

Wishing We Were Wrong

We've heard it a million times: We're too negative; we think we're always right. Well, let's make a clean breast of it and admit our guilt. After all, the charges are true: We "right-wing extremists" are a gloomy, overbearing lot. Just when the world is reveling in the "outbreak of peace," we go and spoil it all by asking for a definition of "peace," and wondering aloud if we weren't better off when we treated our new "friends" as enemies.

How can we overlook the reassuring signs of glasnost and perestroika, the dramatic "elections" in Poland, and the unwonted tolerance of Chinese officials toward the student protestors in Tiananmen Square? Okay, so that last phenomenon didn't last long, but surely the sudden reversion to savage violence is just an aberration, right?

Again and Again

Actually, that little process of liberalization-repression has been played out several times in this century. Thus, while we deplore the recent barbarity of the Chinese Communists, we don't find it all that surprising. In fact, we "extremists" predicted it. And we can predict that the vaunted era of glasnost will be short-lived as well. The rumblings from Washington about the possibility of Gorbachev being ousted by Soviet hard-liners (conservatives, they're called) are no doubt meant to prepare us for the coming Soviet repression. But we didn't need James Baker to tip us off to this likely turn of events.

It doesn't take a degree in psychology to know that the desire for

freedom is part of human nature, and that people deprived of it, unless kept in a state of terror, will seek to throw off their oppression. Thus, every generation or so, any totalitarian regime intent on perpetuating itself must flush out those individuals most likely to

participate in a rebellion—and eliminate

*We know we're right —
but we wish we were
wrong. Really.*

them.

They do this by making a pretense of "liberalization." When this process has continued long enough to persuade a captive populace of its potential for success, anyone drawn out into the open by the "movement" is seized and executed. It's happened before; it'll happen again.

Sick and Tired

Did we want the protests in Beijing to end as they did? Of course not. We would have loved to have shared the baseless optimism of "positive-thinking" liberals. We would have loved to have admitted the error in our assertion that the "liberalization" in China was but the latest stitch in a pattern of treachery. How can there be any satisfaction in heralding such misery? What joy can there be in knowing that dire warnings have been warranted?

You see, what "right-wing extremists" want most of all is to have some cause for celebration. We want to be proven wrong. We're sick and tired of being negative; we're sick and tired of being right. It's no fun knowing that Communists, having murdered millions of people, will murder millions more as long as they can get away with it. It's no fun knowing that the American politicians, financiers, and industri-

alists who have contributed to the support of murderous tyrants long for the day when they can be as ruthless.

Say It Isn't So

Somehow we just can't bring ourselves to believe that Gorbachev is a great reformer. We are disinclined to revel in the "democratization" of Poland. Even before the slaughter of unarmed civilians, we could not take comfort in the latest "liberalization" of Communist China. And we will never be convinced that American support for totalitarian regimes will do anything but prolong the misery of millions of captive people. We would honestly prefer that our pessimism were unfounded. We wish that we were wrong. We really do. ■

