

Chambers saw communism as an evil consequence of the anomie of a liberal, secular society. The battle was basically between God and Mammon.

My view of the world situation was very different. I agreed that Communism, like Nazism, was one of the evil messianic totalitarian ideologies that threatened to destroy man's hopes. But I believed that its Nemesis would not be a return to religion, but the continuing technological and scientific progress of humankind. The totalitarian societies, based on centralized power and command, could survive best where the economy was primitive. As the world economy became more advanced and complex, communism would neither be able to compete nor satisfy the wants of its subjects.

I did not agree with Chambers that we were on the losing side. I was not a Manichean nor did I envision some sort of Wagnerian twilight of the Gods.

Whittaker Chambers tried to give McCarthy guidance. He became a close friend and associate of William Buckley, the founding editor of the *National Review* and the chief intellectual spokesman for the emerging new conservative movement that would change the thinking of America.

But as he approached the end of his life, his views mellowed. He dissociated himself from McCarthy in the belief that the reckless charges of the latter were doing the nation more harm than good. He found that he could not join the *National Review* and Bill Buckley in their attacks on President Nixon for his overtures to China and for his efforts to bring a peaceful end to the cold war. Time and reflexion were transforming him into a mainstream conservative.