Firearms & Freedom

OFFICIAL NAPFN NEWSLETTER



"The problem with Socialism is that you run out of other people's money" Margaret Thatcher

Vol.23, No.02 ~~~~ 17 MAR 2019

Understanding Socialism

Socialism should be seen as a matter of policy; it is not a form of government.

Unlike Communism, which is a form of government, Socialist policy can be implemented under any form government.

Socialism is just a matter of policy which is ostensibly directed at improving circumstances for people – particularly those who are less fortunate, possibly even oppressed.

Socialism then is composed of policies which are intended to effect a more equitable distribution of wealth. As with many things, when carried to the extreme, socialism can be very destructive and this occurs when the wealth to be re-distributed exceeds the ability of society to generate wealth.

I'll not attempt to define here what might be good policies, or bad policies, in every matter. Good policy is that which improves the lot of the people and is within in the ability of the people to afford it. Bad policy is that which is un-affordable or that which acts as a dis-incentive to labor and which thus reduces the total wealth produced by the population.

Socialism tends to be a slippery slope. One policy will lead to the next, and when over-extended the cost of the social policies will bankrupt the economy which hosts it.

Lightly regulated is key; extreme measures are likely to destroy prosperity – and – historically – have done exactly that. Pure *lazissez-faire* systems are also in the extreme and tend to develop oppression.

Some policies, – just enough to trigger some thought, –

Safe working conditions.

Wages – enough to live on.

Medical – affordable co-pays.

Protection of the Environment.

Military: Defense of Nation

Disability insurance

Unemployment insurance.
Education – including vocational training.
Control of monopoly power.
Public Works - roads, bridges, etc
Retirement benefit
Corrections

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Suggested reading: <u>Socialism: Utopian and Scientific</u> (Fredrick Engels)

History records that, early on, as the Industrial Revolution began to shift the means of production from small scale to massive enterprises industrial workers were subjected to some rather horrid working conditions.

This is not necessary as industrialization dramatically increases the overall generation of wealth.

Unfortunately mankind suffers horribly from ambition and greed. It is altogether proper that some means be adopted by which human resources are valued rather than exploited. Labor unions have been effective for this purpose, as well as government regulations. Unfortunately such mechanisms have been exploited for the wrong purposes when control has fallen into the wrong hands.

The best way to fight corruption is to expose it. Once again the role of a free press is vital, along with good education.

Good education encompasses literacy, and with it a knowledge of history. From history we learn what works – and what fails.

Knowledge, communication, and organization are the necessary check against ambition and greed.

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