

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

Ukrains'kyi holos (Proskuriv/Khmel'nyts'kyi), no. 37 (271), 6 May 1943, 3.

The Holocaust in Ukraine – Christian Leaders

Translation: D06 Archbishop Polikarp (Sikorsky) of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church denounces the Jews (25 March 1943)

An epistle from His Eminence Polikarp, Metropolitan-Administrator of the Holy Orthodox Ukrainian Church to all the Clergy and Faithful

By God's grace, humble Polikarp, metropolitan-administrator

Dear children!

"See that you are not led astray" (Luke 11:8)¹, "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them." (Ephesians 5:6-7).

Many times have I addressed you, my dearest children, in this time of frightful conflict in the Ukrainian lands, which has been dragging on for close to two years. Now that this battle between two worlds – the Christian-European world, under the leadership of the German nation, and the Jewish-communist world, which has taken control of Russia and forged an alliance with the international capitalists – has entered, as all signs indicate, its final stage, I am addressing you once again with an important message. It was historic fate that the fall of Poland, in September 1939, should make us, in Volhynia and Polesia, understand the true meaning of Bolshevism. Many of those who had been imprisoned for "communism" under Polish rule opened their eyes to the horrors of Bolshevik Jewish rule. With hope and supplication, people turned their eyes to the West, whence they expected liberation. God's providence had mercy on us and our brothers, who had been suffering and perishing in the Bolshevik hell in Eastern Ukraine for over 20 years, and sent us liberation. There was great joy then, if you recall, and a sense of the significance of that historic moment in the life of our people.

But the struggle against the Bolsheviks, who were driven back far eastwards, has turned out to be more difficult than it seemed at first. The Judeo-communists, reinforced by the armed Jewish plutocracy of America and England, and with the peoples of the USSR, who have been terrorized for 25 years, in their firm grasp, send these masses of people into the fierce battles for Judeo-communist world domination.

The fighting on all military fronts is accompanied by many other forms of warfare which the Bolsheviks do not hesitate to employ. For instance, the entire world knows of the prosecution and annihilation of the holy Church and religion in the USSR, of the many archpastors and pastors tortured in the cold northern woods, in the steps of Kazakhstan, in the Chekists' prisons and dungeons. But now Judeo-communist propaganda loudly proclaims the freedom of church and religion under the Bolsheviks, and spreads flyers with patriotic slogans, signed by the Muscovite metropolitan Sergii, the Kyivan metropolitan Nioklai and the old-faith archbishop Irinarkh.

The Judeo-communist propaganda is particularly effective in the underground, in the wide expanses of land that have been liberated from bolshevism. Its aim is the total

¹ Actually Luke 21:8 – translator's note.

disorganization of economic and social life through the underground. Everyone understands what this kind of disorganization means for the armed front of the conflict. That is why in this underground activity, too, all available means are employed. Communists, purposely left behind by the Reds during their retreat, saboteurs sent across the frontline, local elements hostile to the German and Ukrainian peoples, all these have created and are creating gangs which carry out their destructive work through the underground, meanwhile plundering and murdering the peaceful population. But whenever this red banditry does not produce the results expected by the Bolsheviks, the Judeo-communist propaganda turns to other means. If you, in a conflict with the civilized Christian world, can pretend to also be religious, if you can hide behind the name of "holy Rus" and invoke, for the protection of Judeo-communism, the shadows of St. Alexander Nevsky, Dmitry Donskoi and others, then why not appropriate, why not recruit to your help and service Ukrainian nationalism.

Of course, the fraternal graves of the thousands of young Ukrainians who were tortured to death by the Bolsheviks in the prisons of Western Ukraine in June, 1941, are still quite recent, the mothers still cry and weep over their children, and in many families the heart still aches at the mention of the suffering of their dear ones, deported by the Bolsheviks to faraway, cold and hungry foreign lands. But time runs its course, current events arouse new sentiments, a war as massive as the present one has its own crude laws, it requires sacrifices from everyone in one way or another, it puts off till later time a whole number of issues, however serious they may be.

