

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999

Eric Buist

### The bad Leader

Human beings always want to dominate, to possess things and people. However, it seems that when we get this power, it corrupts us. Consequently, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Kingdoms, Stalin, and Hitler show us where absolute power leads to.

During much of modern history, kings had all the powers. These people have the full life and death rights over the public. Louis XIV shows us the top of an absolute kingdom. He ruled France without the help of any advisers. He also was the cause of the classicism, a really straightforward literary current. Fortunately, the powers of the kings were controlled. For instance, the religious powers were held by the church, except for Henry IV, king of England who created Anglican religion. In addition, the public could plan and start a revolt to break a dictatorship. Even though everything was censored by the power, it was still possible to think and even plan a rebellion.

With the improvements of the technology, leaders have discovered new ways to gain more powers. It became possible to check the public more closely to avoid possibilities of overthrows. Lenin was the first in doing so by trying to institute socialism in Russia. Unfortunately, he was replaced by Stalin who took control of the country. The state police now allows him to catch people who would like to revolt. Since Stalin got the power, he would not let it go. He was ready to

hurt, and even to kill people to keep this power. Consequently, it made him meaner and meaner. He was succeeded by other leaders who kept the dictatorship till 1989.

Likewise, Adolf Hitler got the full powers during four years. After he resolved the economical crises in Germany, he would use the state police he had created to keep his power. Hitler also tried to extend his power over other countries; that is how World War II started. His plans, written in Mein Kampf, had only one real goal for him: the power!

Throughout our history, increasing knowledge has given us the ways to get more powers. Since dictatorships seem stronger and stronger, we can ascertain that the power corrupts the human kind. As a result, we have to ask ourselves how we could get a social system managed by corruption-free leader or group of leaders.