

Socialism or Fascism

A look at the inevitable result of capitalism and how we really have a choice.

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Socialism or Fascism

The concept of Socialism has begun to become a topic of discussion in America recently as we witness the absolute failure of the current economic system to meet people's needs.

And it seems to be so controversial. I hear over and over again how it's such a far out idea. Or the specter of the Soviet Union is evoked. But I have noticed that the even those who are more open minded about it fail completely to elucidate the reason why it is the answer.

Before I put the simplicity of it in words let me preface it by pointing out how capitalism is wrong down to the bones. As a society we claim to have certain values that I do believe people have in their heart of hearts. And good caring thoughtful parents will try and impress these values on their children. These are values such as learning to play well with others. To share with other children. To help others in need. To be honest.

And then when we grow up, we are taught that in the "real world" all those things won't work. Greed becomes necessary as one learns that they can't expect help from others.

So here it is:

Socialism not only will work; it is the only system that can work. The idea that a system based on caring for each other and helping each other and looking out for the greater good can't work - is insane. Totally insane.

The system we now have prioritizes gross national product rather than values. Leisure time, the arts, and community events are all filler in between the standard of making money and collecting things.

The system empowers an elite class (it always has and always will - it's baked in) who decide how everything is organized and imposes their order on the vast majority of the population.

At this point I want to amend the original article with a brief explanation of why I believe that the existence of an elite class is baked into capitalism.

In the previous paragraph I referred to "leisure time, the arts, and community events" being filler in our current capitalist structure. People come in all stripes and have affinity for different things, and thank god for that.

To the benefit of society there are those who don't think in the most "practical" ways. Our societies would be so much poorer without the artists, the musicians, the storytellers, the philosophers, the writers; those who bring beauty, levity, and perspective to our lives. These people are not inclined to leverage money.

And then there is another class who, in a less modern society than today's, would earn their keep in a more "productive" way - the farmer, the cook, the class of people whose legacy lives on in family names: the tailor, the carpenter, the smith, the cooper, who are inclined to do what we consider to be "work" but again are not inclined to leverage money.

And let's not forget the caregivers: people raising children, the housewife or househusband, the nurse, the healer.

In a capitalist society, where money is the bottom line, there will be people with an affinity for that game and who will be inclined to leverage money to make more money. Some will be driven by lust for things, some will be driven by lust for power. And then there will be another class of participants in this capitalist trap who may not be so inclined but will be driven by fear of being left behind when they see the consequences of being left out the system.

So, yes it is completely baked in. An elite class defined by money will arise and will naturally, with money giving power and influence, sustain and solidify their position. And those with affinity to a different lifestyle are left with no choice but to work 9 to 5, more often than not spending time and doing work that is not their passion and not in tune with their real talents and gifts.

Back to the original article:

This elite class locks the system in by controlling the resources, the means of production, the media, the finances, and the government; they make all the rules.

This is fascism.

Either we all work together as equals with intent towards bettering each other's lives (socialism) or we don't and instead we accept a class of elites who get to make the rules (fascism).

Unfortunately the paradigm of capitalism is so pervasive that it is common that idealists, such as believers in socialism, are put down by many as not living in the "real world", while the critics of these idealists argue for behavior that is contrary to their own ideals and works against their own interests.

The answer is simple.

How can doing the right thing possibly not work?!!

See my thoughts on the subject modified in two other documents, both of which can be viewed or [downloaded here](#):

Communism, The Inevitable Result of Capitalism?

Capitalism vs. Socialism - A False Construct