Among those who do not look far ahead, particularly among the hot-headed youths, this state of affairs causes sentiments of discontent, of impulsiveness. It is these kind of sentiments that make the propaganda hostile to our people thrive, that let it aggravate, incite, exaggerate, unnerve, instigate... and drive our youth under the guise of nationalist struggle into the woods, where the Bolshevik gangs await them in their hideouts.

My dearest children! In this massive, frightful struggle which is raging in our lands between the German army and its allies, and the dreadful, godless, inhuman Bolshevism, you can either be on one side or on the other. Any other position is ruled out. If the "nationalists", agitated by the adroit Bolshevik propaganda, believe they are against the Bolsheviks, that is a bitter fallacy, for anyone who disorganizes life through the underground and obstructs the struggle against the Bolsheviks, in so doing helps the Bolsheviks and takes their side. To mobilize all anti-Bolshevik forces for the struggle against Bolshevism – that is our mission, for on the victory over Judeo-communism the survival of the Ukrainian people depends.

Whoever thinks otherwise, let him know what is told by the refugees from areas that have been abandoned by the Germans and recaptured by the Bolsheviks. They tell of a dreadful terror by the NKVDists. That is why masses of people are making their way across the wild fields left behind by the war, over the erased roads of the Don and Donets regions, in the wake of the German army towards the West. They run from that army, in whose ranks their fathers, husbands and brothers are fighting and perishing, as from the plague. Why? Because they know that the army is followed by the NKVD, led by the Judeo-communists.

Do you wish to turn your land into a wilderness, through the anarchy of the underground, paving the way to the West for the Bolsheviks? Have you forgotten about the spitefulness and furious vengeance of the Jewry, which has all but destroyed our people during the 20 years of its reign over Greater Ukraine and was about to destroy it in Western Ukraine? Do you really harness the unnatural wish to destroy your own people?

Nay, it cannot be. It is the blindness of a mind, clouded by blind leaders. “And if the blind lead the blind,” said Christ, “both will fall into a pit.” (Matthew 15:14). But still more the spread of anarchy through the underground is the doing of communism. And that which the holy apostle said about his time fully pertains to our time: “For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.” (Titus 1:10)².

Unity against the Bolshevik front, in all aspects of life connected to the struggle between both worlds, is the pressing exigency of our time. Any refusal to support the forces that wage an armed struggle against Bolshevism comes down to support for the Bolshevik forces. And when our people believe only those who speak badly of work in Germany, and evade the recruiting commissions, the men in the Moscow Kremlin wring their hands in delight over the reports of such sabotage. The troops on the battlefield can now only win with the support of the workers. That is why the worker at his workbench is needed as much as the warrior at the front, and his combat mission in the struggle against Bolshevism is as honorable as that of the soldier. So if the Ukrainians, as a nation, consider themselves part of the anti-Bolshevik front, there can be no such reckless attitude towards work in Germany. Or does anyone want himself or his children to travel to the lumber mills in the faraway taiga of Siberia or Arkhangelsk? For that is what will happen if, may God forbid, Bolshevism prevails.

My dearest children! In this extraordinarily significant historic moment, when the fate of peoples is weighted, the fate of civilization itself, I call on you to come to your senses, to resist being fooled by deceitful words, to wisely contemplate the position of our people. I call on you, my children, to understand that we must make all the sacrifices required of us, so that Bolshevism, dreadful for us and all of humankind, may be overcome. That is why our duty for both the self-preservation of our people and a brighter future for us as a nation and all of civilized mankind is not passive hiding-away or, oh horror, spreading anarchy in social and economic life, but rather, full active support in all possible ways for the German authorities. I call on you, fathers and mothers, to offer up your sons and daughters in view of these considerations and intentions and purposes. I call on you, young men, not to let the voice of the sometimes disgruntled heart take control of you, to be guided by the voice of higher reason about the future of our people, test those who beguile or command you – “whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1).

I call on the most honorable clergy to fearlessly explain to their congregation the extraordinary significance of this moment and to influence them with their authority... Oh Lord! Save Your people and bless Your legacy...

Polikarp.

Issued in the God-kept town of Lutsk in Volhynia in the year of the Lord 1943, on the 25th day of the month March.

Translated by Tobias Wals

² Sic, actually Titus 1:10-11 – translator’s note.