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From: **Kathy Kerridge** <kathykerridge@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Socialism

To: <beniciafreedom@gmail.com>

I have some questions for you about socialism. Can you give me a **specific** example of what government policies exist now that are socialism. I know Ron DeSantos in Florida wants to tell private businesses how to run their business and what they can or can not train their employees on. Is that socialism? Do you consider social security and medicare socialism? Your explanation of the threats of socialism is so vague that I can't tell what programs you are referring to.

Also wasn't there a lot of anti-semitism in Nazi Germany. Do you consider that socialism?

Kathy

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From: **Benicia Freedom** <beniciafreedom@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 9, 2023 at 10:28 AM

Subject: Re: Socialism

To: Kathy Kerridge <kathykerridge@gmail.com>

Hi, Kathy, thank you for your email. We apologize for our late reply. Some specific examples of current socialist government policies would include the new Biden equity mortgage plan (if you search "Biden equity mortgage" you'll find a bunch of search results to give you more details). Basically it imposes new fees on homebuyers who have good credit and are putting more money down on their home purchases (low risk buyers) to help subsidize buyers with lower credit scores and lower down payments (high risk buyers). Similarly, the Biden program to pay for student loan debt uses federal money to pay for loans that college students willingly signed up for and accepted the penalty for, that now all American tax-payers will pay for. These two examples show the U.S. government spreading wealth/advantage collectively, rather than allowing the private citizens to benefit or fail individually.

There are many other examples of socialism in America, such as social security and medicare, as you mentioned. We found this article (link below) to be interesting (we should add it to the Benicia Freedom site), where the author mentions several examples of socialism in America, including libraries. He goes on to describe the advantages of socialism, but doesn't mention any disadvantages. He does, however, include a section on the history of socialism in America, and how all attempts at fully socialist communities have failed due to ideological differences and financial instability. Here's the link: [Examples of Socialism in America](#)

We love the idea of socialism. But we've seen the history of it ending in disaster, and always resulting in the elimination of liberties. As Americans of course we have to all pitch in to pay for police, fire protection, roads, military, infrastructure. But as more and more programs are implemented that reward people who do not put in the work, we get closer to a situation where hard work does not pay off and accepting government handouts does. This is not sustainable. The fact that more than half of Americans do not pay income taxes is troubling, since if everyone was invested and paid into the system, citizens would pay more attention to where their money is going and if it is being spent in the best ways.

Some countries are held up as examples of successful socialism, such as Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. Small populations with similar values and goals have more of a chance succeeding in socialism, but even then, there will be people who live off the hard work of others. The more you tax and punish the strivers and successful people rather than letting them benefit from their efforts, the less they will be willing to work hard. And when you give people benefits they haven't earned, they will be less likely to value those benefits and become accustomed to getting things for free.

If you could pick a team of productive, like-minded people, you might have a chance of socialism working for a while. But even when small communities have attempted this experiment, they have failed. Wealth redistribution is theft, pure and simple, and ultimately everyone involved figures that out and either gets bitter or feels entitled, depending on what side of the theft they are on. The truth is, there is nothing wrong with income inequality if those with more income are those who work hard and make strong decisions, and those falling behind don't work hard and make poor decisions. And yes, some people have unfair talents and advantages. Very few of us will be professional basketball players. Very few of us will have our college tuition paid for. Very few of us will inherit wealth from our parents. Is this fair? No. But of course, life isn't fair, and trying to engineer fairness will never work. BeniciaFreedom.org mentions Kurt Vonnegut's essay "Harrison Bergeron" which is such an interesting read about society finally making everyone equal: [Full text of "Harrison Bergeron"](#) Have you read it?

Regarding Ron DeSantis, we haven't researched the topic of what he is requiring from private businesses. Our general opinion is that private businesses should be free to make their own decisions within the law – and yes, we think there are too many laws and regulations, which are natural products of bureaucracy. We'd have to look at what you're asking about specifically before giving an opinion.

Thank you for letting us know the socialism page on the site is vague. The site had previously been handled by one person but we now have a group who monitors/updates it (we are all busy with life and work) and will suggest they update the socialism page.

Regarding antisemitism in Nazi Germany: hopefully we all agree that antisemitism and the actions taken by the Nazis is/were reprehensible and horrifying. We would describe

Nazi Germany as a totalitarian dictatorship. Wikipedia defines totalitarianism as “a form of government and a political system that prohibits all opposition parties, outlaws individual and group opposition to the state and its claims, and exercises an extremely high if not complete degree of control and regulation over public and private life.” We would not consider Hitler’s Nazi Germany to be a socialist country, regardless of their official name: The National Socialist German Workers’ Party.

Thank you for writing and we hope to hear from you again! The Benicia Freedom Team