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# DEATH BY SOCIALISM

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**Segment Length: 9:01 minutes**

## **Lesson Description:**

Socialism is often seen as just another economic system, perhaps a more fair system, where people are more equal. But is it really just another economic system? Is it really more fair? This segment looks at socialism and the consequences of socialism on a country and its people.

## **Concepts and Key Terms:**

*Socialism* – An economic system in which the production, distribution, and exchange of products and services is regulated or owned by government. Supporters argue that government control – control by “the people” – is in the best interests of the community as a whole.

## **Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- explain arguments for and against socialism.
- compare and contrast conditions at American stores and stores in Venezuela.
- weigh the effects of socialism on a country and on the citizens of that country.

## **Preview Activity and Questions:**

Have students answer the following question in their notebooks:

When you think of socialism, what words come to mind?

Use Think, Pair, Share to have students answer the preview question. Ask them to look for similarities and differences in their answers and have them rate their answers as either “positive” or “negative.” After a few minutes, poll the students and ask them to explain their answers. Are there more positive or negative? Why?

**OR**

Distribute copies of the K-W-L worksheet (page 49) to the class. Have students fill in the K and W sections. After showing the video, have students complete the L section and answer the question at the bottom of the worksheet.

## **Viewing Guide:**

It is recommended that teachers show the video segment twice: once to allow students to view the video and focus on the issues presented, and once to allow them time to complete the viewing guide. After they complete the viewing guide, allow students a few minutes to work in pairs sharing and verifying answers.

## **Answers to Viewing Guide:**

- |             |                  |                 |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. together | 3. leader        | 5. great things |
| 2. scarce   | 4. Latin America |                 |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## **Death by Socialism Viewing Guide**

**Directions: As you watch the video, fill in the blanks with the correct words.**

1. The word socialist is derived from society. It suggests we're all in this \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Food is so \_\_\_\_\_ that people fight in the street over bags of flour. Ever see this at greedy capitalist free market countries?
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ knows better than any individual how everyone is supposed to lead their lives.
4. They blame free markets as if we in \_\_\_\_\_ have ever had free markets, which is not the case.
5. Here's movie star Sean Penn hugging Venezuela's current dictator. Oliver Stone claims the old dictator did \_\_\_\_\_ for Venezuela.

**Now, take a few moments to reflect on the video and answer the questions below:**

Advocates for socialism argue that socialism is a more fair economic system, where people are more equal. Is equal necessarily good? \_\_\_\_\_ Why / Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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In the video, John Stossel said that "In America, celebrities are some of the more clueless people." Why did he say that? \_\_\_\_\_

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Fergus Hodgson said that there is no freedom of speech in Venezuela and that opposition newspapers are closing. Why might leaders of a country want to curtail freedom of speech and freedom of the press? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Discussion and Analysis:

1. Prior to watching this video, what had you heard about socialism? From whom did you hear that?
2. What are the differences or similarities between what you had heard and what you saw in this video?
3. Have you ever waited in long lines, hoping to get food? Where?
4. Why might there regularly be food lines or a lack of food? What incentives are there in our country for people to produce food?
5. What is socialism?
6. How did things get so bad in Venezuela, which was once the richest country in South America?
7. Why do you think people in our country support socialism? Can't they see the consequences? What do they see as the benefits?
8. Considering what you know about socialism and capitalism, in which system do you think people are most free? Why? Is freedom more important than being equal? Why / Why not?
9. What did Gloria Alvarez mean when she said that the socialist leaders in Latin America were democratically elected, not through violence, but through cultural manipulation of the language, of the media, of the arts?
10. What were the connections Gloria Alvarez was making between Hitler and the socialist leaders in Latin America?
11. If the government puts price controls on products, what will business owners do if the government-controlled prices are lower than the costs incurred by the businesses?
12. If capitalism is why we live better in our country than people do in other countries, why do you think some people want to change or tamper with free markets?
13. Why do you think John Stossel referred to celebrities as clueless and to the trip to Cuba by Kim Kardashian and Kanye West at the "celebrity poverty tour"?
14. Kim Kardashian wrote in a tweet, "I love Cuba! One of our best trips!" We felt like we stepped back into a different time period. Can't wait to go back." Why did they feel as though they stepped back in time? Do you think the Cuban people are happy to be living in that time period even now?
15. What did Hugo Chavez mean when he said, "Chavez is the people"?
16. The woman speaking in the video from Venezuela refers to numerous problems in the country, but she doesn't say why those problems exist. Why do those problems exist? Do you think she realizes why or do you think she doesn't care about the cause? Explain.

