

# Three Faces of Socialism Or Why I Am A Fascist

By

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This is an essay about socialism. The opposite of socialism is capitalism, which has not existed in this country for over a century, and is no longer worth considering as an economic alternative for any but a few dictatorships like Singapore. Capitalism hasn't been an interesting discussion topic since the time of Locke and Hume.

Socialism is and has always been an economic concept, nothing more or less. It's a collection of systems that define the way a nation distributes wealth and establishes ownership of property, particularly — but not exclusively — that of the means of production. Specifically, socialism has nothing to do with democracy or dictatorship: Popularly elected socialist leaders are at least as common as socialist despots are. Nothing in any socialist system requires racial discrimination or genocide. It's entirely possible to have a socialist system without a national secret police force or a system of concentration camps. To be a socialist entails being neither a chauvinist nor a militarist. Socialism is nothing but a collection of economic theories that define how property is owned and how wealth is distributed among the members of a society.

It's important to understand this so that one may contemplate the theories of socialism outside the emotional context provided by specific socialist governments. It's vital nevertheless to understand the theories and practice of those governments to enable one to remain a loyal, productive citizen in a nation which become socialist, but continues to delude itself that it is not. To deny that we live in a socialist society — worse, to conduct oneself in a manner inconsistent with that expected of a good socialist citizen — is dangerous as well as perversely opposed to simple observation and logic.

From left to right, then, the three components of the socialist spectrum are Communism, National Socialism, and Fascism.

In a Communist society, the people, through their government, own all property in common just as the apostles of Our Lord Jesus Christ did at the time of the Acts. Individual property rights do not exist. The government takes in all of the wealth produced and redistributes it equally among the populace. Each contributes according to his ability; each receives according to his need.

In a Fascist society, at the right end of the socialist spectrum, property rights are shared between government and individuals. The government collects such wealth as exceeds

the needs of its producers through taxes, and directly redistributes additional wealth by regulation. It bestows this collected wealth as required to meet the needs of those who have not produced it. Each contributes according to his ability; each receives according to his need.

In the central, or moderate, portion of the socialist spectrum is National Socialism. National Socialism acts like Fascism, sharing ownership of property between individuals and government, until a business or industry grows to a certain size or attains a certain degree of influence. At that point, the government takes over, or "nationalizes," that industry, for which the system now fits the Communist model. By this hybrid means, then, each contributes according to his ability; each receives according to his need.

Notice that there is nothing in, say, National Socialism that calls for mass murder or political repression. Nothing in Communism requires gulags or forbids the free election of a nation's leaders. Nothing in Fascism, by far the most common of all socialist systems, demands government control of the press or permits the suppression of a religious creed. Adolf Hitler did not come to power because he promised to nationalize corporations and distribute their wealth among the people. Rather, this highly popular, democratically elected dictator rose to the Chancellery by playing on the resentments of a people impoverished and victimized by the Treaty of Versailles. Had Hitler been a Capitalist, the history of the world between 1918 and 1945 would have followed the same course. The Fascist Juan Peron resorted to safety and health regulations to silence Argentina's largest newspaper, but those regulations would have been available to him had he been a National Socialist or a Communist. Josef Stalin was able to become dictator of the Soviet Union because he took charge of the Secretariat — a job no one else wanted — and with it control of the police and security forces upon which he based his personal hegemony. The result of this decision would have been the same whatever his economic beliefs.

Indeed, the only possible danger that might inhere in any socialist system is that it requires a strong government which, if not closely watched, might provide the tools needed by a Mussolini or a Pol Pot to rise to absolute power. In a nation like the United States, however, with its elaborate checks and balances between Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government; its traditional guarantees of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and its democratic system of free elections; there seems to be little to worry about. We can retain every confidence in our ability to control our government even as we allow it to become as powerful as it needs to be to take care of our needs, the one indispensable function of any society's government.

In the clear, cold light of reason, therefore, it should offend no one to refer to the United States as a Fascist nation moving leftward toward National Socialism. Clearly we have established Fascism already: American corporations are heavily regulated, and are heavily taxed to fund social programs that redistribute wealth along the lines of the classical Fascist economic model. Individuals share ownership of their homes, for another example, with government: If a homeowner fails to pay rent in the form of property taxes, government is empowered to exercise its share of ownership rights to

evict the delinquent taxpayer. As for using regulation to redistribute corporate wealth, we need look no further than the myriad government lawsuits against various sectors of the tobacco industry or against corporations like Microsoft for examples of raising funds through regulation that through taxation would be unavailable. That we are embracing National Socialism is also evident in our government's continuing attempts to take over the various health care industries in the United States, nationalizing them and investing their ownership solely in government.

As we have seen, this is no cause for alarm. Yet it would seem prudent to arm ourselves with certain attitudes and behaviors which have served other citizens of other Fascist democracies. It's foolish, after all, to die defending something that no one else wants or believes in, and government is, in fact, powerful in ways we citizens are not. Is there anything specific we need to pack into our "citizenship kits" that is most likely to help us deal with our socialist evolution?

Well, yes there is.

First, **be silent**. While it's true that we Americans have a right to speak freely on most political subjects, certain matters like the Oklahoma City Bombing; the suicides of the Branch Davidians, Kenneth Trentadue and Vincent Foster; and the firearms raid at Ruby Ridge are the business of government and none of our own. Pastor Niemoller, famous for his little treatise on maintaining silence as his government came for one group then another until they came for him, spent close to nine years in Dachau and Sachsenhausen precisely because he couldn't keep his mouth shut. The average German citizen—workers of that period did not comment on the smell wafting from the local asylum or on the sudden absence of their Jehovah's Witness neighbors. It bears pointing out that, aside from the obvious ravages of war, these people got along just fine.

Second, **be loyal**. When you get right down to it, there's only one rule of economics that means anything at all, and that rule is "The more things people make, the more there is to go around, and the more everybody can have." Loyalty demands that we all contribute to the utmost to ensure there's enough to go around. Remember, too, that your government is doing the best it can to see to provide for your needs. It can't do this unless you pay the requisite taxes. It can't collect the taxes unless you support government's efforts to set taxes at a fair and equitable level. Loyalty also entails keeping an eye on your neighbor to insure that he or she remains within the law. Report any violations, especially of regulatory or tax law, you may encounter to the proper authorities. Remember, all law-abiding citizens are victims of these crimes.

Finally, **be patient**. Remember that our evolution into Fascism didn't happen overnight. It took thousands of elections, lawsuits, legislative measures, petitions, demonstrations, court decisions, and even wars over more than a hundred years to bring us to the point we've reached today. If you still see vestiges of Capitalism, the sad, social-darwinist system of greed that results from allowing individuals the sole ownership of property, take heart! Simply make a note of them, and resolve to deal with them. Write your

congressperson. Send letters to your newspaper. Form a union or other political organization. And don't walk away from the problems before you know they're solved.

Comrades! Brothers! Sisters! Let us all set our hearts and hands to the holy task of building a new America dedicated to all six Freedoms, including Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to the work of defending the weakest and most helpless among us from the ravages of rapacity and greed. Let us cleanse our hearts of selfishness. And let us so conduct ourselves that when we stand before our God on judgment day, we may truly say, "I cared."

In that day, Earth will be Heaven enough!