

Roads to Socialism – Disagreement over the means and the ends to socialism

Marxism is an ideology that work in four interrelated levels:

- Philosophy
- History
- Economics
- Politics

Revolutionary Socialism

Many early socialists believed that socialism could only be introduced *by* the revolutionary overthrow of the existing political *system*, and accepted that violence would be an inevitable feature of such a **revolution**.

Revolution: A fundamental and irreversible change, often a brief but dramatic period of upheaval; systemic change.

In the second half of the Twentieth century, faith in revolution was most evident amongst socialists in the developing world. These regimes can be characterized by three distinct features:

First, the use of force accustomed the rulers to regard violence as a legitimate instrument of policy; as Mao put it, 'power resides in the barrel of a gun'. Second, revolutionary parties typically adopted military-style structures, based on strong leadership and strict

discipline that were merely consolidated once power was achieved. Third, in rooting out the vestiges of the old order, all oppositional forces were also removed, effectively preparing the way for the construction of totalitarian dictatorships.

The counter revolutions of 1989-1991

Evolutionary Socialism

As the nineteenth century progressed enthusiasm for popular revolt waned at least in the advanced capitalist states of western and central Europe. Capitalism itself had matured and, by the late nineteenth century, the urban working class had lost its revolutionary character and was being integrated into society.

Furthermore, the gradual advance of political democracy led to the extension of the franchise (the right to vote) to the working classes.

The Fabian Society, formed in 1884, took up the cause of parliamentary social-ism in the UK. The Fabians, led by Beatrice Webb (1858-1943) and Sidney Webb (1859- 1947), and including noted intellectuals such as George Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells, took their name from the Roman General Fabius Maximus who was noted for the patient and defensive tactics he had employed in defeating Hannibal's invading armies.

elite groups converted to socialism + (a combination of political action and education)

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The Webbs were actively involved in the formation of the UK Labour Party, and helped to write its 1918 constitution.

Fabian ideas also had an impact on the German Socialist Democratic Party (SDP), formed in 1875.

Revisionism

Eduard Bernstein (following Lassalle) developed ideas that paralleled the Fabian belief in gradualism. The working class could use the ballot box to introduce socialism which would therefore develop as an evolutionary outgrowth of capitalism.

Expectations of the social democrats pages 113 and 114

BOTH of the social democratic designs had some common characteristics:

- No need for revolution
- Long term reform
- The states might not wither away
- Socialism will come with accumulation (*birikim*)
- A non-Marxist socialism
- Mixed economies, welfare state, social justice

Some critiques have argued that democratic socialism is founded on a contradiction: in order to respond successfully to electoral pressures, socialists have been forced to revise or 'water down' their ideological beliefs.

Decline in the socialist character of the working class?

Can socialist parties, even if elected to power, carry out socialist reforms?

Soviet Communism

Bolshevik Revolution – 1917

Russia at the time of the Revolution

- A mostly traditional society with a developing form of capitalism
- 80% of the population were peasants.
- The traditional leader of Russia: Tsar

Where would a socialist revolution take place according to socialism?

If it was not the war times, some argue that revolution would not take place in 1917 or at all.

WWI provided the revolution with three things fundamental for a revolution:

- crisis element
- communication problem and organization
- armament of the revolution

Civil war – consolidation of Bolshevik control in 1919-1920.

1924- Death of Lenin

USSR History Timeline

1861	End of Feudalism, end of serfdom
1905	Constitutional monarchy, Duma
1914-18	World War I
1917	February and October Revolutions
1918-21	Civil war, War Communism, famine
1921-28	Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP)
1922	Soviet Union formed
1924	Lenin's death
1928	Stalin's First Five Year Plan
1930-33	Collectivization of Agriculture
1930's	Purge Trials
1939-45	World War II, beginning of cold war
1953	Stalin's death
1955-64	Khrushchev's regime
1964-82	Brezhnev's regime
1985-91	Gorbachev's regime
1980's	Perestroika
1991	Collapse of the Soviet Union



Leninism

- revision of dictatorship of proletariat
- Theory of imperialism
- Vanguard party – democratic centralism

Stalinism

- Socialism in one country
- Acceptance of inequalities in the name of efficiency
- (period of collectivization and industrialization)

1985- Gorbachev

- perestroika – economic restructuring
- glasnost – openness
- democratization