

Loyalty To Government

The Baha'i Viewpoint

When a great social crisis sweeps through a civilization, moral values become impaired. In the crisis of our own time, members of the Baha'i Faith go on record as firmly upholding the principle of loyalty to government.

More than eighty years ago Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, set forth this cardinal principle: "In any of this community reside, they must behave toward that government with faithfulness, trustfulness, and truthfulness."

Loyalty to government, in the Baha'i view, is an essential and social principle. "We must obey and be the well-wisher of the government of the land . . . "The essence of the Baha'i spirit is that in order to establish a better social order and economic condition, there must be allegiance to the laws and principles of government."

This allegiance is part of the strong emphasis on integrity of character

found in the Baha'i teaching. "Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts." "Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty. Beware, O people, that ye deal not treacherously with any one. Be ye the trustees of God amongst His creatures, and the emblems of His generosity amidst His people."

Without integrity of character in its citizens and without loyalty to government, a nation will find itself torn asunder and unable to function as an organic society. Not only do the Baha'i teachings obligate members to be loyal to their government—they also specifically forbid them from taking any part in subversive political and social movements.

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
BAHA'IS OF THE UNITED STATES
536 Sheridan Road; Wilmette, Illinois**