

Republican Perspective

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Socialism 101

“Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.”

--Winston Churchill

Years ago, Bernie Sanders was considered an anachronism, referred to by smiling colleagues as “that old socialist.” Now he is considered a viable contender for President of the United States. Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the 29-year-old socialist candidate, is popular with the left even though her television interviews expose a frightening lack of knowledge about Congress and world affairs. Not since Eugene V. Debs, in the early 20th century, have socialists had this much credibility and support. Should we be concerned?

A recent Gallup poll showed 57% of Democrats prefer socialism to capitalism. A September 2018, BuzzFeed poll of young millennials showed one-third identify as socialist. Historians and economists expound the evils of Marxism. Why are some, particularly young people, defending socialism today?

Besides the fact that it fits neatly into their vocabulary (social justice, social media, socialism), I suspect young people defend socialism because they may not know its history, or they have been misinformed by leftist professors and politicians. Then too, millennials have huge college debts, and talk of free college speaks to their problems. What should they know about socialism?

Socialism began in the 19th century, the invention of Karl Marx, who said, “My object in life is to dethrone God and destroy capitalism.” Comfortably ensconced in the British Museum, and living off the generosity of his collaborator, Friedrich Engels, Marx addressed what he saw as a class struggle between capitalist factory owners and manual laborers. His solution, as written in *Das Kapital*, was to advocate a worker’s revolution, and a government that owns and controls pretty much everything. He believed his vision could “be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions,” where social conditions refer to religion, personal possessions, and freedom. Since few people give up their assets and independence willingly, creating a Marxist paradise has always required guns, prisons, and executions.

In Marxist theory, socialism is a transitional social state between the overthrow of capitalism and the realization of communism. Marx said, "The theory of communism may be summed up in one sentence: Abolish all private property."

To the uninformed, socialism may sound benevolent and equitable with promises of redistribution of wealth, free college, and free healthcare, but like a Ponzi scheme that inevitably leads to bankruptcy, socialism inevitably leads to poverty, loss of freedom, and death. Examples are numerous: Venezuela, the Soviet Union, Cuba, North Korea, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, China, Vietnam, eastern Europe; without exception, wherever Marx's ideas were practiced, life got worse, much worse. During the 20th century, communist regimes killed over 100 million people and enslaved more than a billion.

Defenders of socialism say the 'real' socialism has never been tried. It has. Leaders like Lenin, Mao, and Castro wanted absolute power and Marxism provided the means.

Scandinavian countries are pointed to as examples of successful socialist governments. But they are not. They all have free-market capitalism.

There are many reasons why socialism always fails. It is based on faulty economic principals. And, it excludes incentives, the motives for hard work and innovation. For detailed critiques of socialism, read Friedrich Hayek or Ludwig von Mises.

Whereas socialism has always failed, capitalism has always succeeded. Capitalism, the free exchange of goods and services through privately-owned business, has raised more people out of poverty than any other system ever devised.

So many precepts of Marx and Lenin are displayed by the Democrats today, one sees the movement afoot. Democrats are working against capitalist America by pushing for increased debt, increased taxes, socialist programs, socialist candidates, brain-washing our youth, media propaganda, P.C. speech codes, identity politics (not E Pluribus Unum), equality of outcome (not freedom), and anti-Christian policies (not morality).

Then there is socialized medicine ("If you like your doctor..."), disarming the public, fraudulent global warming, alienating democratic allies, strengthening communist enemies, globalists touting a one-world government, relinquishing sovereignty to the U.N., open borders, sanctuary cities, and so much more.

It is telling that progressives want to abandon the Constitution, saying it wasn't written for a modern society. Our Constitution guarantees that power rests with the people and free elections. It has safeguards to prevent centralized power and dictatorships, as in socialism. How alarming to glimpse the future when we heard President Obama say, "We've got to have a civilian national security force that's just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded [as our military]."

Democrats are becoming increasingly ruthless and aggressive. Democrat mayors order their police to stand down in the face of mob violence and destruction of property. Rep. Maxine Waters, Sen. Corey Booker, and others call for confrontation, and intimidation. Hillary Clinton said, "There can be no civility until the Democrats win back the Senate or the House," while Soros-paid mobs take to the streets to foment insurrection. Karl Marx would be smiling.

Then there's President Trump who may be unorthodox, but he is a patriot. He is restoring our nation's greatness faster than anyone believed possible. He is the right man at the right time to ensure the future of America.

Should we be concerned that the Democrats are trying to make America a socialist nation? Absolutely! These Democrats, with their progressives, globalists, socialists, and communists, pose a grave threat to our future. They must not succeed.

It is imperative that you vote on November 6, and that you vote for Republicans. To vote Democrat means you are voting to abolish ICE, impeach Justice Kavanaugh, impeach President Trump, and to abandon the presumption of innocence. To vote Democrat is to vote for Pelosi and Schumer, for gridlock, for chaos, for the swamp, and for socialism. As President Trump succinctly says, the choice is "mobs or jobs."