

# Communism Studied in All But One Colorado College

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Colorado universities and colleges, little by little, are telling their students about communism. This was shown in a Denver Post survey of directors of the state's 13 main institutions of higher learning.

Some of the colleges and universities are going into detail in their courses of instruction on communism and the Soviet Union. Others are presenting little more than a "general introduction" to Communist activities and ideologies.

### CALLED BEST DEFENSE

But only one—an engineering school—teaches nothing about communism.

Some fighters of communism feel the best defense of American

democracy against the Reds will be effected through education of Americans about communism, communistic methods, ideologies and goals.

This education can best be attained, many of these persons feel, through college and university courses that delve deep into communism, baring and explaining the evils of Redism as compared with the democracy of the United States.

Most directors of Colorado colleges and universities, the survey showed, feel that way.

At the University of Denver, "substantial portions" of the instruction in several courses "is devoted to explanation of the Communist ideology and comparison of this form of government with democracy," Chancellor Chester M. Alter said.

### "SHOP COMPETITOR"

"There are strong reasons for our belief that higher education, particularly in the liberal arts, must not fail to include such instruction," the chancellor said.

"Businessmen find it valuable to 'shop the competitor'—to study

his methods and his product. Football coaches study the plays of their opponents. Generals analyze the strategies of opposing armies. Diplomats study the philosophies, economics and politics of other nations.

"In every field of competitive human endeavor we have learned that it is not enough to know ourselves; it is imperative to know our competitors—and as thoroughly as possible.

"The more we understand about the methods and the strengths and the weaknesses of communism—as compared with those of democracy—the greater will be our advantage in the struggle to live in peace or to survive in war."

### RED VIEW ANALYZED

At Regis College in Denver, two specific courses in communism are presented. One deals with the practical implications of communism, the other is ordained to the theoretical analysis of communism.

Also, the communistic view on the subject at hand is discussed in philosophy, economics, sociology, modern history, psychology,

Father Richard F. Ryan, S. J., president of Regis, said "tomorrow's democracy will only be strong if there is an enlightened citizenry, and an enlightened citizenry will exist only if there is understanding, knowledge and wisdom among its citizens."

At Fort Lewis A&M College at Durango, President Charles Dale Rae said several instructors at the small school "spend considerable time" on communism in several courses—even though no individual course on communism is offered.

### CAN'T IGNORE IT

"I believe education in the ways of communism is the greatest instrument in combating the spread of communism," Rae said.

Courses explaining communism and comparing it with democracy are presented, too, at the Cliff School of Theology in Denver.

"It is our belief that all citizens should be intelligently informed concerning the respective philosophies and purposes of communism and democracy," Harvey H. Pott-hoff, professor of Christian theology at Cliff, said.

"We do not remove the fact of communism by ignoring it or by being ignorant of it. Communism is a fact to be faced in our modern world. It represents a threat to basic values in our western culture and to values which are fundamental in Christianity. We cannot function intelligently as responsible citizens without recognizing the facts of our world.

"If religion is to have relevance to life, and if the church is to be a vital force in creating a soil which is conducive to human welfare, our religious leaders must have an awareness of and an insight into the forces which are operative in contemporary culture."

At Adams State College of Colorado at Alamosa, all history and political science courses deal with communism "when the occasion arises"—some lightly and some in greater detail.

"An ostrich, on finding itself in a situation it doesn't like, buries its head in the sand on the theory that what it doesn't permit itself to see doesn't exist," President Fred J. Plachy said.

"American colleges and universities cannot permit themselves to emulate the ostrich."

### DOESN'T GIVE OPINION

Ward Darley, president of the University of Colorado at Boulder, didn't give any opinion on the advantages or disadvantages of teaching courses on communism.

But he said "our students and faculty study communism as part of the total picture of human behavior from the points of view of history, political science, economics and other academic disciplines. The university considers that such a method is probably the most meaningful way of providing understanding of such a complex social movement as communism."

Louis T. Benezet, president of

Colorado College at Colorado Springs, also gave no opinion. But communism is discussed in some classes at the college, he said.

In college-level courses at the Colorado State College of Education at Greeley, blocks of time are devoted to communism in 10 separate subjects—history, political science, geography, general social study courses, science, economics, military science, education, philosophy and business education.

There also are three different and definite, specialized courses in communism.

### TALKS REQUESTED

William R. Ross, president of the college, said "we have at least four professors who are called on frequently to speak on the subject (communism)—one of them to the extent that we had to curtail his engagements because it became such an overload."

At Colorado A&M College at Fort Collins, President W. E. Morgan said all men students enrolled for military training get "considerable instruction" in communism, and other students get an explanation and comparison of communism in "at least six courses offered by our department of history and government."

Sister Frances Marie, president of Loretto Heights College at Loretto, said communism is explained and compared with democracy in several courses there, even though there is no specific communism course.

### TO UNDERSTAND DANGER

Reasons for including instruction on communism, she said, include:

1—Communism has a great and concrete impact on the world and the life of every one of us. We could not help our students to understand themselves or their world without helping them to understand communism.

2—Communism is in various ways a real danger to our students and their way of life. An understanding of a danger is a valuable aid, and, in a sense, a prerequisite to effective protection from the danger.

Professors at Colorado Woman's College in Denver said communism is dealt with there—both specifically and generally.

President P. P. Mickelson of Western State College at Gunn-

ison said comparisons of communism with democracy, and explanations of communism, are given in several courses.

### NO TIME AT MINES

"I believe we should not teach a course called 'Communism.' That would probably be giving undue emphasis to this form of government and it is more important that it be taught only incidentally relative to other forms of government."

Only one of the major colleges

not offering some instruction in communism is the Colorado School of Mines at Golden.

President John W. Vanderwilt said there just wasn't enough time to give students that instruction because of the heavy load in engineering studies.

"Some benefit might be derived from a course on communism," he said, "but it is my personal opinion that it would be more important to develop an awareness and appreciation of democracy."


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