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## Socialism - A Great Turning Point in Human History

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### Abstract:

*The 20<sup>th</sup> century is the aeon for the social and national liberation of the individual. Freedom is a boon and basic right of every individual's existence. Human freedom is infringed by certain social and economic order. This research paper undertakes the task to reveal the reasons behind the pandemonium of humankind living in capitalism; the basic fact for the rise and development of socialism around the globe. This paper is divided into six parts. Part I is introduction. Part II deals with historical need to replace capitalism by socialism. Part III explores the economic decisive factors in capitalism. Part IV for explores the economic decisive factors in socialism. Part V leads to threats of neo-colonialism. Part VI is conclusion.*

**Key words:** Socialism, capitalism, economic factors, neo-colonialism, individual freedom

### INTRODUCTION

It is difficult to say when and where volcanic magma of socialism erupted first. