

Stunning Parallels Between Obama's America and Communist Hungary

Thoughts of a Hungarian ex-pat

Date: June 17, 2010

My name is Steve and I feel compelled to write about my approximate 20 years of experience growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in communist Hungary. The reason is that the parallel, in terms of the trends between Obama's America and my experience in communist Hungary, is shockingly similar. The US is not a communist country (at least not yet) but the path they are on *may* lead to communism via different degrees of socialism. Socialism is only the precursor of communism if the leaders truly believe in the Marxist concept of reengineering society.

I was born in Hungary to middle class parents during World War II. After the war my father, a newly graduated lawyer, could not practice law due to the significant changes in the law of the land. He was not considered a member of the working class, or proletariat, and was viewed by some officials as the 'enemy of the working class.' As a result, he had meager means to support our family. I clearly remember getting poorer and poorer after the 1948 communist takeover. In 1948, during the transition year, I attended a private school run by French Catholic priests but at the end of the school year the communist government closed the school.

After the communist takeover I remember experiencing living in fear, increasing poverty and at times not having even sufficient basics of life such as food. I clearly remember my fear about the consequences of even accidentally hearing or listening to a political joke about comrade Matyas Rakosi who was the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Party in the 1950s or our 'father,' comrade Stalin, the collectivized farms and generally the communist party.

Studying the Russian language was compulsory beginning in grade five until the completion of grade eight. In school all students disliked taking the forced Russian language passionately mostly due to political reasons but nobody dared to speak up. If I had spoken openly against anything remotely related to the ideology of the system, its leaders or its ways my parents would have had a great deal of trouble. The studying of the Russian language continued in all four grades of high school. All in all, Russian language was compulsory for all students for at least eight years, in addition to two years in university studies.

In communist Hungary education (including university education) was either free or inexpensive. The problem was that there were far too many students wanting to get into post-secondary education than the universities could accommodate. As a result one had to take a qualifying entry exam. The evaluation as to who got in and who did not was based partly on academic achievements in high school but other factors were considered a great deal usually by the university administration (the schools and universities were owned by the government). Many of the accepted came from working class or poor peasant environment with a background loyal to the communist regime. After the 1956 Hungarian revolution the criteria has been somewhat relaxed (as they said: 'Hungary became the freest cell in the prison') and the academic background was then considered more heavily as compared to the applicants' class background. This is how the university accepted me in 1960.

During my studies at the university I had to take eight compulsory semesters of Marxism-Leninism, Political Economics, Scientific Socialism, Dialectical Materialism and Socialist Realism. Socialist Realism is a communist art form that I have begun to see in various pictorial representations of president Obama. I am specifically talking about American union posters and also the way Obama is shown in pictures and TV appearances, chin up with a defying look in his eyes, which reminds me of the way Lenin, Stalin, Marx and Engels were shown on those communist propaganda posters in communist Hungary.

All the studies emphasized Marxist principles, the roles of the unions, the economic principles of a socialist/communist form of state and the philosophy behind the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin. Although we were young and impressionable, we, the students, instinctively sensed the fallacy and the lies in these studies. As far as I can remember most of the students went through these studies routinely just to be able to pass the exams. However, many years later - now - when I listen to Obama's speeches, terms used and rhetoric, I remember those concepts and theories and I can easily connect the dots. This president is basing his presidency on many of the very same communist and Marxist principles I studied years ago in my university studies.

Now I would like to share some points as to why I think America is rapidly morphing into socialism, which, if the American people are not vigilant, could lead to communism. I will refer to some events/actions/experiences of mine, I will paraphrase quotes and highlight directions and statements of politicians in Obama's America and I will relate those to my experiences in communist Hungary.

I am scared at this turn of events because in my wildest imagination I could not anticipate that this may happen in America. I lived in the US for a number of years, although now I reside in Canada. The US was always my ideal for personal freedom, entrepreneurship and free market economy, opportunities, human rights, ability to assemble, freedom of speech and so much more. While living in communist Hungary I looked towards America as a beacon of hope for me and for others. I am deeply worried that these rights are gradually being dismantled and one day the American people will wake up to find that their rights are severely curtailed while the state intrudes into almost every aspect of their lives as I experienced in communist Hungary.

