Liberation – The First To Be Freed

by Robert Norman Thompson



Liberation - The First To Be Freed

by Robert Norman Thompson KCLJ, CMLJ, KSJ, FRGS, LLD

A first-hand account of the East African Campaign, perhaps the least known of the regional battles of World War II, and yet one of the most significant Allied victories. However, it is more than a military history.

LIBERATION is the story of the overthrowing of Benito Mussolini's reign of terror in the ancient land of Ethiopia. From the atrocities committed against the entire population in 1935-6 to the return from exile of the Emperor five years later, this is a story of courageous tactical resistance against overwhelming odds.

The three major fronts of the battle are described in detail by the author who was present at, or later visited each site personally. Excellent maps accompany this volume.

Unlike other works on this subject, the story continues after the battles to document the vastness of the problems of rehabilitation, for it was the author's personal experience to be involved in Emperor Haile Selassie's overwhelming task of reclaiming an entire generation lost to the ravages of war. Interesting side stories and anecdotes lighten this recovery process and give insights into the nature of the leaders involved, not least of whom is the Emperor himself.

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Jacket Photos

Front: The Surrender of Italian troops in Somaliland.

Back: Emperor Haile Selassie and the author.



obert Thompson is experienced in African, Canadian and International politics. As a Professor of Political Science, he is an authority on the demise of Mussolini's East African Empire as the first Allied victory of World War II. He was assigned to Ethiopia from the Commonwealth Air Training Scheme and commanded the fledgling Imperial Ethiopian Air Force in 1944-5 and continued on with the Ethiopian Government following V-E Day. He was given the responsibility of extending education throughout Ethiopia and also served as an advisor in foreign affairs, with special assignments in India, the Sudan, Nigeria, Canada and the United States. As a confidant of Emperor Haile Selassie, he played a unique role in the formative years of the Organization of African Unity. For his distinguished service in Ethiopia, he was awarded the Star of Ethiopia with the rank of Grand Officer.

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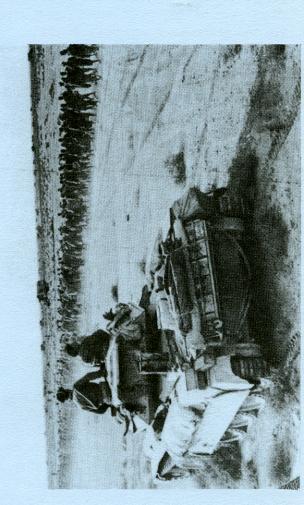
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SOCIAL CREDIT



ROBERT N. THOMPSON

THE AUTHOR:

"Bob", as he is well and affectionately known by a host of friends from coast to coast in Canada and the United States, was raised in Western Canada, the son of a pioneer family. As a young man he became keenly interested in the problems facing men and women and set the course of his life to help his fellow man. As a young school teacher he joined the Social Credit Movement in 1934 and helped in the election of the first Social Credit Government in Alberta.

During the years from 1943 to 1958, Mr. Thompson served in a number of key diplomatic, government and mission appointments overseas. This experience has given him a deep understanding of world affairs and he has justly earned himself the reputation of being a great Canadian statesman, dedicated to the cause of humanity and peace. In 1960 he was elected President of the Social Credit Association of Canada and in July, 1961, National Leader.

With his vast and varied experience, and knowledge of Social Credit, he is eminently qualified, not only to preside over the organization, but to write with authority on Social Credit, International Affairs, and Political Economics.

Social Credit policy is positive and realistic. As a reform movement for the people, Social Credit approaches the problems of the day without the restraint of prejudice from the past, without the ties of patronage and obligation the present and with vision and courage for the future. Social Credit policy encourages the initiative and enterprise of the individual and the development of his personality and offers a worthwhile reward for the qualities of co-operation, industry and thrift.

