



Coral Ridge Ministries
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

CONTENTS

TEN TRUTHS ABOUT SOCIALISM

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INTRODUCTION

6

We've Never Seen Anything
Like This Before

TRUTH 1

12

Socialism Was the Wrong Response
to Real Problems

TRUTH 2

26

Socialism's Founding Fathers
Rejected God

TRUTH 3

40

Socialism and Tyranny Go Hand In Hand

TRUTH 4

52

Socialism Violates God's Law

TRUTH 5

64

Envy is the Driving Engine of Socialism

CONTENTS

78	TRUTH 6 Socialism Failed at Jamestown and Plymouth
90	TRUTH 7 Socialism Impoverishes Nations
102	TRUTH 8 Socialism is at War With the Family
114	TRUTH 9 Socialism is at War With the Church
126	TRUTH 10 Socialism Creates Refugees
138	CONCLUSION We Have to Reverse Course
144	ENDNOTES
155	ABOUT THE AUTHORS

SOCIALISM

“Any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods.”

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Eleventh Edition)

SHORT DEFINITION

“Legalized plunder.”

Frederic Bastiat, *The Law*, 1848



INTRODUCTION

We've Never Seen Anything Like This Before

After seventy years and the death of millions, the prison-house of communism burst open two decades ago with the collapse of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. Jubilant East Germans streamed into West Berlin where, in a festival of freedom, they joined their West German counterparts in breaking up the massive concrete divider with sledgehammers. Communist regimes in Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania all soon fell, as did the Soviet Union itself. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was dissolved and landed on the ash heap of history on Christmas Day 1991.

Socialism* was in full rout. In the late 1970s, socialist regimes had commanded the allegiance of some 60 percent of all people on earth. Socialism's spectacular crash in the years that followed signaled to many that this tragic and bloody experiment was at long last over. Historian Joshua Muravchik offered an epitaph for it in his 2002 review of the "rise and fall of socialism:"

Within a couple decades, socialism was officially repealed in half the places where it had triumphed. In the other half, it continued in name only. Today, in but a few flyspecks on the

*The term "socialism" is used interchangeably with "communism" throughout this book. While some stipulate distinctions, the two terms both refer to a system of coerced common ownership in which economic decisions are made by central government planners and not private individuals or corporations.



SOCIALISM HAS FAILED WHEREVER IT HAS BEEN TRIED. SO WHY IS AMERICA TURNING TOWARD THIS BANKRUPT IDEA?



map is there still an earnest effort to practice socialism, defended in the manner of those marooned Japanese soldiers who held out for decades after 1945, never having learned that their emperor had surrendered.¹

Spreading the Wealth

And then came 2008. First, President George W. Bush “abandoned free-market principles,” as he later put it, by pledging taxpayer money to bail out Wall Street and Detroit. Next came the election of Barack Obama, who famously told Joe “the Plumber” Wurzelbacher that “when you spread the wealth around, it’s good for everybody.”



A crowd at the Berlin Wall waits to celebrate the opening of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, December 22, 1989. The first Berlin Wall border opening came November 9, 1989. (Newscom)

Once in office, President Obama began to fulfill his campaign promise of “fundamentally transforming the United States.” Within months, GM and Chrysler were annexed to Uncle Sam, salary caps were placed on Wall Street executives whose banks took bail-out funds, and a \$789 billion package of government spending to spur economic growth passed Congress.

And then the President, with the aid of Democratic leadership in the House and Senate, began the long march to place America’s health care system under federal oversight and control.

The President detailed his economic philosophy in his 2009 budget statement, “A New Era of Responsibility: Renewing America’s Promise.”

For the better part of three decades, a disproportionate share of the Nation’s wealth has been accumulated by the very wealthy. Technological advances and growing global competition, while transforming whole industries — and birthing new ones — has accentuated the trend toward rising inequality.²

It was time, the President declared, “to break from a troubled past” and “begin charting a new path” — a path of increased government intervention and control of the private economy.

What Mr. Obama is doing, *Wall Street Journal* columnist Daniel Henninger wrote, is “proposing that the U.S. government both guide the economy ... and do so with a new, aggressively redistributive tax policy.”³

The near-term result, Rep. Michele Bachmann (MN-R) told Coral Ridge Ministries in February 2010, is that some 30 percent of private industry has now come under federal control. “If they decide to take over the health care industry, that’s another 18 percent of our economy, or 50 percent of the economy in just over a year’s time. We’ve never seen anything like this before.”⁴

Well, actually, we have. Maybe not in the U.S., but after more than 150 years of theory and practice, socialism is very much a known quantity. The bitter experience of millions offers ample evidence that collective ownership is just what one free market economist called it in the 1940s — “the road to serfdom.”⁵

The pages that follow reveal the record of socialism in lives lost, freedoms taken, and economies ruined. It shows how the envy-inflamed ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin, et al., are at war with the family, the church, and with God and His Word.

It’s a post-mortem on what Muravchik called “man’s most ambitious attempt to supplant religion with a doctrine about how life ought to be lived.” And a warning to America not to let this failed idea take hold and bring ruin once more.



President Barack Obama
(Zuma)