Here are some of the parallels.

- Distribution of wealth.

Candidate Obama, president Obama as well as several people in his inner circle referred to the 'redistribution of wealth' many times. The 'distribution of wealth' is a term straight from the 'Das Kapital' by Karl Marx and it provides ideological direction on how to handle the wealth of the 'enemies of the working class' or the 'bourgeoisie,' the term also used in the 'Das Kapital'. I have direct personal experience on how communist Hungary treated my great aunt who was married to a very well off doctor. After the communist takeover all her personal wealth was taken away and she was banned from Budapest for a number of years, essentially exiled to the countryside when she was more than 70 years old (does she seem like an 'enemy of the working class'?). She and her husband worked hard over a lifetime for what they achieved and she ended up penniless living in a strange and unfamiliar, if not hostile environment.

Their only sin was that they were well off (not extremely wealthy) and because of that they were declared the 'enemy of the working class' in what Karl Marx called 'class warfare.'

This concept is already being implemented in Obama's America, however, it is more gradual and not as extended yet as it was in communist Hungary because America has the 200+ years of tradition of law and property rights. The Obama administration cannot do it openly. Obama resorts to various bills, taxation, spending and handouts and favors to special interest groups hoping that his one-party super-majority will pass what he wants in both houses of Congress. This is a form of dictatorship with a not-so-benevolent dictator.

The examples are the Health Care bill, the proposed Financial Regulations, the proposed Cap and Trade bill, the proposed Card Check bill and so on. Every initiative is designed to take over a certain segment of the industry and favor special interest groups, a trademark of socialism and communism (in socialism the 'means of production' owned by the state while communism is a classless society without 'class warfare').

These are all measures to redistribute the wealth to special interest groups in America such as the labor unions. For example the militant government employees' union, the SEIU with over 2 million public sector employees and many other activist groups (e.g., ACORN) are working to dismantle the system, which made America great.

- Cult of personality.

In communist Hungary we saw everywhere the pictures of comrade Matyas Rakosi and comrade Stalin. I noticed that president Obama is on the television every time I turn it on. In his first year he had more than 400 speeches and small children in school are brainwashed by chanting that president Obama is 'our father.' Interestingly, in communist Hungary, Matyas Rakosi was also called 'our father' implying that he knew what was best for us, the people.

I feel that the Obama administration is on the same path: their actions imply that they think they know better what the American people want than the American people themselves. They clearly see themselves as the intellectual elite who have to decide for the average Americans because they do not know what they want – unmistakable sign of a narcissistic dictator such as Hitler and Stalin. For example, the majority of the American people were against the Democrats' Health Care bill, yet the absolute majority of both houses rammed the bill down the throat of the American people. In the House the bill passed with very little majority despite the very high Democrat majority advantage. This is a complete disregard of the wishes of the constituency. However, the rhetoric is completely the opposite. These corrupt politicians say they do it for the people (father knows best?) when in reality it is only to establish their complete control over the people, just like what I experienced in communist Hungary.

- Government lies about economic/social/political status of the country.

In Hungary the state had several five-year plans and at the end of each plan cycle the communist government provided statistics to support the claim that all areas of the plan had been overachieved. However, in reality, goods were absent from stores and if the word came that some popular item was in the store a long line of people would be waiting to get into the store to buy the item. This is what central planning did to the country.

In Obama's America this is not the case yet because not all of the economy is centrally planned although we may be on our way to achieve that if Obama is allowed to follow his ideology. Some large segments of the economy are already under the control of the federal government. Now the Obama administration dictates operational aspects for those companies. This is exactly what we had in communist Hungary. The only difference was that it was not as transparent as it is in the US. However, I can see signs. For example Robert Gibbs already made statements that reporters were asking 'too many questions' about how BP was handling the Gulf oil spill. To me this is a direction towards more secrecy and control of information, which we were completely accustomed to in communist Hungary. In communist Hungary the only news one could get was through government controlled radio, TV and news media so the news was completely slanted to the purpose of the Hungarian Communist party.

