

any religious group other than the one which is dominant in the country. There, within the last few years, a visitor might have seen many an instance of mobs rioting against minorities which held a different religion from the dominant one, destroying property and even cruelly torturing human beings -- all with the tacit approval of government authorities who made little effort to enforce law and order. Even today one can go to the Province of Quebec, and try there to preach the Gospel of Christ on the street corners, and see how quickly he will land in jail, if he is not actually stoned first. Or he can go to Italy, and see Protestant churches closed by state officials, and learn that in that country many educated men are legally forbidden to support themselves by any occupation that would bring them in contact with the public, simply because they have chosen to change their religion. In Spain he would find even greater restrictions upon freedom of religion. Religious oppression is not a thing of the past. It exists today in many areas.

In that large section of the world which is today dominated by Communism, the claim is made that religious oppression is not a factor. Yet brain washings and brutal attempts to enforce uniformity of ideology are every-day occurrences in all Communist countries, since the Communist party is dedicated to the objective of compelling, not merely passive submission to its dictates, but active acceptance of its viewpoints, on the part of all the people under its sway. In fact, Communism, for all its talk about democracy, has produced a tyranny which would be hard to duplicate in past history.

We in America are very familiar with the danger of Communism and it is well that we do everything possible to guard against its attempts to overthrow our nation. This, however, must not blind us to other dangers.