

# A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

*The Definitions and Dangers of Socialism*

“See to it that no one takes you *captive* through philosophy and empty deception...” *Col. 2:8*

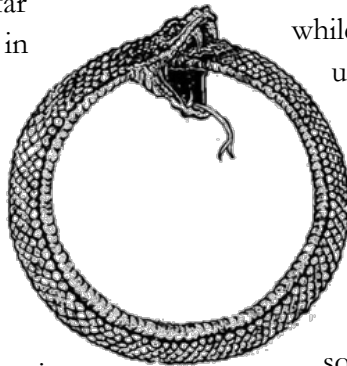
## A Culture in Chaos

The United States has reached a tipping point, where all that we know and love about this country is being threatened. Consider the turmoil of our times.

The national debt is nearing \$30 trillion, which amounts to \$80K per citizen or \$215K per taxpayer. Because of inflation, the dollar has lost 90% of its purchasing value in the last 100 years. Nearly half of American citizens depend on the federal government either for work, retirement, loans, unemployment, or welfare. In the process, the size of the federal government has expanded exponentially, far beyond its constitutional boundaries; and, in order to fund it, Americans forfeit up to 40% of their income to dozens of creative and hidden taxes.

Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, the U.S. has aborted 70 million children, averaging 4000 babies a day. Pornography is our nation’s largest industry, earning more in a year than all of the major sports leagues combined. Same-sex marriage is recognized in all 50 states. Transgenderism is transforming American culture, and 50% of marriages end in divorce.

A secular, progressive, anti-Christian government controls our schools, media, healthcare, and businesses. A similar ideology has infiltrated our sports and entertainment industries. Conservatives are being censored or silenced by biased Big Tech companies. Rioting, looting, and senseless violence have engulfed several large cities. Monuments, monikers, and memorials are being removed or replaced at a rapid pace. America’s history is being rewritten by the cancel culture; and all of this has



been complemented by a pandemic that has been used to close and crush our economy.

We could dissect each of these issues and develop a strategy for changing it, but we would have greater success if we would address the principal problem – their cause. Our country has a sickness, a dry rot that has settled in the core of its structure, and unless we address that disease, our society will collapse.

## The Enemies Within

Abraham Lincoln once said, “If destruction be our lot, then we must ourselves be its author. As a nation of free men, we must live through all time or die by suicide.” In other words, our forefathers gave the “keys to the car” to the American people. If the country careens off a cliff, it will be their doing.

As Americans have turned their back on God, He has handed them over to enemies (*Judges 6:1-10; 10:6-14*). Some enemies are more obvious (i.e., terrorists), while other enemies hide in the shadows and fly under the radar. The one enemy who has secretly and methodically managed to achieve great “success” in the United States is socialism.

“Mention socialism in a conversation today and you will almost definitely hear cricket sounds. No one cares. It’s history. The Cold War is over. The Berlin Wall fell, we won, move on. Yes, the wall fell, but it fell in our direction. Socialism has long flooded Western Civilization. America is no exception. The influences of socialism have never been more dangerous than now. Yet, we are asleep to it” (Joel McDurmon, *God vs. Socialism*).

Socialism is no longer hiding in the shadows. Socialism is out in the open, and Americans are fully embracing it. The snake has bitten our leg, and it is now filling our system with its powerful poison. Socialism is no longer a bygone cancer of the Cold War. It is now a clear and present danger. Socialist candidates hold our highest offices. Socialist policies are set in place every day, and socialist propaganda saturates our media, entertainment, and schools. But most Americans are oblivious to the dangers and

deceptions of socialist doctrine. God's people must not be among them (*1 John 4:1-6; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 1 Chron. 12:32*).

The Apostle Paul warned Christians to be discerning regarding the world's man-centered schemes. "See to it that no one takes you captive," he wrote, "through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ" (*Col. 2:8*). While non-Christians may be easily taken captive by socialist doctrine, the people of God must be more discerning to see through the lies and steer clear of the traps.

