



**SOCIALISM:
SHAM.
ABSURD.
DANGEROUS.**

RED FLAGS
PRESS

SHAM. ABSURD. DANGEROUS.

Socialism is back from the dead, making it critical to understand the thinking that underpins this philosophy. That's why Red Flags Press exists.

Our book, *Socialism Says*, and the papers that back it up are filled with quotes from celebrated socialists. We let their words demonstrate three things essential to know about socialism:

It's a sham: Socialists engage in exceptionally unethical selling. They make promises they know can't be delivered. They hide facts that would hurt sales. They use misleading marketing slogans. And more.

It's absurd: Socialist theory hinges on ludicrous assumptions, ones that make key socialist sales promises effectively lies.

It's exceedingly dangerous: The defects that caused earlier socialist authoritarian disasters remain in the socialist product today. As we'll shortly explore, there are three critical flaws, including socialism's foundation on compulsory duty and its requirement for a society of suppression.

Learn more herein and at redflagspress.org.

KARL MARX, “DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST”?

Much, if not most, of what you’ll learn in Red Flags Press materials is likely to come as a surprise. As one example: Were you aware that today’s socialists consider socialist superstar Karl Marx a **“democratic socialist”**?

They count Marx as a “democratic socialist” even though he considered himself a **“communist,”** even though he called our liberal rights **“nonsense,”** even though his thinking has been the basis of every authoritarian socialist society, etc.

This is one of the facts that show “democratic” socialism is a misleading marketing slogan – a sham – and not the new version of the socialist product we have been led to believe.

3. COMMUNIST MARX IS SAID TO BE A DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST

Democratic Socialists of America founder Michael Harrington repeatedly ordained Marx a “democratic socialist” and even dedicated *The Twilight of Capitalism* to Marx the “democratic socialist.”

That Marx is counted as a democratic socialist by the DSA’s founder makes it blainly clear that “democratic” socialism is plain old Marxism, not some new socialism.

Harrington could have demonstrated nuance. Had he considered any of Marx’s beliefs to be inconsistent with those of democratic socialism, Harrington could have said something along the lines of: “Except for thinking our rights are ‘nabish,’ considering capitalism ‘idiot,’ desiring child labor as education, and X, Y, and Z, Marx was one heck of a democratic socialist.” But Harrington makes no such exceptions.

Of course, Marx considered himself a communist. That’s why he titled the book that would become his most famous work *The Communist Manifesto*. That’s why nations like the USSR were glad to call themselves “communist” as well as “socialist.” Since the communist Karl Marx counts as a democratic socialist, other communists are free to claim the same.

The Twilight of Capitalism
by Michael Harrington

To the future of an almost forgotten genius ... champion of human freedom and democratic socialist – Karl Marx.
ROBERT HARRINGTON, FOUNDER OF DSA/DSA

We Communists have been criticized [for] wanting to abolish the right of personally acquiring property.

Karl Marx

A page spread from *Socialism Says* detailing how the founder of the Democratic Socialists of America says Marx counts as a “democratic socialist.”

SOCIALISM SAYS

Spend even 15 minutes skimming the pages of *Socialism Says*, and you'll learn dozens of new facts about the flaws of socialism.

Our book features hundreds of damning quotes from noted socialists. Here's how one reader described the impact:

"Reading *Socialism Says* is like watching famous socialists set their philosophy on fire."

Socialism Says is 5.5" square (like this pamphlet). Its chapters are composed of two-page spreads, each exploring a single concept – text on the left and a graphical layout on the right.

SOCIALISM AND FASCISM, SEPARATED AT BIRTH?

Fidel Castro and Benito Mussolini describe the goal of their philosophies in identical terms: all workers, no parasites.

Socialism and fascism are both obsessed with "parasites," and for the same reason: they both reject liberalism's lack of compulsory duty. Socialism demands duty to society. Fascism demands duty to "the community," as Hitler liked putting it.

Since both of these philosophies are founded on compulsory duty, their adherents see "parasites" in need of suppression wherever they turn. Yes, just like socialism, fascism looks forward to "drastic measures to eliminate the parasites."

WHERE DID "THE FATHER OF FASCISM" LEARN TO ATTACK PARASITES?
Why, as a socialist. Before becoming "the father of fascism," Mussolini was a leader in the Italian Socialist Party and editor-in-chief of its national newspaper, *Avanti!* He wrote hundreds of articles and gave hundreds of speeches selling socialism. He even started his own socialist newspaper, *Il Popolo*.

It is the **Socialist Party** that told the peasantry: the earth is yours and not that of the parasites that exploit you.



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OUR RIGHTS, TRASHED

Karl Marx calls for socialist society to be based on the duty of "from each according to their ability" while assuring our rights as "rubbish." He didn't mince words when he talked about his disdain for individual rights.

Fidel Castro



SOCIALISM:
A country of workers without parasites of any type.

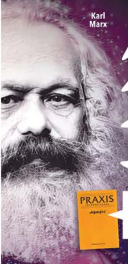
FASCISM:
A nation of all producers and no parasites.

Benito Mussolini



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Karl Marx



rubbish
FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY

nonsense
FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY

supposed rights
FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY

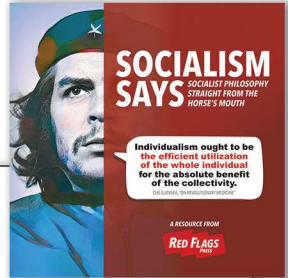
so-called rights
FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY

PRAXIS

Marx and Engels always wrote disparagingly about the language of rights and justice.
FROM EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY

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OUR PAPERS

We've authored 17 comprehensive papers that explore what socialism has to say on a wide range of topics (titles listed to the right). Each is chock-full of quotes from socialist greats. All are available for free.

