

# Socialism: An Idea Whose Time Has Come



“Ideas,” someone once wrote, “move rapidly when their time comes.” As we gather to march for jobs and peace, the continuing capitalist crisis makes socialism an idea ready to move rapidly. While the banks have received trillion dollar bailouts, working people still face mass unemployment, state and local budget cuts and deepening personal debt. Capitalist crisis has made the socialist vision of a world where human needs are put ahead of individual profits even more relevant. Our task is to convert socialism from a good idea into a movement to transform our society.

## Capitalism Exposed

The recent economic crisis has been more than a banking crisis or a housing price bubble. It has been a demonstration that there is a fundamental problem with capitalism. That problem lies in the nature of corporations themselves. Noam Chomsky once described corporations as “unaccountable private tyrannies.” There is no democracy inside of a corporation and, as a result, no democracy on our worksites. Corporations are undemocratic entities created only to make profits by exploiting the labor of workers.

The undemocratic corporate model now also dominates American politics. A corrupting system of campaign donations and lobbying ensures that both Democrats and Republicans serve the interests of corporate America. As corporate profits began declining, politicians began handing out trillions of dollars in public money to them. When these same corporations fired millions of workers, neither Democrat nor Republican attempted to stop them. We need more candidates who run electoral campaigns independent of the two-party system.

## Socialist Solutions

Socialism offers an alternative to undemocratic profit-mad capitalism. By ensuring that people’s needs for housing, healthcare, education and employment are guaranteed, a socialist society will offer equality of opportunity. By bringing democracy to the economy through worker’s management of production, we will make sure that the place where most people spend their adult lives operates democratically. By organizing participatory budgeting, we will put people at the center of the system – fully empowered to make decisions concerning the future of the society they live in.

Today is a day to march and display the power of working people. A day when working people can begin to imagine that another world is possible. This other world is a democratic participatory one, where resources are shared for the betterment of humanity. However, democratic socialism will not come about spontaneously – we must get organized. So, today we invoke the names of Eugene Debs, of Mother Jones, of Dr. Martin Luther King to call on all working people to join the struggle for socialism. Move rapidly, act boldly, we have a world to win!



**Find Out More:**

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