

Why I am an Anti-Socialist

by Kenneth A. Kuhn
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In many of my writings I have expressed strong opposition to socialism. Since most of the world is now socialist many people may wonder why I am not part of the team. In this article I will explain why. I will open by telling a short story concerning my personal life. A similar short story could be told about well over one hundred million Americans past and present. The overwhelming majority of those were and are anti-socialists too. Once you understand the story it is no surprise that this is the case.

My father's family came (escaped might be a better word) to the United States from Germany just after the end of the First World War with virtually zero wealth other than their work ethic and determination. An early family employment was circus acts. My mother's family came to the United States about one hundred years prior from Ireland and employed themselves in farming. Both families started with very little, and with no financial dole from the government built their wealth up to middle class status. There was one important thing the government did for them over those years. The government maintained law and order and kept the operating rules stable so that long term planning was possible. This gave both families the opportunity to fulfill their American dreams.

After being released from the Army after the Second World War, my father went to college and majored in business. His plan had been to return to New York City and resume working at a bank. Although he received some school aid for his duty in the Army he had to work a variety of part time jobs to have just barely enough income to live and go to school. My mother came from a family of farmers and money was very limited. She too had to work various jobs to attend college. My parents met in college and had to delay marriage because part of the compensation for both of their jobs at the college was a room to live in. That would be forfeited if they married and there was not enough money for an apartment. After my father received his master's degree in economics they could marry. Instead of going back to New York, my father decided to stay in the South. What would have been a job in banking turned into an administrative job with the Housing Authority which became his life long career.

I remember early childhood as being very Spartan. We never went hungry but there was little else. One theme as far back as I can remember was if you want something then work for it. Another thing I learned was that work in of it self would not get you very far. The key was applying a skill. At a very early age I decided that electronics would be my skill and studied very hard to learn all I could as a young teenager. That has worked very well for me. In my teenage years my first employment was as a dish washer in a small restaurant. My pay was the minimum wage at the time (\$1.60 per hour) and this was hot and messy work with high pressure for throughput during peak hours. I would stack very hot dishes from the washer with my bare hands. That job reaffirmed that unskilled labor was not the route for me. My next job was cutting shrubs and other outside work around public housing units during the summer for \$1.83 per hour. The work was hard and hot and again reaffirmed that unskilled labor was not the route for me. After high school I

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was not ready for a four year college so I went to a two-year state technical college and earned a degree in industrial electronics. I worked several part time jobs during that time that involved skill and the job conditions and the pay were much better. This affirmed that I was on the right track. After graduation I went to Auburn University to earn a degree in electrical engineering. My degree in industrial electronics enabled me to obtain a dream job in the cooperative education program where I would attend school for a quarter and then work a quarter. Although my parents could have paid the entire school bill, I was able to pay about half of it myself with that job. That job enabled me to really hone my skills and obtain a lot of experience that would be very valuable in my first job after graduating. I graduated debt free as I think all of my classmates did as well for similar reasons. A theme here is building – start off with what you can do and then build to higher things step by step. No where along the way is any kind of subsidy involved. Building is something you have to do for yourself. No one can give you the results. I saw that in what my parents and others did and I strived to replicate it.

Over the years my parents became wealthy by following a very conservative life style that involved living at no higher level than really necessary and putting the difference into savings/investments. I replicated that life style and wonder of wonders the same thing happened for me. Neither my parents nor I ever received a subsidy. We have never known any “benefit” of socialism. We succeeded in spite of all of the so-called obstacles that advocates for socialism claim to exist. In theory we should have failed but we succeeded. Was it just luck as advocated by the socialists? There is an old saying, “The harder I work the luckier I become.” In theory, well over one hundred million Americans should have failed but they succeeded too and many of them had lower starting points than my family. They also did not receive subsidies. Could it be possible that the socialists are wrong?

I stayed off of drugs and other diversions and obeyed the laws as well as paying real taxes (as opposed to imaginary that so many are credited with paying) and take pride in that I am a model citizen. I saved money and made a substantial down payment on my house and thus did not need any special help from the government. I have paid my own way. I began modestly and worked my way up the economic ladder and am much better for it. I am not alone. Countless millions have done the same thing building their American Dream. We did it all without socialism.

That is my story. Socialism did nothing for my family and me. Paying high taxes to support socialist programs has hurt my family and me.