This is another parallel to Obama's America. Most of the news media are already biased towards the Obama administration and this is a very alarming development. Currently the White House is in the process of creating its own News Corps to further control the flow of information. Even the mainstream media will be irrelevant and untrustworthy if Obama can fully implement his media control plan.

- Low tolerance threshold for opposing opinions and views.

In the early-to-mid 1950s Hungary was under the grip of a cruel communist terror. Nobody dared to criticize the government and the ruling class a.k.a. special interest groups, government personalities, union leaders, communist party members, party leaders and especially Matyas Rakosi who was the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Party. People disappeared without a trace even if there was no proof against them. They were not given fair trials. The word of a communist informer was enough to convict people. My father's cousin, a middle-class person, was convicted by manufactured evidence and was sentenced to three years' hard labor in a northern Hungary mine. After three years he came back a broken man, his life was completely ruined.

The Obama administration has a very low threshold towards opposing views. The examples coming to mind are the demonization of certain news media, the Tea Party movement and the Arizona anti-illegal immigration law, just to mention a few. The condescending behavior of White House spokesperson Robert Gibbs towards the news corps that questions the actions of the Obama administration is an outrage. He, and generally some members of the Obama administration seem to follow the advice of Saul Alinsky's book, 'Rules for Radicals': "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon."

Certainly Mr. Gibbs does a great deal of ridiculing instead of information providing, but we find this type of behavior at times in president Obama's speeches and interactions as well.

- The average person's fear of government, police.

I would like to focus on my experience in communist Hungary regarding my fear of the government, police and communist organizations' intimidation practices at the workplace. If the police stopped people they had to provide their ID booklet showing a whole slew of personal information. If one did not have the ID to show, the person then was taken to the police station. This was also the case if the person had an ID but the ID did not show a valid workplace or a place where the person lived. The place of living had to be registered with the police in case of any address change.

The government could have trumped up a charge against anybody so the people just kept a low profile trying to avoid any situation of differences with the government. Assembly and demonstration was unheard of, the right of strike was not permitted according to the government because the union was the people and the people should not strike against themselves.

In Obama's America we are not stopped by the police yet, however, the fear of the people from government, the militant and aggressive unions, the increasing control of the IRS and the increasing control of the growing federal bureaucracy is very obvious. What I hear is that the government plans to hire 16,000 additional IRS agents to police the individual's compliance to the newly passed Health Care bill. This is a process gaining momentum because the federal bureaucracy, once it is on the growth path, can only justify its existence by growth. Obama is determined to gradually and significantly grow the federal government to increase its control over the people. This is also one of the characteristics of a socialist or communist state.

The 1956 Hungarian revolution was an elementary force against communist oppression. I could compare the Hungarian revolution to the Tea Party movement. Both represent the wish of the people and both are (were) a grassroots movement. The only difference being is the fact that in America the Tea Party movement is a very peaceful one. At first both the ruling Democrats in Congress and the Obama administration ridiculed the Tea Party movement (remember Saul Alinsky?) but later they had to realize the strength of this movement and the fact that they have to deal with it.

The Obama Democrat majority in both houses of the Congress currently is nothing but a dictatorship disguised under the veil of democracy. This has been very clear during the passing of the Health Care bill by the House (backroom deals, bribery, etc.). The Senate earlier could only pass the bill by having the absolute 60-senator majority. It clearly shows that 'power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely.' What happened in the case of passing the Health Care bill is no different than passing a bill in dictatorial Zimbabwe or in communist Hungary.

The following items are not explained in great detail, so I am just showing them to remind the reader that these were some of the characteristics of communist Hungary and that there are also more and more visible signs of communism in Obama's America.

- Forced recruiting to various socialist/communist organizations (aggressive labor unions, proposed Card Check, etc.).
- 'World proletariat unite'

This slogan comes from Karl Marx and I heard it in communist Hungary all the time. Socialism needs worldwide domination otherwise the capital moves to non-socialist countries, like America. Socialist Europe, Russia, China would like to see America on the path to socialism. Example: Andy Stern, president of SEIU said several times that workers of the world should unite. He also said: "We will use the power of persuasion and if that does not work we will use the persuasion of power." This is clearly the concept the communists followed in communist Hungary after the 1948 takeover.

