

The Future Of Elian Gonzalez

Fidel Castro **says he is honoured** to be Elian Gonzalez's friend. It is therefore safe to conclude that the Cuban authorities have been straining every sinew to ensure that Elian's experience of life in Cuba is the best possible one, and that he misses no nuance of the case for communism in general and for Castro's rule in particular.

Nevertheless, it won't stick. Elian is eleven now. We predict that despite all that effort, before another eleven years have passed, he will no longer be a communist. You heard it here first, folks.

What makes us think so? Communism, despite seeing itself as rational and humanistic, despite believing in science and in progress, just isn't convincing to people who live it. All the 24/7 output of the relentless Eastern European communist propaganda machines, running in an almost hermetically sealed environment for 40 years, were unable to lodge the idea in the minds of the victims. The moment the guns were no longer pointed at them, the Poles and the Hungarians and Czechs and all the other captive nations just shrugged off the memories of the Young Pioneers and all the values by which they had been living, in many cases all their lives, as if they had been a passing daydream. Even in Soviet Russia, after 70 years, the ideology hardly fared any better. Likewise, once Castro dies, no Cubans will remember for long what they ever saw in him.

Communism, though it resembles religions in some ways, is very unlike them in this one.

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Communism as a dream

The "ideal" is never remembered once it becomes reality.

by a reader on Sat, 07/23/2005 - 22:41 | [reply](#)

I'm Not So Sure

I hope, for his sake, that you're right about Elian Gonzalez.

But, unfortunately, it's just not universally true that people who've

experienced communism never long for its return. It's all too common for people to crave the security of authority over the uncertainty of individual liberty and responsibility. It's also common for people to identify with the authority rather than its victims.

This is an ideological battle that needs to be re-fought constantly, or many will slip back into the horror.

Gil

by **Gil** on Sun, 07/24/2005 - 00:17 | [reply](#)

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"It's all too common for people to crave the security of authority over the uncertainty of individual liberty and responsibility."

Funny. That's what is done in **The World** all the time. All hail Bush! :)

by a reader on Sat, 09/17/2005 - 14:46 | [reply](#)

Re: All Hail Bush

Funny. That's what is done in **The World** all the time. All hail Bush! :)

It's good to know that you read **The World** all the time. But has this given you the impression that we defer to the authority of Bush? For instance, that if he were to revert to his pre-9/11 foreign policy stance we would endorse that?

by **Editor** on Sat, 09/17/2005 - 15:07 | [reply](#)