



SOCIALISM AND AMERICA

Bill Federer

There's no denying that our country has become infested with Socialist ideology. These views are a threat to our American system of democracy and are directly opposed to the truth of God's Word.

How did a nation that was founded on democracy and biblical principles get to this point? To understand that, we need to go back to Ancient Greece.

The Greek philosopher Plato was one of the most influential minds in history. His works have helped shape everything from politics and religion to math and science for more than two millennia.

He wrote a great deal about government and what forms of rule are best for a society. If you're familiar with his works, you know that Plato was highly critical of democracy. To Plato, democracy led to an unstable society.

Plato believed the chief characteristic of a democracy was tolerance. Everyone tolerates each other. It's great at first. But then they tolerate people whose thinking is a bit off. Then they tolerate people that are way off. Finally, they come to tolerate self-destructive thinking that leads to lawlessness, and it turns into rioting in the streets.

It's chaos.

Plato believed that out of this chaos people would begin to clamor for someone to come along and fix the mess. To bring structure. Of course, such a figure would need "emergency powers" to restore order, but it wouldn't take long before this savior became a tyrant.

In Plato's *The Republic*, he wrote, "When a tyrant arises he sprouts from a protectorate root." He says he'll be a protector full of smiles. If any are suspected of resistance to his authority, he'll have a pretext of destroying them. The protector standing up in the chariot of state with the reins in his hand, a tyrant absolute (Plato, *Republic*, 565d)

That's how Plato viewed the trajectory of a democratic society. He believed democracy was doomed to fail because it's based on the people having virtue. In his view, if you give people a choice of giving up their life or giving up their virtue, they'll always give up their virtue to save their life.

His perspective is honestly understandable, given the context in which he lived.

Ancient Greek society did not have a central deity to which people looked. There was no god to hold them accountable and motivate them to act with virtue. So Plato did not believe that anyone would ultimately act virtuously. In fact, he predicted that anyone who did would be put to death.



Astonishing insight from a man who lived more than 300 years before Jesus.

Plato went on to say that since democracy is doomed to fail, the best you can hope for is a nice tyrant. He called this person “a philosopher king.” This philosopher king and his administrators made up the ruling class, and they were supported by the commoners.

The ruled class, in Plato’s model, is provided for by the government, but no one owns any property. There are no families. The government decides who gets to have kids. And the government takes the children away from the parents, brings them into the schools where they’re “socialized,” a process through which they learn to give up their values and serve the ruling class.

Does this sound at all familiar?

Contrast this model with the model of democracies and republics – where the people rule themselves. In democracies and republics, the power of the king is given to the people. But what if you’re a king and you want to take power away from the people and reconcentrate it?

How do you do that? There’s two ways: fear and free stuff.

If people are fearful, they will trade freedom for a sense of physical security. And if they want something for nothing (free stuff) they’ll trade their freedom for a sense of financial security.

The Bible actually talks about this when it says in Proverbs 29:25, “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.” In other words, when you’re afraid of something, you’re vulnerable, you can fall into a trap. True safety and security is only found in God.

So we have this observable phenomenon that when people are fearful, they’ll trade their freedom for security. The question then is, how do those who want to gain power create that kind of fear?

The answer is discord.

Throughout history we can see how governments capitalize on discord and chaos to create an atmosphere of fear. Government can then step in to promise a solution, which almost always involves the promise of free stuff – entitlements.

The Bible is clear that discord and conflict are not what God desires for us, and they are not pleasing to Him.



Psalm 133:1 says, “How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

Proverbs 6:16–19 lists seven things that are detestable to God. Last on the list in verse 19 is “a person who stirs up conflict in the community.” Other translations say, “one who sows discord.”

That’s exactly what Lucifer did. He sowed discord in heaven, and he convinced a third of the angels to join him. It’s nothing new.

In Judges 9 we read about Gideon, who had just defeated a hundred thousand Midianites. There’s peace. There’s no threat. But he has an illegitimate son named a Abimelech. And Abimelech wants power, so he sows discord. He goes to Shechem and engages in identity and race politics. He says, “Is it better for you that all the sons of Gideon reign over you? Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.”