### Definitions of Socialism

A good place to begin understanding socialism is knowing what it is. According to journalist John T. Flynn, author of *The Road Ahead* (1949), "Socialism is the assumption of the State (or government) of the authority for control of the entire *economic* system." In other words, socialism is government planning of the economy, but it is much more than that.

According to *Dictionary.com*, "Socialism is a *political and economic* theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community. In Marxist theory, socialism is a *transitional* social state between the overthrow of capitalism and the realization of Communism." Notice that socialism is described as involving economic and political systems, and it is a political and economic transition from capitalism or ownership of private property (equal opportunity) to Communism or ownership of all in common (equal outcome).

British politician John Strachey (1901-1963) said, "It is impossible to establish Communism as the immediate successor to capitalism. Hence, Communists work for the establishment of socialism as a necessary *transition* stage to Communism" (*Theory and Practice of Socialism*). Once again, socialism is described as a way to move a capitalist society like ours to a Communist society. When a country openly touts its desire to move towards a socialist society, its

people are being groomed or conditioned for a Communist takeover.

Paul Skousen, in his excellent book *The Naked Socialist*, wrote, "Socialism is a beautiful promise – a utopia – a future of equality, security, and prosperity for all. The only catch is that socialism requires people to forfeit their liberty; and to create this Utopia, socialists need to tear down and replace the 'old society,' which explains their need for revolution."

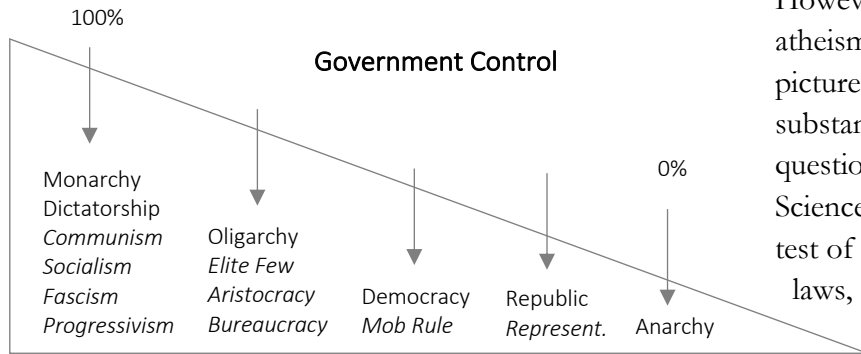
Skousen continues, "But socialism is structured so that it will never achieve its goals. It is a self-perpetuating consumption of other people's labor. When those labors fall short or run out, then the whole system dies. Whenever those who work the hardest to produce the most are not properly compensated, they will stop producing. Therefore, socialism is a blatant contradiction. It sets out to accuse the world of inequality, injustice, and lack of freedom, yet history has shown that once socialism is put in place, it imposes a far greater inequality, injustice, and lack of freedom than that which existed before."

Finally, Skousen writes, "To achieve equality or fairness (really sameness), socialists must crush the attributes that create inequality. They achieve that fairness by appealing to envy and by provoking a sense of unfairness (i.e., the rich aren't paying their fair share). Then, they suggest a use of force to acquire it. The instrument of force that socialists use is the State or government. Socialists want the State to take from the 'haves' and give to the 'have nots' (transition from equal opportunity to equal outcome). Therefore, *socialism is government force to change society*. It progresses like a snake eating its tail."

### Socialism in Context

When compared to other forms of government, socialism is an oppressive regime, the little brother to Communism, which demands total control over citizens' lives. While there are many names for this type of control – Communism, socialism, fascism, progressivism, collectivism, Statism – they are all cousins in the Marxist family. Simply put, they all add

up to big government. The only difference between these “isms” is the amount of control the government has. One thing is certain, in none of these systems do people have any rights or liberty.



*Progressivism* is the idea that progress can only be achieved by government intervention and control. A *fascist* state is one that does not own businesses but controls them through taxation and regulation. A *socialist* state is one that owns key businesses (i.e., communication, transportation, education) and controls the rest. A *Communist* state is one that owns and controls everything. The American Founders established a government that was limited by the chains of the Constitution (a republic), thereby making it impossible for these “isms” to exist.

