

9 Ways that
SOCIALISM
Will Morally
Bankrupt America





EVERY DAY, SOCIALISM BECOMES MORE AND more popular among young Americans.

There are 3 big reasons why:

- 1 Socialism is being marketed to young people as kind, selfless, and community-focused,
- 2 Many people are unaware of Socialism's dismal record, and
- 3 Young people are not being taught America's founding principles, so they are unprepared to combat the narratives they hear in their schools and colleges.

At first glance, these narratives may sound compelling.

Socialist popularizer **Danny Katz** writes, "Socialism is a society whose top priority is meeting all of its people's needs—ranging from food, shelter, and health care to art, culture, and companionship."



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST **SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS** (I-VT) says that “Democratic socialism means that we must create an economy that works for all, not just the very wealthy.”

Teen Vogue goes further, saying “Capitalism takes the position that ‘greed is good,’” while “anti-capitalists view capitalism as an inhuman, anti-democratic, unsustainable, deeply exploitative system that must be dismantled.” Teen Vogue continues, “In a capitalist country, the focus is on profits over anything else; in a socialist country, the public is seen to be more important, and social welfare is a major priority.”

In 2018, democratic socialist **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-NY) said, “In the wealthiest nation in the world, working families shouldn’t have to struggle. This movement for Congress is about education and health care; it’s about housing, jobs, justice, and civil rights. It’s about preparing for the future of our environment, energy, and infrastructure. It’s about championing the dignity of our neighbors. And it’s about getting money out of politics.”



A CENTRAL PILLAR OF GOOD MARKETING IS TO frame the presentation so that the seller is offering what the potential buyer already wants to buy. That is much easier than convincing the buyer that he needs the product.

When promoting socialism, these leaders present a utopian socialist ideal that doesn't address real-world problems, and contrast it with the often-messy reality of existing society and government. Socialists rarely talk about actually existing socialist countries or their historical record. They compare real "capitalism" to fake socialism. In this socialist utopian vision, the only way to live a fulfilled, connected life and to take care of your neighbor is to share all things with them equally. Those who support free enterprise are painted as selfish, isolated, and uncaring. When those are the two options that young people are presented with for the future of America, it's no wonder so many have heeded the siren call of socialism.

Who, after all, is opposed to "an economy that works for all" or "meets all of its people's needs?" Everyone wants education, prosperity, jobs, justice, and a strong community.



UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF THE PROMISES are true. There is nothing kind or selfless about socialism. It doesn't promote community, prosperity, or justice. It destroys them.

Most people who want socialism in America don't realize that they are being sold a fairy tale with a tragic ending. We've seen this over and over again in the last century, in dozens of countries, and always with heartbreaking results.

The experts at The Heritage Foundation, America's most influential policy think tank, have put together this simple guide to help you better understand the 9 ways that socialism will morally bankrupt America. We hope it will be a helpful resource to you as you show others the truth about this dangerous philosophy, and as you defend your founding principles.

Socialism directly opposes the American Dream.

SOCIALISM PROMISES TO CREATE EQUAL

outcomes for everyone through government redistribution of income or wealth. Because it treats unequal circumstances equally, however, it actually creates inequality.

The American Dream is about rewarding those who work hard, take risks, and defer short-term pleasure to put themselves and their families in a better place.

We need to look no further than the Declaration of Independence to best understand the definition of the American Dream:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Because it takes away the benefits of hard work, even if it results in material equality (which in practice it does not), socialism is deeply unfair.



Politicians in power make your most important decisions for you.

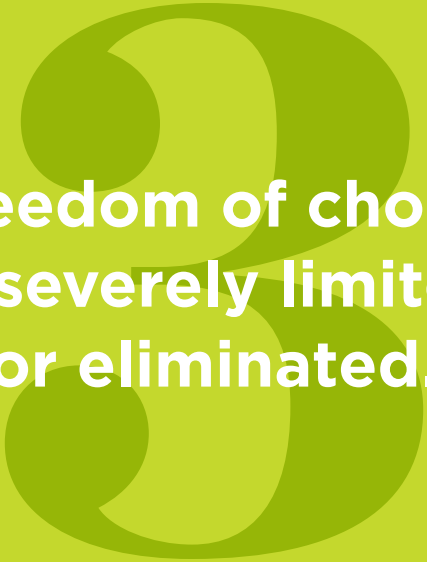
SOCIALISM SYSTEMATICALLY TRAMPLES ON

our liberty by forcing people to act how government demands. Politicians and bureaucrats—not people themselves—would make many of the most crucial decisions in our lives, and severely restrict our choices.

In 1964, the great **Ronald Reagan** gave one of his most powerful speeches, called “A Time for Choosing”.