## Discuss These Lines from the Video:

1. How can I call this show that [Death by Socialism]? To many people, socialism is just good, more fair, more equal than our ruthless system.

2. Don't these people know history? The Soviet Union murdered millions of people.
3. Look what socialism has done to people in Venezuela. Fifty years ago, Venezuelans had the highest wages in South America, then they elected Hugo Chavez.
4. These days, thousands of people wait in long lines to try to buy food. This line goes around the block, and then back again. Some lines seem to stretch for miles. Often people wait in line and then find the store has run out of food.
5. So if you come in and say, "I'm going solve your problems, I'm going to overcome this, that's an appealing line.
6. The capacity of the socialists to defend their position in the face of overwhelming evidence is actually impressive.
7. It's not just that Venezuela's out of food and opportunity, people die there because there are no medicines.
8. In America, celebrities are some of the more clueless people. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West recently visited Cuba. They did their celebrity poverty tour. Kim wrote [tweet displayed], "I love Cuba! One of our best trips!
9. You elected a government that will not be a government of Chavez, because Chavez is the people.
10. Opposition newspapers are closing up because they can't get newsprint, they can't import the raw materials to get the information out.

## Quotes for Discussion

*Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it.*

– **Thomas Sowell**

*The reason socialism has failed around the world every time it's been tried is because people in socialist countries have looked at the United States and have said if they can have it that good, we can. It's a failed, flawed ideology, but if you ask socialists why it's always failed, it's because the United States has stood in the way.*

– **Brad Thor**

*Under socialism all will govern in turn and will soon become accustomed to no one governing.*

– **Vladimir Lenin**

*Socialism is about claims of justice, and it is also about money: about wealth, income, physical and financial capital. It is an ideology based on allocating economic resources. It may try to achieve that goal by nationalizing assets, by command-and-control regulation, or by taxation and redistribution.*

– **Virginia Postrel**

*Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.*

– **Winston Churchill**

*I believe that all forms of socialism have been proven over time to result in a loss of both economic and civil liberties, with increasing poverty.*

– **John Mackey**

*Socialism states that you owe me something simply because I exist. Capitalism, by contrast, results in a sort of reality-forced altruism: I may not want to help you, I may dislike you, but if I don't give you a product or service you want, I will starve. Voluntary exchange is more moral than forced redistribution.*

– **Ben Shapiro**

*The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.* — **Winston Churchill**

*The reason this country continues its drift toward socialism and big nanny government is because too many people vote in the expectation of getting something for nothing, not because they have a concern for what is good for the country.* — **Lyn Nofziger**

*Capitalism has worked very well. Anyone who wants to move to North Korea is welcome.* — **Bill Gates**

*I have said it already, I am convinced that the way to build a new and better world is not capitalism. Capitalism leads us straight to hell.* — **Hugo Chavez**

## **Activities:**

1. Have students complete the K-W-L worksheet (page 49) in class or for homework.
2. Distribute individual quotes from the Quotes for Discussion section to pairs of students. Have the students discuss the meaning of the quote and write the meaning on the back. Collect the quotes and the students' explanations as an exit ticket.
3. Produce a "man-on-the-street" video in which you ask people if they prefer capitalism or socialism, and why. (See links in the Resources section for help in producing man-on-the-street videos.)
4. Conduct a classroom debate about socialism. To get students to look at socialism from a different perspective, consider having them argue from a view with which they disagree. Students should be given time to research their position prior to debating. (See link in the Resources section for a guide to conducting classroom debates.)
5. Food lines have occurred throughout history. Why? Research several countries that have faced food shortages. Is there a common link? If so, what is it? Prepare a slideshow to present your findings to the class. (See links in the Resources section for help in preparing a slideshow.)
6. What causes poverty? Research the causes of poverty. You might find different explanations. You might present them to the class and have the class discuss which explanation(s) are more sensible or believable.
7. Fergus Hodgson is an editor of Impunity Observer. Research Fergus Hodgson and the Impunity Observer and write a report detailing what you find.
8. Research Gloria Alvarez. What does she do? What are her views? How does she suggest fixing the economic and social problems in Latin America? Present your findings to the class in the form of an oral report. (See link in the Resources section for help in speaking to a group.)
9. Research the National Civic Movement in Guatemala. What are its goals? How does the organization intend to achieve those goals? Has it had any success? Write an essay about the National Civic Movement in Guatemala.
10. Research and write a biography of Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro, Evo Morales, Daniel Ortega, or Bernie Sanders. (See links in the Resources section for a guide to writing biographies.) As an alternative, produce a biographical slideshow. (See links in the Resources section for help in preparing a slideshow.)

