

Can the Ideologies of East and West Coexist?

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It is sometimes said that the world today is divided into two great sections, East and West. Actually these terms are a misnomer. There is nothing particularly eastern about the viewpoint that is represented today by the masters of Soviet Russia and of Red China. The ideology upon which it is based came from the West, from Marx and Engels (with the additions of Lenin). On the other hand, the so-called western nations are those which are built upon the principles of Christian civilization, and these principles came from the East.

However, the ideologies which today are generally in control of these two great sections of the world are sharply separated from one another. Distinctive of the ideology which is today described as western are the statements contained in the American Declaration of Independence. This Declaration based its position upon certain great principles which it summarized in these words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Thus the government of the United States is founded squarely upon the principle of individual freedom. It declares that this freedom is not innate, but is something with which man has been endowed by his Creator. It is thus a government which is based upon the principle of divine control and authority, and upon the belief that this divine control has given certain rights to the individual members of society which no government has a right to take away.