



# NONVIOLENT REVOLUTIONS



In the months leading up to the year 5750, and throughout that year, a wave of nonviolent revolutions took hold in the USSR. The peoples of Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia protested en-masse against their respective communist governments. They demanded independence from the USSR and civil rights and freedoms for all citizens. These revolutions were wildly successful and not a single shot was fired.

On November 9, 1989, (11 Cheshvan 5750) thousands of jubilant Germans brought down the most visible symbol of division at the heart of Europe—the Berlin Wall. For two generations, the Wall was the physical representation of the Iron Curtain and the repression of the Communist Soviet Union.

On November 28, 1989 (Cheshvan 30 5750) a peaceful event occurred in Mongolia that sparked the non-violent people's revolution that brought about regime change there several months later.

All this resulted in the dissolution of the USSR and the end of a long and unfortunate era in the history of Eastern Europe. Regime changes and political transformations were occurring in India and China as well.

Several years prior, in the winter of 1986, a similar revolution occurred in the Philippines. Known as the Yellow Revolution, the people overthrew the authoritarian and repressive regime of then President Ferdinand Marcos, through peaceful demonstrations. This event made news headlines as “the revolution that surprised the world.” Most notably, to the credit of the deposed president, the revolution did not result in a violent civil war.

On Shabbos Parshas Toldos, 4 Kislev, 5750, a week after the third international Kinus Hashluchim, the Rebbe addressed the miraculous and unprecedented phenomenon of these nonviolent revolutions.

## MIRACLES TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Many wonder why we emphasize the fact that the world is currently in a state of preparation for Moshiach and that we are at the “doorstep” of redemption. They argue that civilization in general continues to operate as usual.

It is puzzling and amazing that they do not notice the unfathomable changes occurring around the globe. During the last few years there are radical revolutions taking place in various countries. Entire governments are undergoing major internal transformations, to the opposite extremes of the ideological spectrum.

With Hashem's great kindness, these revolutions are occurring peacefully. The respective economies did not grind to a halt and, for the most part, the routine of life of the citizens of these countries is continuing undisturbed.

The most obvious and relevant revolution for us is the one occurring in Russia and the countries of the USSR. This is the birthplace of

לע"נ  
מרת בינה  
בת ר' יהודה אריה ליב  
נלב"ע כ' מנחם אב ה'תשס"ה  
תנ"צ'בה  
נדפס ע"י בנה  
הרה"ת ר' חיים צבי וזוגתו מרת חנה  
ומשפחתם שיחיו  
חנוכה



Lubavitch, from which the Frieddiker Rebbe was forced to emigrate due to the tyrannical governing style of the Communists. The seventy-year Soviet dictatorship was cruel and menacing. Merely expressing discontent with the government was sufficient to warrant slave labor in Siberia, or worse.

Suddenly, the entire empire has crumbled and former Soviet states are proclaiming independence and installing new governments in a relatively short amount of time. This is part of a wave of revolutions that have occurred and are currently taking shape in many more countries around the globe with populations of billions of people. It is accurate to say that the majority of the world's population is undergoing these transformations.

People do not realize how wondrous this all is. Up until the recent past, such revolutions sparked bloody civil wars that killed untold numbers of soldiers and civilians, wiped out the economies, dramatically disrupted the lifestyles of the citizens and brought terrible atrocities in their wake. A cursory review of the events of World War II and the October Revolution prove this all to be the case.

This situation is best described as אין בעל הנס מכיר בנסוי—We are unaware of the miracles occurring all around us!

## THE JEWISH OBLIGATION

The purpose of a Yid in this world is to learn Torah and observe the mitzvos. Keeping updated on world events is not the concern of a Yid. However, based on the well-known directive of the Baal Shem Tov to derive a lesson in *avodas Hashem* from every experience, when you become aware of such happenings it is

important to appreciate their relevance and meaning for us as well.

It is an opportunity for us to meditate and ponder on the greatness of Hashem. In addition to developing an awe for Hashem through appreciating the powerful routine of nature, we must recognize the many miracles that occur as well. Such wondrous occurrences as these non-violent revolutions are only in the capacity of Hashem, who is “*kol yachol*.” We are obligated to offer thanks to Hashem for this unbelievable kindness.

This is also a motivation to strengthen our belief and expectation for the imminent arrival of Moshiach. Nations warring against other nations is one of the signs of the era immediately preceding the *geulah*.<sup>2</sup> The idea of war is a revolution or disruption in the world order. With Hashem's abundant kindness, these disruptions are now occurring in a non-violent fashion.

Most importantly, we must realize that everything that occurs with the nations of the world, results from the behavior of *bnei Yisrael*. The Torah states, “יציב גבולות עמים”—[Hashem] firmly established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the descendants of Yisrael (Yaakov Avinu)<sup>3</sup>. This means that the stability (and lack thereof) of the nations of the world results from the stability of *bnei Yisrael*.

As Yidden continuously grow in their divine mission of learning Torah, observing mitzvos and influencing the

world to follow the *sheva mitzvos* of *bnei Noach*, this automatically results in increased stabilization of all the nations of the world.

This idea was on display a few days ago, when the shluchim gathered for the Kinus, representing the entire world. In truth, everyone is a shliach of Hashem. Yidden have the mission to affect a *dirah betachtainim* through observing the 613 mitzvos, and the gentiles do their part by observing their seven mitzvos. However, for most of the world, this sense of mission is not apparent. The mandate of the Shluchim is to reveal this reality by all. To “gather” (the idea of “*kinus*”) the numerous diverse details of our universe and inspire them to unite in fulfilling our common goal of *dirah betachtainim*.

*V'yehi ratzon*, *bnei Yisrael* should constantly increase in *avodas Hashem*, affecting more change for the better throughout the world, heralding in the ultimate and true *geulah* through Moshiach Tzidkeinu! **T**

1. Niddah 31a

2. Bereishis Rabbah 42:4; Pesikta Rabosi, Kumi Oiri

3. Haazinu 32:8



## READ THE ORIGINAL SICHA:

*Sefer Hasichos*, 5750, Volume 1, Page 159.

*Hisvaaduyos*, *Toras Menachem*, 5750, Volume 1, Page 420.