- Single party system (this is how the Health Care bill was passed).
- The government involvement of everyday politics to strengthen its power base.

The White House's meddling in elections and at first denying its involvement and later providing the truth bit by bit. Examples: government jobs offered to congressman Joe Sestak of PA, former congressman Andrew Romanoff of CO and of course the infamous ex-governor Rod Blagojevich case in IL that finally reached the trial phase.

- The use of Value Added Tax (VAT)

This may come to America sooner than one may expect it. When I bought an item in communist Hungary the displayed price was what I had to pay, no taxes were shown. However, the taxes were included invisibly and one did not know how much these taxes were and for what reasons. VAT increased the prices, made manufacturers less competitive but this did not matter since all production in communist Hungary was subsidized by the state. Various news sources, pundits and commentators are already talking about the coming VAT. Considering the level of debt the introduction of VAT is not only possible but also probable. It is only a matter of time. The government will need more revenue to cover the payments for the huge debt and for the reduction of it, if they have the will to do that.

- Devil is in the detail.

Generally communists and the Obama administration as well are very good at introducing a small measure and using it to justify certain undesirable politics and policies. Example: a small tax cut in 2010 touted as a major achievement, while subsequent tax increases in subsequent years are not mentioned. Obama is talking about the 2010 tax cut as a major achievement when in reality the huge deficit, debt and possible inflation will heavily burden the American taxpayers in the years to come. It is interesting to note here that only approximately one-half of the taxpayers pay taxes while the other half does not.

The new taxation methods are also part of the 'redistribution of the wealth' scheme and it will create an increasing number of the masses to depend on government handouts as well as fan the fire of 'class warfare,' a favorite Karl Marx term.

I experienced this type of distortions in communist Hungary. Also, creating division between the classes (constantly referring to 'class warfare') is one technique the communists in Hungary used well to control the people. By making people dependent on government handouts essentially diminished the people's initiative and ability to create a better life for themselves.

Some comments about what is happening the way I see it.

I have been talking about the huge problems Americans would face in the future since the time the Democrat party nominated Obama for the presidency about two years ago. I grew up in communist Hungary and what I hear and observe remind me of the government's behavior there. I am talking about the ambiguous terms used, the half-truths, the distortion of information, the secrecy, the withholding of critical information, the secret backroom deals and the favoring of special interest groups such as unions and people of the inner circle. I relate the Communist Party Central Committee to the Obama-appointed czars who have no accountability but can control the lives of millions in many different ways.

It seems that anytime I turn the television on, Obama is making a speech (remember the cult of personality?). I relate this to the activity of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela who every Sunday addresses his nation for four or five hours. In communist Hungary we were required to go to rallies organized by the various union and communist organizations where we listened to speeches about the superiority of the socialist system.

During the Health Care bill debate Obama said that Americans did not understand what the bill would provide for them and that he needed to talk more to them. He made over 400 speeches in his first year as president. The problem was with the content of the message and not the amount of talking.

I also find that Obama has great difficulty if someone disagrees with him. This I could even observe on the television when someone asks a difficult question (could this be the reason why he did not have a press conference for nearly ten months?). Thank God the US is not there yet because she has a more than a 200-year old legal system in place. If that legal system weakens, Obama could shut down center-right TV and radio stations just the same way as Hugo Chavez did in Venezuela or communist Hungary did shortly after the 1948 communist takeover. The Obama administration is already talking about Net-Neutrality to control the Internet and also the Fairness Doctrine requiring that all media outlets employ both sides of the political spectrum evenly. This is totally anti-American and based on dictate and not on free market.

Obama's agenda is to socialize the major components of the American industry (health care, banking, automobile, energy and so forth), He is roughly one-sixth or more of the way there already after a short 18 months in office by having 61% of the automobile industry in federal ownership. The Health Care bill most likely will lead eventually to a single payer system. Obama's next agenda may be Cap and Trade and immigration (not necessarily in that order), which will socialize the energy sector and immigration.

Amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants will essentially increase the Democrats' voter base by many millions of people while American taxpayers foot the bill to pay for all of the support services for these illegal immigrants. This plan, I have to agree, is brilliant and also diabolical.