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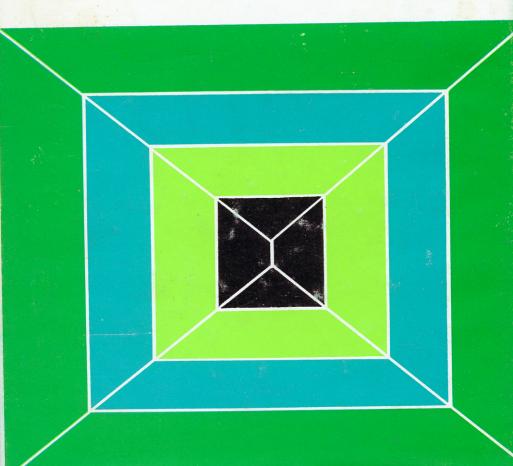
THIS IS DEMOCRACY'S ANSWER TO THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM FROM THE LEFT AND FINANCIAL DICTATORSHIP FROM THE RIGHT.

R. N. Thompson

ROBERT N. THOMPSON

Commonsense for Canadians

A Selection of Speeches Analysing Today's Opportunities and Problems



Commonsense

for Canadians

In this collection of his speeches, Robert Thompson, national leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada, examines many important questions facing Canadians, and explains with clarity and sincerity his party's platform and philosophies. In his own words, "My remarks are directed to all who believe in the importance of the individual in a free society, who are concerned with the inordinate growth of centralized, paternalistic, governmental power and who are willing to rise up and do something about it . . . if the leftward trend of the past thirty years is ever to be slowed, halted or reversed, a mobilization of conservative intellectual resources is urgently called for."

Commonsense for Canadians contains selections from some of the major speeches made by Bob Thompson since his return to Canada from Africa and his election as President of the Social Credit Association of Canada in 1960. In addresses given in the House of Commons, to university groups, chambers of commerce, and political conventions, the author presents his views and those of his party on many of the economic and political problems that are today threatening the prosperity and free development of this country.

Patrick Nicholson, a veteran parliamentary correspondent, has selected these speeches for publication, and has also contributed an introduction.

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AHOUSE of MINORITES

A HOUSE of MINORITIES

Robert N. Thompson

For over three decades Robert N. Thompson was an influence on the Canadian political scene. Former federal leader of the Social Credit Party and later a Progressive Conservative member of parliament, Thompson's years of parliamentary prominence were in the 1960's.

A House of Minorities reveals the behind-the-scenes tale of the Pearson-Diefenbaker years.

Robert N. Thompson is now in active retirement in Langley, BC where he was a driving force behind the founding of Trinity Western University.

These political memoirs describe leadership in difficult circumstances. In writing them, Dr. Thompson is passing on a valuable legacy of lessons learned, just as he did when he left political life to instruct the next generation of student leaders at Trinity Western University. As a Christian in politics, he is a model for all aspiring leaders who seek to make society a better place than they find it.

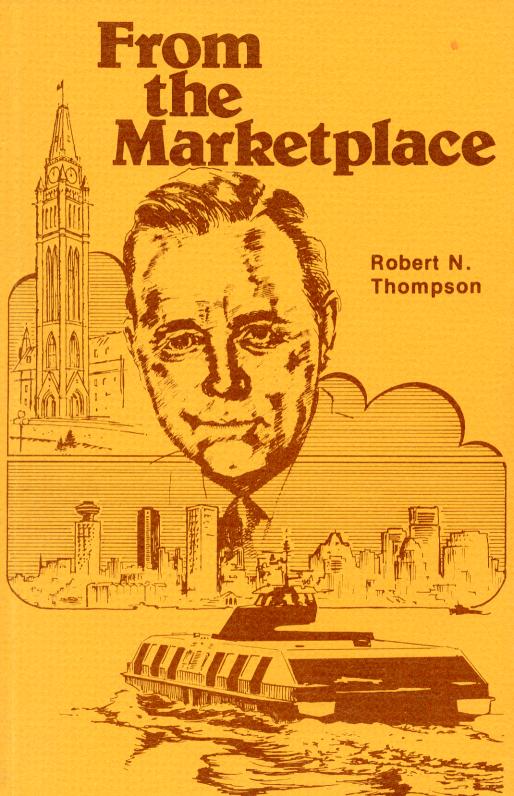
Donald F. Page Vice-President, Academic Affairs Trinity Western University

This highly readable and carefully researched study deserves a wide audience because it provides a unique interpretation of a half century of Canadian history.... First-hand accounts of tensions with Prime Minister Diefenbaker, descriptions of a largely secret but close relationship with Lester Pearson, and candid revelations about unauthorized late-night strategy sessions with planners and plotters come alive as political drama.

