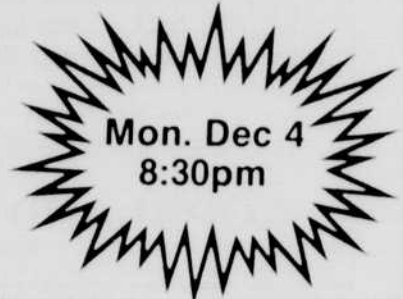
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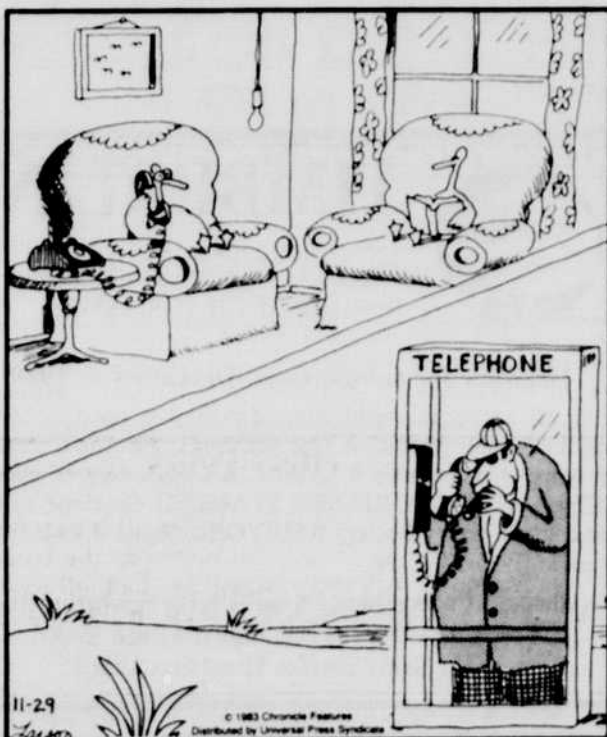


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