

Putting Socialism in its Place

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2023 1019

Socialism can be defined as a system of government in which the masses contribute either equally or proportionately, to a fund managed by the government in order to provide a set of specific community services. Some theorists limit the arrangement to an economic system rather than a governmental or political one, but the outcome is the same in either.

Through the course of its existence, Socialism has been characterized as that special place between Capitalism and Communism, in which the latter gradually replaces the former. As a result, it has come to be hated and feared by most Constitutional and Fiscal Conservatives as the gateway to hell. These fears are not without merit, given the history of Socialist governments. In each, there has been the mass murdering of those in the population who preferred an alternative form of government.

Proponents of Socialism, however, point out that Americans are already practicing socialism, even as we decry its dangers. After all, the fire department fits the definition perfectly, as does the police department and a number of others. Some even mention Social Security and Medicare as examples of socialist programs within our Capitalist system.

And it is that observation that reveals the truth about Socialism.

To draw a parallel in order to avoid visceral reactions in the reader, let's change the subject and talk about Fractal Equations. Now, many people may not understand fractal mathematics but they are really rather simple. In a fractal equation two variables relate to each other in a mathematically predictable and reliable manner. Unlike other mathematical relationships, however, the fractal equation has limits. In other words, the relationship is only valid when the values of the variables are within a certain set of possible values. For example, the number of one factor is directly relatable to the value of a second factor but only when the first factor is between 5 and 200. If the value of the first factor is 300, the relationship fails.

After lengthy observation and analysis, the same can be said of Socialism. When socialist programs of government are implemented on a small scale, they tend to work rather well. But when that scale is expanded, they fail. Imagine a National Fire Department, if you will. The Social Security and Medicare programs are subjects of massive fraud and present the supplicants with untold bureaucratic burdens in their

implementation. Furthermore, the funds are not protected and are often used for other purposes. I defy anyone to make a substantial claim that these programs are working as intended. They have drifted beyond their limitations, and like the fractal equation, are no longer valid examples of Socialism.

In conclusion, Socialistic programs and governmental structure appears to work well enough when kept local. That may be because the people managing them are also local. Socialism, however, does not, and can not, be viable when the program expands to levels of government somewhere between the County and State.

I submit for consideration that even such socialistic programs as Minimum Wage and Unemployment Compensation may well function better at a County level.