

COUP D' ETAT

CHRISTIAN REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

Coup d'état, (French 'stroke of state'), Forcible takeover of the government of a country by elements from within that country, generally carried out by violent or illegal means, by a small group of military politicians to install its leader as head of government, rather than being a mass uprising by the people.

Revolution is any rapid, far-reaching, or violent change in the political, social, military or economic structure of society. It is usually applied to political changes: examples include the American Revolution, where the colonists broke free from their colonial ties and established a sovereign, independent nation; the French Revolution, where an absolute monarchy was overthrown by opposition from inside the country and a popular uprising. It is carried out by a big percentage of the masses led by a military or political leader.

Mutiny is an organized act of disobedience or defiance by two or more members of the armed services. In naval and military law, mutiny has always been regarded as one of the most serious of crimes, punishable in wartime by death. Mutineers often have demands and conditions impossible for the government to meet.

Early successful coup d'état include the coup of 1799, in which Napoleon overthrew the Revolutionary Directory and declared himself first consul of France, and the coup of 1851 in which Louis Napoleon (then president) dissolved the French national assembly and a year later declared himself emperor.

Successful coups in more recent times include the overthrow of the socialist government of Chile (1973) by a right-wing junta, the military seizures of power in Nigeria (1983), Myanmar (1988) and Gambia (1994), the short-lived removal of Mikhail Gorbachev from power in the USSR by hardline communists on August 1922 1991, and the overthrow of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in Sierra Leone in February 1998.

In the Philippines, the 21 - year president-dictatorship of Marcos was ended by a coup (alias nonviolent people's power) led by Aquino on February 25, 1986. Since then, the succeeding heads of state experienced a succession of attempted coups. For example, the Aquino government survived seven attempted coups with the USA and the Catholic Church backing her puppet government.

Civil disobedience is the deliberate breaking of laws considered unjust, a form of nonviolent direct action; the term was coined by the US writer Henry Thoreau in an essay entitled Civil disobedience published in 1849. It was advocated by Mahatma Gandhi to prompt peaceful withdrawal of British power from India.

Civil disobedience is different from individuals who refuse to exercise their civil rights. For example, denial of the rights of suffrage when there is no credible candidate or when there is rampant cheating.

Any kind of rebellion (coup d'état, people's power, civil disobedience, mutiny, and insurgency) against any form of government is not acceptable to God. It is blasphemous to call the famous people's power of 1986 the work of God when the Bible condemned all types of rebellion. Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God (Romans 13:1).

Every person refers to all human beings, both believers and unbelievers. Under the divine establishment laws, God assigned the government of every nation, regardless of its form to be the authority for maintaining the privacy of individuals, protection to life and property.

The government is a divinely instituted establishment for the benefit of men. The divine mandate for every citizen (particularly for the regenerate Christians) is to be in subjection. There is no room for open opposition and rebellion.

When the Apostle Paul penned the words "be in subjection" he had in mind the Emperor Nero (Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus 54-68 AD) who was totally hostile to Christians. Nero was the epitome of evil and corruption. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves (Romans 13:2).

Any act of resistance is an act against the Word and the will of God. No believer who has Bible doctrine in his soul will ever join any act of rebellion. Resistance comes in many forms and many colors. It might have the color of politics or the color of money but none is valid and acceptable to God.

The real motivation for any rebellion might be different from person to person. Some joined because of personal discontentment, woes, anger, political manipulation, grievances, poverty, and intention to take revenge or some kind of retribution against some government authorities. Modern revolution is no longer concern about freedom, rights or welfare of the people but only with the destruction of their enemies.

In recent years, hired rebels and activists from squatters areas are getting popular. For as low as Five Hundred Pesos per day, people will march for a cause they never want to embrace. People with empty stomachs are dangerous tools in hands of any person who wanted the destruction of the present political system or administration.

The government is the instrument of God for carrying out the divine plan of protection. Any violation of individual privacy, intentional destruction of life and property by another individual has corresponding condemnation executed by the authorities. Condemnation refers to the force of laws in persecuting the malefactors.

For rulers are not causes of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same (Romans 13:3). Good officials for such are rare species in our generation, but believers who are doing the will, purpose and plan of God for their lives. This is a call for Christians to follow the rules, regulations, and laws of the land. Christians are not called upon to uphold internationalism but nationalism.

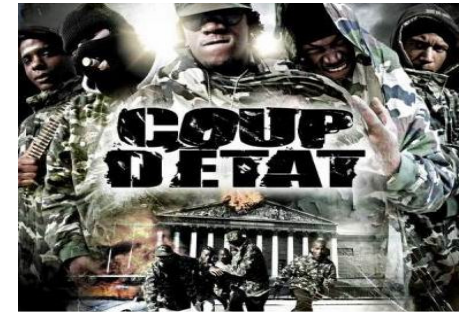
The best a Christian can do for his country is to obey the laws and attain to reach spiritual maturity, becoming a channel of blessings for his people. It is not the work of the Church to reform or to create political changes in this world. The Church is mandated to proclaim the Gospel and to preach the Bible doctrine that has the power to change man permanently.

Genuine Christians accepts and practice the separation between the church and the state. We are citizens of heaven in temporary residents in a corrupted world in general, and the corrupted Philippines in particular. But no matter how corrupted our government might be, it is not our responsibility to raise hands against authorities. For it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil (Rom. 13:4).

The laws are designed for violators. If a citizen is doing what is right, no public recognition is necessary for it is just proper. But if a citizen violates the laws, its sword will go against the malefactors. The government is a minister of God for protecting the lives and property of the people. Wherefore, it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing (Romans 13:5-6).

An individual does not need the filling of the Holy Spirit to obey the laws of the land, since it is for both believers and unbelievers alike. It is not spiritual to obey the laws and it is not unspiritual not to obey, but we are mandated to obey. So, our obedience to the laws is because we carry the name Christian.

Our obedience to the Highest spiritual Authority makes us capable to submit to human authority with ease. Submission does not mean to put aside or compromise our biblical conviction and principles. Biblical principles are not in contradiction with most of the laws of the land. Religious dogmas are always in conflict with the laws because of its unrealistic burdens and encumbrances. In reality, a Christian with Bible doctrine can be a good citizen and a good Christian at the same time in any corrupt government. of Church and state.



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Tract No. 22