When Obama was elected I told my wife: where am I going to defect now? This sounds a bit unreal and unwarranted but I meant it seriously. Obama is dismantling at a fast pace most everything that historically made America great. My hope is that on November 2nd Obama will lose both houses of the Congress. I do not need to remind the reader what happened in New Jersey, Virginia and most of all, Massachusetts. Obama then will be forced to really try to govern - and not dictate - based on true bi-partisanship, which he promised many times when he was a candidate but as a president he did not keep. He also needs to moderate his extreme views if he really wants to achieve bi-partisanship participation.

Obama promised to be the great unifier. Karl Marx referred to 'class warfare' frequently and the need to eliminate it. This was one of the tenets of his philosophy. However, Obama's real interest is to divide Americans so he can portray himself as the one who will fix or eliminate the 'class warfare' problem. President Obama's current opposition to the Arizona immigration law is another example of fanning the fires of 'class warfare'. In reality he will need ongoing 'class warfare' possibly stronger than ever so he would have an excuse to take more and more control of America in order to 'fix' the problems. This is indeed a vicious circle tailor-made for Obama's agenda. The way he has managed to alienate Whites, Hispanics, Blacks, Christians, and Jews is unprecedented. When all else fails Obama brings in the race card, which, in the long run, creates a divided America.

Obama's foreign policy is greatly flawed. He seems to want to build bridges to America's arch enemies (while they shun his administration) and seems to tear down existing bridges to allies such as the UK, Israel, Poland and the Czech Republic, to mention a few. Obama is inept in the way he handles North Korean aggression and Iran's building of nuclear weapons. This aspect is the only non-parallel between communist states and Obama's America. Communist states aggressively 'protect' their countries against any and all perceived 'aggression' by politicizing their action as a defense against world imperialism.

In summary, the American people elected a president who:

1. Follows communist and Marxist ideology (see the points in this article).
2. Is set to socialize large segments of the American industry (GM, AIG, Health Care).
3. Wants to introduce Cap and Trade tax, which is based on global warming theory, a false science according to many world famous scientists (this would be another way of socializing part of the industry and redistribute wealth).
4. Has no experience in managing organizations, people or a business (his only past experiences are community organizing, short time state senator and part time US senator for less than two years).
5. Has questionable past associations with shady people and organizations (Tony Rezko, Pastor Jeremiah Wright, William Ayers, a past member of the radical Weather Underground terrorist organization).
6. Allows questionable practices in the Executive Branch of the government of America (unlawful job offers to congressman Joe Sestak and former congressman Andrew Romanoff, his association with former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich is not yet clear, and allowed shady practices in the Congress during the Health Care debate).

7. Assumes a position on immigration, which does not help solve the immigration problem (condemns the Arizona immigration law mirroring the currently existing federal law, ambiguous and seemingly undecided about what he wants to do with the large number of illegal immigrants in the country, and is slow and vacillating to expeditiously and effectively work on securing the US-Mexican border).
8. At times uses crisis to implement his policies (Rahm Emanuel made a statement a few months ago about not allowing a crisis to go to 'waste').
9. Has no will and capability to lead (Gulf oil disaster, approximately three-month delay in sending the 'surge' troops to Afghanistan, voted as a US senator against the 'surge' in Iraq – could not envision the success of the 'surge').
10. Follows a foreign policy direction, which makes America appear to be weak (North Korea, Iran, radical Islam, plan is still open whether to have the trial of KSM and his associates in New York – in my estimation the American people feel less secure than before his presidential term; also has conflicting messages about the support of Israel).
11. Is not willing to identify and name some of America's enemies by name (Joe Brennan has stated several times that the government would not use the term 'jihad' because 'jihad' is a personal internal struggle and also they would not use the term 'radical Islam' because Islam is a religion and they do not want to offend a religion).
12. At times distances himself from the military (did not visit Arlington cemetery on Memorial Day 2010).

This essay was developed in an effort to awaken the American people to the very real danger America is currently facing. The American people have never had to live under communism, nazism, Sharia law or any other dictatorship and consequently have taken their freedom for granted. I hope and pray that the American people will have the strength to reverse the path towards communism and take back their country.

God bless you all and God bless America,

Steve, a Hungarian ex-pat