

# WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

In order to understand socialism it is first necessary to understand capitalism. Capitalism is a social system in which the population is divided into irreconcilable classes, wherein one class, a tiny handful of exploiters, owns all the accumulated wealth in the means of production (land, factories, mines, etc.), while another class, the vast majority of the population, own nothing but their ability to labor. The struggle between these two classes has never ceased; the capitalists have always tried to maximize their profits at the expense of the workers through low wages, poor working conditions, layoffs, etc. The capitalists buy the workers' labor as cheaply as possible but sell the results of that labor, commodities, for as much as they can.

Workers constantly struggle to improve their situation under capitalism, but workers must ultimately struggle to free themselves from the exploitation and oppression of wage slavery. However, even the improvement of wages and working conditions achieved by the workers and their unions does not change fundamentally the capitalist system. Capitalism is an inherently exploitative and alienating system in which workers, Blacks, Mexican people, and women are oppressed and exploited. Capitalism perpetuates racism and sexism to justify the oppression of these people and to further divide the masses. The state is the instrument of the capitalists used to enforce their laws and control the masses. The workers must ultimately struggle to create their own state and free themselves from the exploitation and oppression of capitalism.

Socialism is a fundamentally different social system. It is not a system of capitalist greed and accumulation but of socialist sharing, with production serving social needs and not private profit. It is not a government of the bureaucrats but a socialist state of the workers and their allies, the poor farmers, and the progressive intellectuals. Socialism will end unemployment and underemployment through the utilization of possible labor in the reconstruction of society. Socialist society will be a society of equality because socialism will unify the workers and oppressed peoples.

Socialism is for the great majority of people, especially the workers whose labor has created all the wealth, but who have no voice in the way they are governed. Socialism is for the Black people whose toil, blood and suffering has created so much of this country. Socialism is for Mexican people whose rights and culture have been repressed by the Anglo-American capitalists. Socialism is for women who do unpaid housework and get paid less on their jobs, and who are treated as sex objects under capitalism. Socialism is for the aged who in hopeless poverty look upon the wealth they have created, a wealth now used to enslave a new generation, even as it casts the aged aside as if they were used up instruments of production. Socialism is for the Indian peoples who demand more than broken treaties in exchange for the seizure of their land. Socialism is for all people who are struggling to achieve a new society based on equality and the end of all oppression.

Socialism is the transitional stage from capitalism to the classless society of communism. Under socialism, a process occurs whereby classes disappear since the working class, the great majority of people, are in power, and the capitalist class is no longer in existence. A communist society is achieved when there are no longer classes and there is no need for a state since states are instruments of class rule.

STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM!

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE UNITE!



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