If You Believe in Socialism, Why Are You Going to College?

August 8, 2026 - If you look at the results of the recent Democrat primary election in Michigan, the winner was an admitted socialist. And he won largely because he had huge support in college towns. That's an interesting, and disturbing observation. Why would you invest in a college degree and then support a candidate that wants to make sure your never own your own home and never have a chance to build personal wealth?

There is no doubt that a lot of young people are worried about their future. They are concerned with AI taking over the jobs they're currently training for. They're concerned about starting they're adult life saddled with massive amounts of college debt and having no way to pay it back. And some of those concerns are entirely legitimate. But socialism isn't the answer. And History proves that.
There are roughly 40 self-proclaimed socialist candidates that have won their primaries, or who are favored to win their primaries this year. And a substantial number of them are saying that they want to eliminate private property and seize the means of production... meaning no private industry. This is Marxist-Leninist philosophy and the only thing it is good at is killing people.

The first real instance of a socialist revolution which held these positions occurred in Russia, which became the Soviet Union, in 1917. Since then there have been numerous other examples and none of them have ended well. They include the People's Republic of China, Cambodia, North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania, just to name a few. Ironically, most of these countries have abandoned many of their socialist positions because they didn't work. In fact, only Cuba and North Korea really maintain the means of production, and both of them have issues with hunger, infrastructure and, in the case of Cuba, power generation.

All of these countries have gone through periods that involve single party rule, authoritarianism, and the killing of their own citizens.

From 1917 to 1923, it is estimated that between 7 and 10 million Russian's died from the revolution, famine & disease. And in the years between then and 1991 when the Soviet Union fell apart, it's believed that another 3 million people were executed or died in the Gulags. In addition to these deaths, there were another 5 to 7 million people who died as a result of famine in 1932 and 1933.

As bad as that sounds, Communist China (or as we used to call it, Red China) was even worse. From 1949 to 1976 - while the country was being run by Mao Zedong - it's estimated that there were between 33 million and 50 million people who died as a direct or indirect result of policies of the state. These included executions, reeducation camps, famine and disease.

Perhaps the worst example was Cambodia under the dictator Pol Pot. Cambodia only had a population of around 8 million people at the time. Pol Pot's regime was responsible for killing between 1.5 and 2 million of them. Based on population, it was one of the worst genocides in history. Those deaths occurred by execution, starvation, disease and forced labor.

These are just a few of the examples. In the past century, well over 100 million people have been killed by Marxist-Leninist governments.

The point here is that there has never been a socialist society, anywhere on the planet, that has espoused seizing private property and the means of production, that hasn't also oppressed and killed its own citizens. There hasn't been a single society such as this that created wealth or better conditions for its citizens. 100% of these societies have two classes of people: Oppressed and oppressor. That's it. Taking the position that, "This time will be different," is simply delusional. Even nations such as China, while maintaining an authoritarian government, have moved their economies closer to free market models because they work and socialism doesn't.

There is no doubt that a lot of college educated young adults face a number of economic issues. But moving towards socialism isn't going to help them. In fact, it's likely to hurt them badly. And if history is any indication, if it ever takes hold here it is likely to kill a lot of the people currently advocating for it.

by Jim Malmberg

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