Ten of these papers offer deep dives (with more details, more quotes, and extensive bibliographies) into the subjects summarized in *Socialism Says*.



Papers are available online and as downloadable PDFs at redflagspress.org.

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- **THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF SOCIALIST DUTY**
- ● **OUR "SO-CALLED" RIGHTS**
- ● **IT'S ONLY SOCIALISM IF IT DOESN'T BLOW UP**
- ● **FOUR HOURS EVERY WEEKDAY**
- ● **THE "KETO-FRIENDLY" POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**
- ● **THE SECRET SAUCE OF SOCIALISM**
- ● **THE SOCIALIST OBSESSION: "PARASITES"**
- ● **VLADIMIR LENIN, ECOSOCIALIST?**
- ● **WHY SOCIALISM SAYS CRAFTWORK IS "IDIOCY"**
- ● **DOUBLING DOWN ON DUTY**
- ● **KARL MARX'S "EDUCATION OF THE FUTURE"**
- ● **WHY SOCIALISM SAYS SLACKING IS "THEFT"**
- ● **ARTIST, VISIONARY, AUTHORITARIAN**
- ● **DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM? DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN**
- ● **KARL MARX, "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST"**
- ● **A "DEFECT" OF LIBERALISM**
- ● **SOCIALISM? COMMUNISM?**

SHAM

From their philosophy's earliest days, socialists have attacked marketing in capitalist society, arguing that it's rife with unscrupulous practices. How ironic to discover that socialists are salespeople themselves, employing every trick in the book.

Using misleading marketing slogans. Making promises that the seller knows will never be delivered. Concealing facts that undercut sales claims. Failing to warn about product risks. Socialists engage in each of these ugly practices and more.

And we're not just talking about socialist politicians but also about those who hold themselves out as theoreticians. Most of these authors and profs are more huckster than philosopher. Their primary focus? How best to pitch their product.

Most chapters of *Socialism Says* and RFP papers highlight instances of unethical selling by socialists. Two examples:

"Karl Marx's 'Education of the Future'" – summarized in Ch. 9 of *Socialism Says* – studies how socialists hide Marx's repeated calls for child labor to play a central role in socialist society.

"The 'Keto-Friendly' Political Philosophy" – summarized in Ch. 7 of *Socialism Says* – details factors demonstrating that democratic socialism is a misleading marketing slogan.

ABSURD

The second critical point to understand about socialism is that it's based on ludicrous assumptions – ones so unlikely to be realized that they turn socialist sales promises into lies.

A prime example? Socialism's need for a world of overflowing abundance – a world based on what Marx called "constant over-production." This special ingredient is required to deliver on socialism's most important sales promises.

The gargantuan increases in production volumes necessary to create such a world pull off quite a trick: they're both utopian (as in impossible) and dystopian (as in totally unsustainable). Learn the details in "The Secret Sauce of Socialism" – summarized in Ch. 10 of *Socialism Says*.

Another sample of the farcical notions central to socialism: socialist theory holds that all citizens would be required to attend endless hours of societal meetings. One noted socialist estimates that we would each need to spend 20 hours a week attending meetings and performing admin work for society.

See "Four Hours Every Weekday" – summarized in Ch. 8 of *Socialism Says* – for details on this additional ridiculous premise at the heart of socialist theory.

DANGEROUS

The last critical thing to understand about socialism is that it's exceedingly dangerous. The following defects – responsible for the nightmares of the socialist past – remain in socialism today.

Socialism's compulsory duty

Its foundation on the anti-liberal duty of "from each according to their ability" has warped socialism in multiple ways.

Two examples: This duty overrides our liberal right to use our time and talents in essentially any way we see fit (see "Our 'So-Called' Rights" – summarized in Ch. 3 of *Socialism Says*). It's also responsible for socialism's fascist-like fixation with alleged "parasites" and their suppression (see "The Socialist Obsession" – summarized in Ch. 5 of *Socialism Says*).

Socialism's requirement for a society of suppression

A second dangerous defect in socialism's design is that creating a socialist society requires mass suppression and a government with the extraordinary powers necessary to carry it out.

The socialist government must have the power to impose compulsory duty. It must have the power to suppress private enterprise. It must have the power to suppress alleged "parasites," supposedly "useless" jobs and products, and more.

A government with the power to carry out this bulk suppression is incredibly dangerous in its own right. But as socialist history has repeatedly shown, once such a government exists, there's no controlling how it will be used or how many lives it will consume.

Examples of the suppression that socialism demands and the vast power socialists see their government wielding appear throughout our materials. "Vladimir Lenin, Ecosocialist?" – summarized in Ch. 11 of *Socialism Says* – offers many examples.

Socialism remains Marxism

As illustrated by self-proclaimed "communist" Marx being promoted as a "democratic socialist," socialism remains Marxism through and through.

This reality compounds the threat that socialism represents. The danger stems not only from Marx's anti-liberal beliefs but also from his definition of what counts as a socialist society.

Marxism demands that a socialist society be one in which *all* private enterprise and even *all* buying and selling are suppressed. Not just every large corporation is to be eliminated, but also every small business, small farm, and craft workshop.

The pursuit of this wholesale societal transformation boosts the repression required, increasing the odds that socialist authoritarianism ends up totalitarianism.

THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF COMPULSORY DUTY

One of the reasons socialism is so dangerous is that it's based on a fundamentally anti-liberal form of duty – a type of duty that socialists admit is “strikingly absent” in our current society. Socialism’s duty of “from each according to their ability” turns our time and talents into society’s property to control.



Socialism Says and our detailed papers explore the many ways in which compulsory duty has warped socialist philosophy.



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