The forces for socialism in the United States began prior to 1900 but did not achieve much stature until the 1930s when socialism really began. Initially, socialism was only a small part of the country’s economics and the prevailing agenda was growth capitalism. History shows that capitalism flourished and many ordinary Americans (including my parents and me) benefited as America became a greater and greater country. For many years the role of government was to be the enforcer of laws that kept the capitalist process fair and honest thus enabling capitalism to work. Capitalism requires a fair system – it will not work otherwise. Yes, there have been notable exceptions to that over

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the years but for the most part the system has worked. At the present this is becoming less true as the government is more and more involved with market manipulation. So we have the situation that capitalism is being wrecked by socialism and the socialists are saying that socialism is needed since capitalism is not working. How convenient!

There is a quote by Gary Allen that needs to be repeatedly read again and again until the message really takes hold. *“If one understands that socialism is not a share-the-wealth program, but is in reality a method to consolidate and control the wealth, the seeming paradox of super-rich men promoting socialism becomes no paradox at all. Instead, it becomes logical, even the perfect tool of power-seeking megalomaniacs. ... Communism or more accurately socialism, is not a movement of the downtrodden masses, but of the economic elite.”*

There was a time in the pre-socialist era in America when millions of individuals would ask themselves the question, “What can I do to better myself?” They answered the question with hard work and determination and with a no excuses attitude. Many ultimately became the so-called fortunate and lucky families of today often referred to more vilely as capitalist pigs. Sadly, under socialism today the question that more and more people are asking themselves is, “What can the government do to better my life?” They answer that question with laziness and numerous excuses while waiting for government dole.

The entitlement syndrome of socialism discourages working to better oneself. Some people will do that anyway but over time it becomes pointless. Socialism is all about making people artificially dependent on government when they could be independent. Socialism is not self sustaining. Ultimately, the number of people claiming needs exceeds the output possible by those who actually work and the system implodes. Socialism is based on the siren call of free money and that most of a population is not intellectually astute enough to comprehend the trap. In the final analysis, that free money turns out to be very expensive.

Socialism puts everyone at the mercy of a single income source from the government. What will people do if the government has problems? A perfect example is the socialist utopia known as North Korea where food, housing, healthcare, and education are essentially free – if they actually existed. To be fair, socialism was imposed on that population who had no choice in the matter. But then it is necessary that socialism be imposed if the population prefers to be independent. Independence and socialism do not go together.

Socialism appears to work well if the country has a huge income from natural resources and there are several examples around the world. But that “utopia” is short lived in the grand scheme as the resources are finite. What happens to a population that only knows the receiving side of socialism and does not comprehend the working side when the easy life is used up?

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I point to the socialist utopia that exists in Cuba. As elsewhere, most everything in life is either free or highly subsidized including housing, food, healthcare, and education. What else is there to life? Why then do so many Cubans risk and often forfeit their lives to escape to a capitalist America where nothing is free? Advocates for socialism always omit that from their story.

The former Soviet Union was also a socialist utopia. So was East Germany. Why did their borders have to be closed so that citizens could not escape? Why is it that with very open borders people are not exiting the United States to escape capitalism?

I have asked the following question a number of times and no one has ever been able to point to an example, *“You often hear stories by successful people who built great things of how they struggled and worked hard in their modest or impoverished youth to ultimately become wealthy and frequently give much to society. How many stories of successfully building great things and giving have you heard where the person tells of how life was subsidized in their youth and that little work was required to move up the ladder as everything was easy with the free money and benefits?”* Socialism has been around a long time. If it is the successful system it purports to be then where are the examples? There has been plenty of time for millions of examples to exist. Socialism has always been about excuses and I would love to know what the excuse is for this failure. Capitalism is about results and has plenty of results to show – no excuses needed. To succeed in capitalism one has to work – there are no free rides. But then, all of Nature’s creatures work. Even our pets provide us with benefits thus earning their existence. Why should human kind be an exception?

Socialism requires a large and non-productive government staff to manage what could be individuals acting for themselves. The transition to socialism steals existing wealth created, saved, and invested by people who worked rather than depended on a handout. Where else would the wealth come from to redistribute? Socialism is not capable of building from scratch. Socialism limits what the individual can do. That is counter to the concept of individual liberty in our Constitution. Thus, socialism has no place in America.

I suggest that the advocates for socialism in America move to one of the many socialist utopias that exist around the world. You are free to leave. It is hypocritical to remain when you have other options. Show America by example. In short, walk the walk instead of just talking the talk. If socialism really is superior to capitalism then go to those other places and build those systems up to tower over capitalist America. I know for a fact that you socialists will not. You never have. For you are lazy parasites enjoying the benefits of capitalism. I wish you would leave. I do not want you here. Your only accomplishment has been the destruction of a truly great society. You owe us a great debt. You will never pay because you are worthless. Excuses are all that you have. Excuses never have built great systems. Shut up and go away.