The men of Shechem think, “Well, we have to vote for him because he is our brother.” Abimelech goes to the temple of Baal Berith and takes 70 pieces of silver to hire what amounts a gang of mercenaries who ultimately help him kill Gideon’s sons.

Then Abimelech makes himself king who rules with an iron fist. And his chief weapon throughout this wicked plot is discord.

This pattern has repeated itself for centuries. Machiavelli lived in Italy 500 years ago at a time when the city-states of Venice, Genoa, Naples, Florence, Sienna and others constantly warred amongst themselves. Machiavelli reasoned that if one prince could control all of these city states, there would be peace. From this, Machiavelli popularized the idea that *the ends justify the means*.

In his mind, if your end is good, you can do anything to achieve it, including lie, cheat, and steal. But he knew that a leader still needed the popular support of a people, so instead of openly committing heinous acts, he paid criminals to kill cows, burn barns, and foment crisis, so he could swoop in as the savior – promising people peace in exchange for power.

You create the very need that you meet. You go around the back of the house and set it on fire. Then you go around the front of the house and sell them a fire extinguisher.

It’s called Machiavellianism, where you create or capitalize on a crisis to consolidate control. You may be more familiar with the same thinking in a more modern context. Rahm Emanuel said, “You never want a serious crisis to go to waste... that is an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before.”



Fox News contributor Ben Domenech said during the COVID pandemic, “The authoritarian Left is using the permanent pandemic to achieve as many ends as they can imagine. Normal times don’t produce the outcomes they want because people are not scared enough to give them the limitless power they crave. Crises are necessary. And so if there aren’t any on the offer, they manufacture them.”

When we see a crisis, our proper response is to ask how we can help people through it. The Left sees a crisis and their response is, “How can we usurp power through it?”

Henry Louis Mencken wrote, “The urge to save humanity is almost always only a false face for the urge to rule it.”

The thing you have to watch out for is somebody that says, “I want to do something good,” but in the process they take away the people’s freedoms.

You may be wondering what all of this history, from Gideon to Plato to Machiavelli has to do with socialism in America. We’re almost there, but first we need to go to Europe in the 1800s, to a man named Georg Hegel, a professor at the University of Berlin. He influenced both Darwin and Karl Marx. Karl Marx was a member of the Young Hegelians, a radical student group at the University of Berlin.

Hegel developed what’s known as the Hegelian Dialectics. It’s a triangle. One corner is a thesis, the opposite corner is an antithesis, and the top corner is a synthesis. It sounds complicated, but it’s not.

You start off with a status quo. Everybody’s happy. And you have to create a problem that’s bad enough that everybody settles for your answer that’s half as bad. How do you do this? Again, it’s done by sowing discord. You try to find reasons to get people upset. And then once you settle that problem, you start another problem that leads people to settle for your answer that’s half as bad. And the cycle repeats itself over and over. And as each time there’s a settling, the people give up a little more of their freedom to the state.

Karl Marx took this way of thinking into his work. How did he sow discord? He’d send in agitators, agent provocateurs, community organizers, labor organizers, and they would find the different groups and pit them against each other to create crises.

Karl Marx would study a culture and identify the groups economically, religiously, and ethnically. He would then pit the groups against each other as victims and oppressors, haves and have-nots. When the conflict turns into bloodshed, everybody wants somebody to come in and restore order, and that’s when those seeking power would usurp it from the people.



Here's what's really evil about this tactic. Marx didn't really care who the two sides were, or what the issues were. The goal is a destabilizing crisis that causes everybody to panic so they can come in and promise solutions and usurp power in the process.

Now we get to how these tactics and ideologies came to America. In 1894 in Chicago, the Pullman railroad car company experienced an economic downturn. The company couldn't pay their employees. A politician and activist named Eugene Debs came in and began sowing discord. He organized the railroad workers to riot, destroying \$80 million worth of railroad cars in 27 states. And since all commerce traveled by rail at the time, the American economy ground to a halt.

Could you imagine rioting and violence spreading across the country like that? Sadly, I believe that today you can.