John H. Redekop Professor of Political Science Wilfrid Laurier University

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Christians, especially, need to understand today's world in which we are to be light and salt. In this wide-ranging, yet integrated, evaluation of our society and our times, Dr. Robert N. Thompson has done much to help all readers achieve that goal.

This timely volume exposes many a fallacy and lays bare much of the stark reality of Canadian political, economic, intellectual, and religious affairs. But the incisive analysis has relevance far beyond Canada's borders. The perceptive, at times intriguing, interpretations of trends and ideas deserve a wide audience.

A bold believer, the author posits some fundamental assertions and challenges leaders and followers to come back to basics. He asks many important questions and spells out many provocative answers.

The book has balance. Midst some hard-hitting indictment there is gratitude for freedom and opportunity. Affirmation accompanies skepticism and accusation is balanced with praise.

The reader encounters many a well-turned phrase and poignant insight. "The greatest reactionary in the world today is the man who wishes to change the world but will not change himself".

Thompson presents a challenging vision and a call to practical responsibility. Not all readers will agree with every point but all will learn much.

Read the book and you will encounter knowledge and wisdom gleaned from a lifetime of careful observation, reasoned reflection, and selfless service.

In sum, the book is thoughtful and thought-provoking, delightfully fearless, and thoroughly informative; what more can one ask!

John H. Redekop, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. You, too, can be a "burning bush" in the hectic "marketplace" of life!

ompared to other world religions, Christianity is entirely practical. Other religions are escape routes from the real world. Jesus Christ lays claim on all of life. and, because He does, Christianity insists that its transforming influence be realized in our daily actions, our work, our homes, and even in our government.

Jesus "bought" us in the marketplace of life. He bought us out of the market. He paid with His own life. All who believe have been set free, rescued from Satan's domain of darkness. Having been "bought with a price," we are not our own. Yet, thanks to God, we have been made fit to share in the Kingdom of His Son, Jesus Christ.

In this life, we live and work in the marketplace. As witnesses of God's saving grace we move among humanity seven days a week. One of the great tragedies of today's Christianity is the dividing of Sunday, the Lord's Day, from the rest of the work week. It has divided the spiritual from the secular, as Sunday worship and all that it means are separated from the week of work and daily living. Every person who accepts salvation through Jesus Christ has been called to live in the "marketplace" of life and be a witness to those with whom he lives and works, every day of the week. He must be a burning bush!

The baby Moses was saved from the bulrushes on the banks of the Nile River through the intervention of God. Moses had no say in it. The most he could do at that stage in his life was cry for his mother.

However, God had set the stage. More than four hundred years earlier He told Abraham He would raise up a deliverer for the descendants of Abraham to save them from the tyranny of a wicked Pharaoh. In God's own time, the hour had now come. Saved from death, Moses was raised in Pharaoh's household as

Any Old Bush Will Do

Langley, British Columbia

the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. With the privilege of royalty, he received the best education possible, training as soldier. statesman and administrator. "Instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, . . . he was mighty in his words and deeds."

Poised on the threshold of a brilliant career as God's chosen servant, he then made a tragic blunder that resulted in his wandering for forty years in the desert, useless to God. He thought he could avenge his own people by taking the part of one being whipped by an Egyptian oppressor, but was accused by two of his own people of being a murderer.

Moses' very compassion robbed him of his true vocation. Looking "this way and that" before he killed the Egyptian, he was sensitive to the presence of man, but insensitive to the presence of God. It was a case, so common to so many of us, of being "man conscious" rather than

"God conscious." Thus Moses fell because, "when Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses."

by Robert N. Thompson,

God is quite capable of taking care of His own affairs. In this modern day, when the programs of the Church of Jesus Christ are so highly organized that often little is accomplished, God is often organized out. Bustle is mistaken for business. plans for power and perspiration for inspiration. A dear old lady, a mission prayer warrior, used to warn me in younger days, "Activity in the King's business can never make up for neglect of the King." Moses had not learned that lesson when he saw the Egyptian whipping his brother Israelite. He barged ahead and killed the Egyptian.

With the best of intentions he became a murderer instead of a missionary, and, running for his life to the land of Midian, he wandered for forty years. He tried to do God's work in man's way and failed.

