

The DARK SIDE of Socialism

Talking Points

By Linda Lacour Hobar

A note to my listeners: I provide so much information in *The DARK SIDE of Socialism*, that we don't think a traditional "fill-in-the-blank" worksheet would prove helpful. We'd rather you listen and learn than take notes as I lecture. However, we offer you these "talking points" as a short summary of the presentation to help you recall, retain, and re-use the information as you feel led.

Introduction:

- In a 2016 Gallup poll, 55% of young Americans favored socialism.
- In that same year, a Harvard study indicated that 51% of young Americans (age 18-29) viewed socialism positively.
- Ironically, Reason Foundation found that only 16% of young Americans surveyed could accurately define socialism as the "government ownership of the means of production."

Quotes:

- *"When a new generation arises and the democracy falls into the hands of the grandchildren of its founders, they have become so accustomed to freedom and equality that they no longer value them."* (Polybius c.208-125 BC)
- *"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."* (Ronald Reagan)

Hope of a biblical worldview?

- God is sovereign.
- He will allow mankind to ride the choppy waves of history.
- Jesus said He is the Alpha and Omega.

Definitions of Socialism:

- Short – "Government ownership of the means of production"
- Medium - "Socialists of all stripes agree on at least one thing—that private property should be abolished and replaced with **collective ownership**. This means that, in practice, the government should control everything that goes into 'the means of production,' including raw materials, factories, and labor. The government, not individuals, decides what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce."
(Lawson, Robert and Benjamin Powell. *Socialism Sucks* p. 121)
- Long - From *The Naked Socialist* by Paul B. Skousen
 1. All powerful rulers
 2. Society divided by caste/class

3. All things in common
4. All things regulated
5. Compliance is forced
6. Control of Information
7. No unalienable rights

The Dark Side (Creation to Marx)

- Eden (The First Lie!)
- Ancient Egypt (c. 3000-30 BC)
- Ancient Israel (1451-1095 BC)
- Classical Greece (c.400-300 BC)
- The Roman Empire (27BC – AD 476)
- Feudalism in the Middle Ages (c. 1000-1500)
- Renaissance (c. 1400-1600)
- Reformation (1500-1648)
- The Enlightenment/Age of Reason (1600s -1800s)
- U.S. Constitution (1788)
- Karl Marx (1818-1883)
- Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
- Georg Hegel (1770-1831)
- *Communist Manifesto (1848)*

The Dark Side (Lenin to present time)

- The Bolshevik Revolution (Vladimir Lenin)
“That’s the Dark Side of socialism—it takes away freedom!”
- USSR (Joseph Stalin)
“That’s the Dark Side of socialism—it results in coercion!”

- People’s Republic of China (Mao Zedong)
“That’s the Dark Side of socialism—it can lead to the deaths of millions!”

- North Korea (Kim Il-sung)
“That’s the Dark Side of socialism—socialist regimes usually have elaborate prison systems!”

- Cuba (Fidel Castro)
“That’s the Dark Side of socialism—it restricts, including where you go and how you get there.”

- Venezuela (Hugo Chavez)
“That’s the Dark Side of socialism—it doesn’t necessarily lead to equality and redistribution of wealth, as promised.”

- Canada – a Parliamentary Democracy

- Europe (Scandinavia) – experimented in the 1970s-80s; abandoned in the 1990s

- The United States – Progressive Party; Social Democrats, USA; Democratic Socialists of America

Five Closing Points:

1. History shows us that free enterprise and free markets have lifted more out of poverty and produced more material wealth than any other system man has yet to come up with.
2. History shows that free people have the ability and the incentive to improve their lives – and in the process improve the lives of others. That’s what competition gives us.
3. History shows that checks and balances, with constitutional law to guide it, restrains leaders from tyranny.
4. History shows that religion, when kept free and is not coerced, teaches the self-restraint needed to counter man’s greed, when it shows up.
5. History shows that religion, promotes charity to care for the needy and the poor, who Jesus said would always be with us.

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