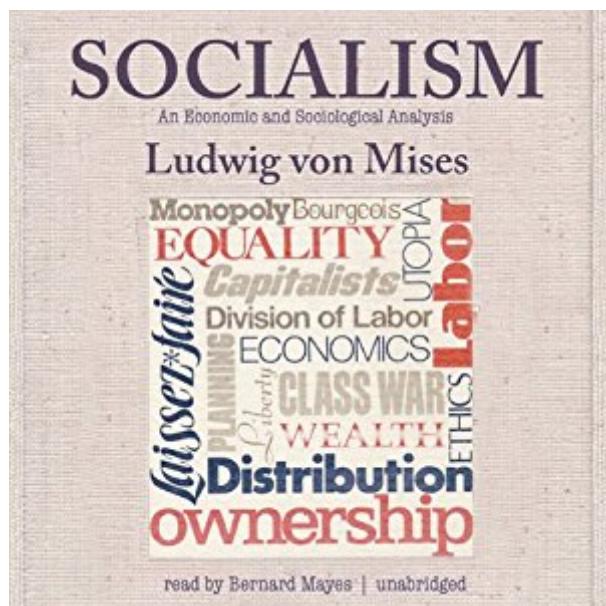


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Socialism: An Economic And Sociological Analysis



Synopsis

Published in 1922 during those dark and dreary years of socialism's near-complete triumph, Socialism stunned the socialist world. Mises has given us a profoundly important treatise that assaults socialism in all its guises, a work that discusses every major aspect of socialism and leaves no stone unturned. A few of the numerous topics discussed include the success of socialist ideas; life under socialism: art and literature, science and journalism; economic calculation under socialism; the ideal of equality; and Marx's theory of monopolies. With this monumental work, Mises laid the foundations for free society. Socialism has influenced scores of influential thinkers, including Friedrich Hayek, Ayn Rand, and Milton Friedman. It is read over and over again today, all over the world, inspiring throngs of new defenders of freedom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amazing book. The book resides somewhere amidst economics, history and philosophy. Mises slays socialism on all three counts. Economically the inability to perform economic calculations kills socialism and makes it static, unable to adjust to anything. Philosophically he shows how liberalism is superior to collectivism and all other forms of coercion in the name of the mythical 'society' are simple covers for tyranny. Historically he traces the Marxist movement in the pre war and post war years. I gleaned some new insight into the split of the Marxists that birthed the Bolsheviks. The chapter on Christian Chiliasm I find particularly fascinating. He shows that while Christianity is often the force resisting communism, it also contributes greatly due to the misunderstanding of the

gospels and their incorrect interpretation as non-messianic guidelines. The gospels were based on the understanding that the Kingdom of God was just around the corner. They were not intended as a guide to creating a communist society. Brilliant man.

Ludwig von Mises is the major force in the Austrian School of Economics. In the 1920's everyone understood the incentive problems of socialism. If everyone is equal who is going to shovel manure and take out the garbage. The answer socialist gave was the creation of the morally superior Socialist Man working for the common good cheerfully so that taste-testing cake and coal mining would not be perceived as different vocations in utopia. Wow! that problem is solved! We weren't buy it but it was considered correct and polite opinion before the inevitable crime of collectivism were revealed, but it still has adherents at universities, Hollywood, and the media. Mises' unique insight - which was taken seriously at the time and today is that without free actors in a free (unhampered) market using freely adjusting prices it is IMPOSSIBLE to allocate resources in any way other than in massively tragic, embarrassing, and destructive misallocations. This book detail why a centrally planned economy will misallocate everything and cause tragic waste and inevitable as well as unnecessary poverty. The book is an elaboration of his masterwork article "The Impossibility of Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth"

If I could I would give this book 10 stars! It is a tour de force, a magnum opus of Mises' that is timeless. If you ever really wanted to know why there is such a hue and cry for a static steady state economic system at full equilibrium by the left and socialists Mises uncovers it here. As he states herein, 'It is the only economic system that socialism can manage.' The entire background and reason for the socialism calculation debate is inside of these pages. I have debated with many who have read a blog or try to refute Mises out of hand but you can't do it. He has covered every type of socialism within these pages and had already refuted whatever you can bring to the table.

It is no exaggeration to say this text changed my entire world view. Mises lays out a case for capitalism that is unabashed, carefully defining and comparing true free markets to socialistic approaches from an organic moral construction in the tradition of pure Austrian theory. It at once made me an Austrian, an instant Mises fan, and educated me on the errors in my previous thinking on these subjects.

Eye-opening expose on the true nature of socialism and its logical conclusion communism. Must

read! Warns clearly of the socialist path travelled Progressivism since early 20th century.

I have read numerous books on economics and always notice references to von Mises. Finally, I decided to go to the source, starting with "Socialism". Halfway through the book I was hooked and started collecting seven other von Mises books. Reading this book requires a certain dedication, since every paragraph needs a great deal of concentration. It is not something to read while watching a ball game. On the other hand, it is addictive. And you begin to wonder why his observations and conclusions are not accepted and put into practice. However, as you read others of his books, he explains why the statists will prevail. This is a great book, especially now. His arguments for letting interest rates seek their own level without government interference explains much about our current problems. You will begin to despair of this administration's insistence on artificially low interest rates. von Mises was truly a genius, as well as a prophet. Read this book, then move on to his others.

A critical analysis of socialism and all of its variants that is just as applicable today as when it was first published. While the progressives tout the utopian dream and draw more and more unsuspecting voters into national financial ruin and generational dependency, this text will demonstrate the reality of "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs"

Should be required reading for all the "snowflakes".

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