He had to learn that it is not ability, but availability, that qualifies a man for God.

He must have felt discouraged, useless, unrecognized and unknown during those desert years. He had to learn that service apart from God's direction and leading is useless. He was a slow learner in God's university. Born to be a leader, he cared for a flock of sheep belonging to his father-in-law, Jethro. Hope must have dried up in the heat of his sandals on the desert sand.

Then something happened to Moses. The angel of the Lord came to him in the midst of a fire in a bush (Exodus 3). Moses was amazed as the bush burned and burned, but was not consumed. He was amazed, then curious. As far as he could see, it was just an ordinary bush, except that the fire did not destroy it.

As he looked closer, a voice spoke to him out of the burning bush. "Moses, Moses!" the voice called, and Moses, stopped in his tracks, replied, "Here am I." The voice continued, "Do not come near, put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. . . . I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. God talked to Moses. Besides what is recorded is Scripture, I can imagine Him saying something like this: "Moses, you have thought that this bush is peculiar, unique, wonderful, because it burns and yet is not destroyed. Do you see that scrubby, stunted bush over there? That bush would have done just as well. Do you see that tall beautiful bush over there? It would have done equally well. You see, Moses, any old bush will do if God is in the bush. Your trouble, Moses, is that forty years ago you were young, well-educated, mighty in word and deed. You thought you were on top of the heap. But, Moses, you burned out in one day, and you have been nothing but a heap of ashes since.

"If this bush, which you see burning and at which you have been so amazed, had been depending on itself, it would have burned out in a few minutes and have become a heap of ashes, as you have been. But it does not burn because it is not the bush that burns—it is God in the bush, and, in that case, any bush will do.

"Moses, I have a job for you. Your people must be delivered and I have chosen you, if you will only let Me work in you. You cannot do it yourself—but with Me you can do it. You will be my witness!"

Moses began by being a failure. That was the school in which he qualified. It was a forty-year course. Others greater than you or I started in a similar way. David was once a hopeless failure. So were Elijah and Isaiah. These men graduated into great usefulness after they learned that apart from God everything is failure. When they made this discovery, they were greatly blessed and used by God.

"Through rough waters and calm . . . He has been ever faithful."

Moses had to discover this. He had to discover that a fine physique, noble ambitions, royal upbringing and scholarship are not enough. None of these can substitute for that for which man was created, God Himself.

I had to learn the lesson Moses learned. It did not take place in the face of a burning bush, nor did it take place after forty years in the wilderness. It took place when, as a young man, I committed my trust and future to Jesus Christ, and it has been taking place every day since.

As best I can, I have followed that call—in the marketplace—assured by the words of David, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalm 32:8). My testimony is simply that, through rough waters and calm, through the fire and in pleasant valleys, He has been ever faithful, and the bush did not burn.

By myself all I can produce is ashes—I am nothing. Filled with the

Spirit and guided by His Will, I am everything. It is a daily exercise—start the day without God, and there will be problems. It has always amazed me at the end of the day to look back and see how He has guided.

The answer is simply, Christ is in you, nothing less than that. Every day is a glorious fulfillment of the divine end . . . "that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God . . . which is your reasonable service" (cf Romans 12:1,2).

God is there if you will let Him be part of you.

Any old bush will do!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Robert N. Thompson has distinguished himself in Christian service and in Canadian national life for many years. He served 15 years in Ethiopia in educational, political and other capacities and also as head of the education program of Sudan Interior Mission. He and his wife, Hazel, returned to Canada and he entered national politics and was elected a Member of Parliament in 1962. For six years he was national leader of the Social Credit Party. From 1968 until his retirement in 1972 he was elected as a Progressive Conservative. He began serving in 1975 as assistant to the president of Trinity Western College. On Sept. 14 the Robert N. Thompson Centre, a major classroom and administrative building at TWC named in his honor, was dedicated. Dr. Thompson's book "From the Marketplace" has just been published by TWC's Trinity College Press. It addresses questions of what the Christian is to do and think in the realm of politics, economics and education. The book (\$6.95) is available from Trinity College Press, Glover Lane and College Lane, Langley, B.C., Canada V3A 4R9.

