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TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC" BERNIE SANDERS AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM – THAT'S NOT WHAT AMERICA IS ABOUT!



By Stephen L. Bakke  April 14, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

I've been looking for an opportunity to examine the concept of "democratic socialism," and I got it. A letter writer proclaimed how wonderful and inspirational Bernie Sanders is. Here's my brief explanation of how I understand the concept of "democratic socialism."

Here's my response:

Bernie Sanders and Democratic Socialism – That's NOT What America Is About!

Joe Hadley enthusiastically backs Bernie Sanders in "An inspirational leader" (April 14). He wants to "remind Democrats of our progressive past" and have a "political revolution that wins back our party, our government, our American jobs and restores the American dream." Personally, I think I'd like Bernie Sanders because of his sincerity and honesty, and would love to have him as a neighbor – but all that doesn't bring effective government! He, "progressivism," and "democratic socialism" must be examined for what they are. Here's a brief introduction:

- Sanders claims America was created based on racist principles – a naive generalization.
- Democratic socialism is a democracy alongside social ownership of means of production.
- They believe personal liberties and freedom can be preserved while creating communal economic relationships.
- They see capitalism as inherently incompatible with liberty and equality.
- They promise free healthcare and college when nothing is really free.
- Assault on religious liberty tends to follow from democratic socialism.
- The roots of progressivism in the U.S. coincide with the arguably racist President Wilson, and the bully President Teddy Roosevelt. Should we hold those characters in the highest regard?
- And so on!

Sanders and democratic socialism are counterintuitive to the idea of enhancing America's well-being!