11. Several times in the video, Gloria Alvarez used the term “Socialism of the 21st Century.” What does that term mean? Research Socialism of the 21st Century and write an essay explaining its origin and meaning.
12. Research and prepare a slideshow comparing life in a country with capitalism and life in a socialist country.
13. Write a persuasive essay (pro or con) about socialism. Be sure to address the opposing side of the argument in your essay. (See links in the Resources section for help in writing persuasive essays.)
14. Read one of the articles or watch one of the videos in the Resources section and either write a summary of it or take Cornell Notes as you read the article or watch the video. (See links in the Resources section for help in taking Cornell Notes.)
15. Read one of the books in the Resources section and write a book report. (See link in the Resources section for help in writing a book report.)
16. Write a tweet, poem, or song about socialism, food lines, or the lack of a free press in Latin American countries that have socialist leaders.
17. Show the class one of the videos in the Resources below and ask the students to relate the video to the Stossel video they just saw.

## Resources:

### Guides

How to write a biography:

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/wsbiography.html>

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/biography/a/bio.htm>

A good explanation of K-W-L, with a sample chart, and a chart for downloading:

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/kwl.html>

Also helpful for K-W-L:

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/structured-learning-teaching-tip>

Think, Pair, Share

A brief explanation of the Think, Pair, Share instructional strategy, with examples:

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/tps.html>

A video explanation of Think, Pair, Share:

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/think-pair-share-lesson-idea>

Conducting classroom debates:

<http://712educators.about.com/cs/lessonsss/ht/htdebate.htm>

[http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/frame\\_found\\_sr2/tns/tn-13.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/frame_found_sr2/tns/tn-13.pdf)

<http://busyteacher.org/7245-conducting-class-debate-essential-tips.html>

How to write a book report:

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/wsbookreporths.html>

How to write a persuasive essay:

[https://www.scribendi.com/advice/how\\_to\\_write\\_a\\_persuasive\\_essay.en.html](https://www.scribendi.com/advice/how_to_write_a_persuasive_essay.en.html)

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/writingskills7.html>

For a clear, simple explanation of the Cornell note-taking system:

<http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/cornellnotes.html>

<http://www.bucks.edu/~specpop/Cornl-ex.htm>

How to produce a man-on-the-street interview:

<http://onemarketmedia.com/2009/02/16/seven-ideas-to-help-get-the-most-out-of-a-man-on-the-street-interview/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Man-on-the-Street-Interview>

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2283844\\_do-man-street-interviews.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2283844_do-man-street-interviews.html)

For help in speaking to a class:

<https://www.hamilton.edu/oralcommunication/tips-for-effective-delivery>

Preparing effective slideshow presentations:

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5032561\\_prepare-effective-powerpoint-presentation.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5032561_prepare-effective-powerpoint-presentation.html)

<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/showcase/details.aspx?uuid=22f09a63-cecb-4260-a44f-8223d07dd031>

<http://blog.synapsiscreative.com/the-info/7-big-powerpoint-mistakes-you-just-cant-afford-to-make>

## Articles

“The Antidote to Castro Apologists” by Fergus Hodgson

<http://impunityobserver.com/2015/12/07/the-antidote-to-castro-apologists/>

Blaming Socialism, US Media Distorts Venezuela’s Food Crisis

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Blaming-Socialism-US-Media-Distorts-Venezuelas-Food-Crisis-20170223-0053.html>