### The Worldview of Socialism

Still, there is more to the story. Socialism is not simply a system of government or economics. Socialism is a side-effect of a secular worldview. Just as a biblical view of the world drives men to limit government and protect rights and liberties, so does a secular view of the world drive men to establish an all-controlling government. If men approach the world without God in the picture, then socialism becomes their only option.

In a biblical worldview, God is the sovereign Creator of all things, including people. Therefore, people are subject to God’s authority and accountable to Him for their actions. People are made in God’s image. Individuals have value, purpose, and rights. However, man rebelled against God and corrupted all with his sin. His sin jeopardizes life, liberty, and property. To protect his rights, God established human

government (State), yet because of man’s sinful nature, government is to be limited, allowing people to govern themselves. In this worldview, the State exists for man. Man does not exist for the State.

However, in a secular worldview, people embrace atheism. In their minds, excluding God from the picture leaves only nature -- tangible material substances. Nature must be self-existing, and all questions about life must be answered naturally. Science is championed, and everything must pass the test of scientific examination. Without God and His laws, there can be no standard of morality. Morals, then, are left to individuals or societies to define. The strongest or wealthiest people among them get to be in charge (the idea of might makes right). They are called the State. Everyone else exists for the State. The State becomes society’s god, and humanism is its religion. Since the State is sovereign, it must have control of all things.

It is easy to see that a socialist mindset involves more than government and economics. It encompasses all aspects of society; and, naturally, a socialist’s position on the issues of life will be opposite the biblical worldview. Thus, socialism is not only a battle that we fight in the ballot box. Socialism is a way of thinking that infiltrates and corrupts our way of living.

### Humanist Manifesto

To help us understand the socialist’s worldview more clearly, we must turn to the Humanist Manifesto. Humanism is an expression of the lie that man is equal to God. In 1933, that lie was articulated by John Dewey and others in the first of three declarations. The second Manifesto was written in 1973 and the third in 2003. Humanists or socialists have “traded the truth of God for a lie and serve only the creature, not the Creator” (*Rom. 1:18-25*). Here are a few of their doctrines.

1. The universe is self-existing.
2. Man is a part of nature, a result of a continuous process.
3. Holding to an organic view of life, humanists reject the dualistic idea of mind and body.

4. Nature makes unacceptable any supernatural guarantees of human values.
5. Human personality is the end of man's life. We seek its fulfillment in the here and now.
6. Man will face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of his naturalness.
7. Religious activities must be reconstituted in order to function effectively.
8. The profit-motivated society is inadequate, and a radical change of methods, control, and motives must be instituted.
9. A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.
10. Believing that the purpose of religion is to increase joy in life, humanism encourages creativity in man and pushes him to pursue whatever he finds satisfactory.
11. We believe that traditional, dogmatic, or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. Any account of nature should pass the tests of scientific evidence. The myths of traditional religions do not do so.
12. Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns and from self-actualization.
13. We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological or ideological sanction. Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments.
14. The preciousness and dignity of the individual person is a central value.
15. In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized.
16. We are committed to a democratic society.
17. Separation of church and state is imperative.
18. We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move towards the building of a world community.
19. Humanists look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon transnational federal government.
20. The world community must engage in cooperative planning concerning the use of rapidly depleting resources. Ecological damage, resource depletion, and excessive population must be checked by international concord.

### **Sheeple**

Socialists visualize a new kind of human being, a regimented breed of Pavlovian people, sheep whose minds can be triggered into immediate action by signals from their masters. Socialists dream of a generation who will no longer depend upon free will, morals, or conscience for guidance. As self-preservation or survival is their basic instinct, socialists are insecure, threatened by competition. Thus, they call for the elimination of all opposition, the subordination of other men's minds to their will and ways. They must bring all things under their control; and since they cannot possibly devour the entire world in one gulp, they are satisfied with one piece at a time.

We must understand that socialism is a clear and present danger. Socialism is not a threat of days gone by, but rather it is here and now. Also, we must not relegate socialism to the arena of government, politics, or economics. We must understand that socialism is a worldview, a worldview that will lead our nation to a dead end if we do not expose its lies and confront it with biblical truth.