



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on December 5, 2023

Published in the December 25, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 24

How Long Will the Christmas Bells Toll?

On December 8-9, 1958, The John Birch Society was founded by Robert Welch and those he had invited to listen to his two-day presentation in Indianapolis.

A couple years prior, Welch had begun writing a publication called *One Man's Opinion* that he sent to friends and acquaintances. According to the April 1956 issue, he put pen to paper on Christmas Eve, 1955, to wish readers a Merry Christmas while also reminding them of the folly of turning a blind eye to atrocities committed by communists and their supporters.



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He wrote, "The bells rang out at Christmas of 1945. But the feeling that peace and good will were dominant in the world was a horrible illusion. While we had the strength to preserve peace we had neither the honesty nor the courage nor the sense to appraise and squarely oppose the diabolical cunning which could circumvent that strength and so rapidly undermine it."

He provided example after example of how the United States and its allies "sacrificed every principle for which the war [World War II] had supposedly been fought," leading to many communist advances after the war.

He concluded, "This is where we stand, and how far the Communist flood has risen around us, in the little over ten years since August, 1945. Our defensive strength in proportion to the force of a known enemy, our moral leadership throughout the world, are no longer high and mighty forts standing on firm land. They are weakened, undermined, toppling structures, gradually sinking into a sticky morass where the footing grows less solid every day.... None of this is guesswork, none of it is even interpretation; it is all plain history, perfectly obvious and undisputable, if you will only look conscientiously for yourselves. And you can't afford to remain blind any longer."

Through this lens of history, let's examine where we are as of Christmas 2023.

Americans, led by elected officials, have largely sacrificed every principle for which the War for Independence had supposedly been fought. No longer are many of our governments instituted throughout the country protecting God-given rights. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (property) are no longer unalienable. Many of the king's abuses as listed in the Declaration of Independence have returned. Once free and independent states now largely embrace unconstitutional dictates and revenue spewed forth from central government. The self-reliance and self-responsibility of the typical rugged American individual from generations ago is difficult to find today.

Americans as a whole cannot afford to remain blind. Men can never be both ignorant and free. And Welch would scold us for not remembering that the glorious vision we seek must be greater than the nightmare we must overcome. He suggested that both leaders and followers must have a positive dream that is more important as a hope than the negative nightmare is as a fear; that the promise of what we



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can build supplies more motivation than the terror of what we must destroy; and that this faith in the future is based on a deeper faith in eternal truths. The Founding Fathers would also remind us that course corrections are rarely made by the apathetic majority, but by an irate, tireless minority.

May the Christmas bells toll loud and clear in 2023 and beyond, announcing our intent to replace ignorance with truth and wisdom, apathy with action, chaos with order, globalism with Americanism, and tyranny with freedom. In 2024, may you be motivated to [join The John Birch Society](#) and, as members, actively work in your communities to build a bulwark of freedom that stretches from sea to shining sea, one educated person at a time. Indeed, our mission of freedom and collective will to succeed can and will overcome the darkness, with His guidance.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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