Chomsky: Latin American Socialists In Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil Have Failed To Build Sustainable Economies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maHgtLp21Iw>

“Cuba’s Rise and Fall in Half an Hour” by Fergus Hodgson

<http://impunityobserver.com/2015/03/12/cubas-rise-and-fall-in-half-an-hour/>

“How Bitcoin Is Undermining Socialism in Latin America” by Rodrigo Souza

<http://reason.com/blog/2016/11/30/rodrigo-souza-bitcoin-venezuela-brazil>

“It was once the richest country in Latin America. Now it’s falling apart” by Ioan Grillo

<http://time.com/venezuela-brink/>

“The Jury Is In: Latin America’s 21st Century Socialism Has Failed” by Rafael Ruiz Velasco

<https://panampost.com/rafael-ruiz-velasco/2016/05/19/21st-century-socialism-has-failed/>

“Latin America’s Right Turn” by Devon Haynie

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2017-01-09/the-consequences-of-latin-americas-move-to-the-right>

“Socialism Is Dying Everywhere from Europe to South America – Except in the US”  
by Jim Hoft

<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2016/05/socialism-dying-failing-everywhere-except-us/>

“Socialist Policies Undoing Success of South America’s Strongest Economy”

by Richard W. Rahn

<https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/socialist-policies-undoing-success-south-americas-strongest-economy>

“South America’s Last Bastion Of Socialism Is Falling To Pieces” by Kenneth Rapoza

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2017/03/02/south-americas-last-bastion-of-socialism-is-falling-to-pieces/#7732a0db2fd8>

“What can Hispanics learn from socialism’s demise in Latin America?” by Israel Ortega

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/263217-what-can-hispanics-learn-from-socialisms-demise-in-latin>

## Books

*Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy* by Joseph A. Schumpeter

Downloadable PDF version:

<http://cnqzu.com/library/Economics/marxian%20economics/Schumpeter,%20Joseph-Capitalism,%20Socialism%20and%20Democracy.pdf>

*The Communist Manifesto* by Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx

Downloadable versions:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/61>

*Democracy and Revolution: Latin America and Socialism Today* by D.L Raby

*Latin America’s Turbulent Transitions: The Future of Twenty-First Century Socialism*

by Roger Burbach, Michael Fox, Federico Fuentes

*The Problem with Socialism* by Thomas DiLorenzo

*The Road to Serfdom* by Friedrich A. Hayek

[http://cnqzu.com/library/Philosophy/neoreaction/Friedrich%20August%20Hayek/Friedrich\\_Hayek%20-%20The\\_road\\_to\\_serfdom.pdf](http://cnqzu.com/library/Philosophy/neoreaction/Friedrich%20August%20Hayek/Friedrich_Hayek%20-%20The_road_to_serfdom.pdf)

*Shining Path: The World’s Deadliest Revolutionary Force* by Simon Strong

*Socialism: An Economic and Sociological Analysis* by Ludwig von Mises

Downloadable PDF version:

[https://mises.org/sites/default/files/Socialism%20An%20Economic%20and%20Sociological%20Analysis\\_3.pdf](https://mises.org/sites/default/files/Socialism%20An%20Economic%20and%20Sociological%20Analysis_3.pdf)

*Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* by Friedrich Engels

## Websites

Impunity Observer

<http://impunityobserver.com/author/fergus-hodgson/>

## Videos

Bernie vs. Milton – Can Socialism Solve America’s Economic Problems

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7Cs5GNRhDc&utm>

Democratic Socialism is Still Socialism

<https://www.prageru.com/courses/political-science/democratic-socialism-still-socialism>

It’s a Wonderful Loaf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljULutAUL7o>

How Socialism Ruined My Country

<https://www.prageru.com/courses/foreign-affairs/how-socialism-ruined-my-country>

Socialism Makes People Selfish

<https://www.prageru.com/courses/political-science/socialism-makes-people-selfish>



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## Death by Socialism K-W-L Chart

**Directions:** Complete the **K** and **W** sections prior to watching the video. After you have seen the video, complete the **L** section and answer the two questions below the K-W-L chart.

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
What I know about socialism:	What I want to know about socialism:	What I've learned about socialism:

After watching the video and discussing it in class, did your views of socialism stay the same or change? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