In this speech, he said it best:

“A government can’t control the economy without controlling people. And they know when a government sets out to do that, it must use force and coercion to achieve its purpose. They also knew, those Founding Fathers, that **outside of its legitimate functions, government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector of the economy.**”



Freedom of choice is severely limited or eliminated.

TO MAKE SOCIALISM WORK, GOVERNMENT forces you to give up the freedom to chart your own course in life. It would radically limit your ability to choose your calling, to be creative or innovative, or to raise your family the way you want to.

Because government would define where you could go to school and what curriculum you would have there, your future career options would also be dictated by them. This would put you on a government-directed trajectory for the rest of your life. We saw this happen in communist countries in the 20th century. We see elements of it in public schools today.

Under a socialist regime, your ability to change careers, pursue your creativity, or follow your dreams would be snuffed out.

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**All under socialism
will suffer equally.**

MILD SOCIALISM LOWERS THE PUBLIC'S

standard of living, and when it is seriously implemented, it always leads to mass poverty and deprivation. It's never led to greater prosperity.

A hundred years ago, at the dawn of the Russian Revolution, one could be a socialist and hope in good faith that it could achieve, or at least advance, its utopian aspirations. We didn't have the data to prove otherwise.

Now we do.

Today, as we look at the history of countries like the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Venezuela, and Cuba we can see that socialism has left nothing but disaster in its wake. Every single time it has been tried, it has failed. It reduces citizens' well-being, and ensures mass poverty.

Knowingly adopting a set of policies that will hurt our fellow Americans this way would not just be blind—it would be wrong.



If everyone owns
the resources, nobody
truly owns them.

SOCIALISM IS A BAD STEWARD. IT ENCOURAGES overuse and over-consumption of underpriced resources. Moreover, it makes people careless about being wasteful or polluting the environment, because it erodes any sense of personal responsibility.

When something is owned by “everybody,” it is really owned by nobody. Accordingly, no one has an incentive to steward or protect what they have.



“Robbing Peter to pay Paul” is morally wrong.

TAKING SOMEONE’S MONEY FOR YOURSELF OR to give to someone else—whether using government as an intermediary or not—is not morally praiseworthy. “Robbing Peter to pay Paul” or allowing Paul to take from Peter does not rise to the level of virtue or have moral merit.

Voluntarily using your own time and money to help another is a different matter. Benevolence, charity, and compassion are virtues. But charitable acts involve voluntarily giving of yourself to another—not being forced to “give” by government. Neither government coercion nor compliance with government coercion has moral merit.

To demand that everyone pool their resources into a giant pot for redistribution of wealth by politicians and bureaucrats is doomed from the start. On top of that, taking away our ability to teach and build these characteristics and morals into our families and communities runs the risk of morally bankrupting our society, as well.



Power is consolidated within the government.

SOCIALISM GIVES THE GOVERNMENT THE POWER to take your hard-earned resources away from you and use those resources as politicians and bureaucrats determine. This damages the communities and the web of relationships that we all rely on in order to live full and meaningful lives.

Further, socialism impedes and often seeks to suppress relationships fostered by private institutions such as religious congregations, schools, charities, and civic organizations, and to silence ideas or sources of influence that do not agree with the state's agenda.

To break down business and social communities, and to stifle any thought, speech, and expression that goes against what a socialist government says is “right,” is inherently un-American and morally wrong.



Socialism creates dissent and stifles freedom of speech.

SOCIALISM STIFLES DISSENT AND FREE SPEECH, instead promoting a deadening, bureaucratic uniformity of thought. Government control and regulation of the media, of political speech, and of elections is the norm in socialist countries.

The influential economist Friedrich A. Hayek once wrote:

“The two consequences of this [highly progressive income taxation] which seem to me the most serious are ... that it makes for social immobility by making it practically impossible for the successful man to rise by accumulating a fortune and ... it has come near eliminating that most important element in any free society—the man of independent means...”

The freedom of speech is an unalienable right of American citizens—but under socialism, freedom of speech would be stifled by the government. Anyone with “free thoughts” running counter to what the government declared was “best” for the people would be seen as a threat.



Socialism creates dependence instead of freedom.

SOCIALISM DESTROYS PEOPLES' DRIVE TO BE self-sufficient. When you can't make your own choices, can't work to improve your lot in life, can't speak your mind, and can't follow your dreams, you have no choice but to fall into the corrosive lethargy of dependence.

Within a free enterprise society, creativity, innovation, and hard work are rewarded—something socialism can never offer, no matter what kind of utopia it pretends to create.

For society to flourish, we need to be different. We need to be able to have the freedom to take risks, and to compete against one another. Competition allows people to have better options, lower costs, and more creative solutions to the problems they face every day.

This competition fosters a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship that will improve everyone's lives and lay the foundation for an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish.

To learn more about
how to build an America
where freedom,
opportunity, prosperity,
and civil society flourish,
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