

Definitions

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By

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We are socialists, we are enemies of today's capitalistic economic system for the exploitation of the economically weak, with its unfair salaries, with its unseemly evaluation of a human being according to wealth and property instead of responsibility and performance, and we are all determined to destroy this system under all conditions.

[Adolf Hitler](#)

An economic system is the means by which a society distributes wealth. A capitalist system leaves all property in private hands that is not directly required for the operation of the government. Individuals are free to acquire wealth and to redistribute it by hiring and through private charity.

Capitalism is, therefore, private ownership of the means of production. It is different from socialism, which we define as follows:

Socialism by its most common dictionary definition is "government ownership of the means of production."

Means of Production is anything you can buy or sell. Another word for it is "property."

Ownership is a collection of rights: The owner of property can sell it, use and enjoy it, destroy it, rent it, and deny someone else any or all rights in it.

Ownership can be shared. In a partnership, two or more partners may share all ownership rights to the shared property. Ownership can also be shared by assigning certain rights in property while reserving others.

An American example of shared ownership is your home, which is partially owned by you and partially by your government. That government has the right to collect rent in the form of property taxes from you for their portion of your home, and the right to evict you (deny you the use of the shared property) if you fail to pay.

Note that "socialism" has meaning only for economic systems, not for systems of governance. To compare, say, fascism with, democracy or oligarchy, is to compare apples with cherries or kumquats. Dictators are fungible, whatever their economic systems: Hitler <=> Stalin <=> Pol Pot <=> Caligula <=> Castro <=> Saddam Hussein. The fact that so many of these rulers had socialist economic systems means

only that socialism makes it easier to ascend to that level of power, not that socialist societies are all dictatorships.

Now that you know what I think a socialist is, here's what I believe its three basic flavors to be:

Fascism is a socialist economic system in which property ownership is shared. That is, either the state has some ownership rights or a joint interest in all ownership rights. This precisely fits the model of Mussolini's Corporative State. All of Mussolini's Blackshirts were fascists, incidentally, but not all fascists were or are Blackshirts.

Communism is a socialist system in which government ownership is total. The authority is Karl Marx. All of Stalin's Bolsheviks were communists, but not all communists are Bolsheviks, the political party that implemented communism in the Soviet Union.

National Socialism is a socialist system that is fascist for all enterprises until they reach a certain size or influence, at which point they are nationalized. All Nazis are national socialists, but not all national socialists are Nazis: This system predates Hitler by at least several decades. Hitler took it over in the 1920s, (and lost it in 1945), but there remain millions of national socialists worldwide. They simply call their economic systems something else.

Slavery is the ownership of one person's production (labor) by another. [Charles Dodgson](#) (Lewis Carroll) defined it as "the labour of those who do not enjoy, for the enjoyment of those who do not labour."

Greed is desire in excess of "need," typically as defined by someone who wishes to enslave you by taking property away from you. Generally speaking greed in a capitalist system is a good thing: People who get rich usually enrich everyone around them.

Punishment is deprivation of life, liberty or property.

It is my belief, based on these definitions, that all socialists are fascists, national socialists or communists, and that all three systems are enslaving. Remember that socialists are not *per se* totalitarians; that is, communism is not Bolshevism, nor is national socialism Naziism. I would also submit, however, that there is no practical difference between a Bolshevik and a Nazi, of whom there are plenty left around.

If you want to argue with me, go ahead. But if you want me to listen to you seriously, be sure we both know what you think words like "socialism" and "slavery" mean. You're welcome to tell me where I'm wrong.