THE COMMUNIST THREAT

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A completely secular culture will result if communism (China and Russia) prevails. The purging of faith perspectives from a completely secular culture can be previewed in China’s treatment of the Muslim Uyghurs (over one million “concentrated” in “re-education centers”).

The demolition or “rectification” of mosques and shrines is being ramped up across China, with 16,000 damaged or destroyed in Xinjiang alone, according to the ASPI. Cemeteries have also been bulldozed, leaving bone fragments protruding from the russet earth. In Linxia, Gansu province, a city once nicknamed Little Mecca, the elaborate dome and minarets of Tiejia mosque were demolished last year for seeming too “Arabic,” say locals, and the call to prayer forbidden as a “public nuisance.” Although the elderly can still worship, police bar children from entering the mosque. In the Silk Road oasis town of Hotan, the main mosque has been razed and cabbages now grow in its place. “It’s a wretched thing,” says a passing neighbor. AI-powered facial-recognition cameras enable predictive policing in what Amnesty International calls a “dystopian hellscape.” Wearing a slightly longer dress, or forgetting to shave, is enough to flag the surveillance algorithm, according to recently leaked internal files, possibly resulting in detention. (Campbell, Charlie. “How Beijing Is Redefining What It Means to Be Chinese, from Xinjiang to Inner Mongolia.” *Time*.*com*. 12 July 2021. 17 July 2021. Web.)

Tibetan Buddhists fare little better:

. . . there’s been a renewed focus on separating “religion from life.” Tibetan society is divided into a “grid system” of five to 10 households, each with a nominated representative responsible for political activities forced to keep track of individuals via an integrated electronic system. Cadres are installed in every monastery or religious institution, while “convenience police posts” at road junctions track the populace. Across Tibet, “transformation through education” facilities targeting monks and nuns for “correction” have produced reports of torture and sexual abuse that mirror testimony from the Xinjiang camps. Inmates are forced to denounce the Dalai Lama and learn CCP [Chinese Communist Party] propaganda by rote in a bid to obliterate memory of a time before party control. (Campbell)

Because of advances in science and technology from 1600-2000, current Western civilization is at the forefront of the turn from regional cultures to a global culture. The global culture a century from now may well be predominantly Western culture. I certainly hope so: I want human rights and democracy to prevail. But surveillance and tracking technologies developed in the last 30 years increasingly favor a totalitarian state.