

viduality, enables man to accept the assumptions of the good life. No imposed code can ever attain any measure of this.

A Case History

THE HISTORY of the Roman Empire should illustrate to us the impossibility of imposing a uniform structure of governmental control, and a mode of life, upon various forms of national units.

At first glance, it would appear as though the formation of that Empire was a great success, indicating the possibility of creating a unified government across a diversity of peoples today. An imperial government, centered in Rome, set out to bring the world under one unity of control and command. Within two centuries it had imposed its rule upon the whole of the Western world, and the common system of government extended from the Rock of Gibraltar to Persia and from North Africa to Britain. Every form of culture, religion, and ethics known to the world at that time was encased within the borders of this Empire.

It is true that this system developed a surface appearance of order, and the people achieved some material benefits. War between the units ceased for a time; highways, aqueducts, dams, and many other public

works were constructed; a unitary code of Roman law ruled the world; Latin became the universal language of formal and official speech and writing.

But the fact of history is that this surface uniformity never went below the surface. Within another 200 years the great Empire had crumbled. Yet the individuality of the conquered groups, which the Empire had endeavored to stamp out, persisted. The centers of Athens, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Canterbury, and Constantinople were still individualistic producers of concepts. Only Carthage was nonexistent. It had been swept off the earth. An over-all pattern of supergovernment had been imposed upon a diversity of culture, religion, and forms of mores and governments. Because there was no unity beneath the uniformity, even an imperial power could not endure. But while the supergovernment, with power to enforce its dictates, could not exist, the individual areas of unity did exist. Only true unity within any society can exist without compulsion. And if compulsion is necessary, then the superstructure is an evil deception. *Only those who will unite can unite.*

A code of ethics, which the United Nations Covenant pretends to be, must follow, rather than precede, the existence of those common beliefs upon which society rests. For a code