After the Pullman Strike, Eugene Debs helped start the Socialist Party of America. Then around 1920, the Communist Party USA branched off from this organization. From 1920 to 1940, these organizations ran a candidate in every presidential race. Then in 1940, Franklin Roosevelt made a treaty with Stalin and communist Russia during World War II. This encouraged American communist and socialist organizations to throw their support behind the democratic candidates. So they began to infiltrate the Democrat Party. This led Ronald Reagan, who had always been a Democrat to say, "I didn't leave the Democrat Party. The Democrat Party left me."

This is how socialism took root in America, where it has continued to grow and spread like an invasive species. Let's look at a few of the tactics used to spread socialism, not just in America, but around the world.

The first one that's important to understand is called psychological projection. It's used every day in the news. It's where rude people call everyone they don't like rude. It's childish, but dangerously effective. Another term for it is blame shifting, where the attacker blames the victim. We've seen this in politics where they accuse someone of being intolerant when they're the intolerant ones. They accuse someone of being hateful when they're the hateful ones.

This tactic is used all the time, and the longer it's employed the more ground is given to those using it. That's why it's important to push back, refute their accusations, and call out their behavior for what it is.

We've already looked at how divisions and discord have been used over the years, but it's worth examining again to see how it plays out today. This is where Critical Theory comes in, and it goes back to Marxist thinking. This ideology identifies all the different groups in the country and pits them against each other as victims and oppressors. They organize protests that escalate into riots and violence and bloodshed. Why bloodshed? Because once people are being killed, people panic and react emotionally, not rationally.

It's called fear mongering. The goal is to get people into a state of panic and fear.



Why? Because when people are fearful, they will trade freedom for security.

Another tactic is to bankrupt the country into socialism. Remember that the two ways to get people to give away power is with fear and free stuff. Some might say, "I don't need free stuff." But, if they can destroy the economy, then people are in need and happy to take free stuff. It's called The Great Reset.

When the economy falters, they can introduce "stimulus programs" and spend trillions of dollars. But the goal is not to stimulate. The goal is to spend so much money that they make the dollar worthless, and everybody's savings evaporates, and the country collapses economically. It creates a cycle of dependence and people give away more and more of their power and freedoms.

There's another tactic that's particularly concerning. It's the infiltration of the churches to replace revealed religion with social religion. Of course, Karl Marx had no regard for religion and his goal was to ultimately get rid of religion. But when this tactic does not work, when people are attached to the gospel, they have a try another approach. So they decided that they will simply change the gospel.

You'll hear phrases like, "Jesus, the carpenter was a worker like the communists. He was against the money changers, the capitalists, the exploiters of the day. Indeed, if Christ walked the earth now... he'd be a communist, an activist."

Jesus warned about these people in Matthew 7:15...

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a Soviet dissident echoed these words for America when he said, "I call upon America to be more careful with her trust. Prevent those from falsely using the struggle for social justice to lead you down a false road."

Lucifer sowed discord in heaven. And that's the same tactic being used today. Socialists are attempting to systematically destroy families, churches, and governments by sowing discord. And we as Christian Americans must be vigilant and push back against the lies and divisions.

I want to conclude with the example of the early Christians. When they faced persecution and a concerted effort to stomp out the gospel and destroy the church, they didn't say, "Lord, stop the persecution." They said, "Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness, we may speak Your word."



They prayed for boldness in the midst of persecution. And because the Spirit gave them boldness, the gospel spread as a result of the persecution. May that be our same prayer today.

Let's pray that the same crises being used to stir up fear and panic – so people relinquish their liberties – will ultimately turn people to Christ so that we'll see a great time of revival.

Every generation faces a crisis. And the crisis is an opportunity for God's people to respond boldly and preach the Word.

Like the early church, Lord, grant us boldness in the midst of this crisis.

Take Your Study Further

For warnings about false prophets and teachers: Jeremiah 14:14, Matthew 24:24, Acts 20:28–30, 2 Timothy 4:3–4, 1 John 4:1–6

For verses about those who stir up discord: Proverbs 16:28, Romans 16:17–18, Titus 3:9–11

For more on the history of Socialism, read Bill's book Socialism – The Real History from Plato to the Present: How the Deep State Capitalizes on Crises to Consolidate Control

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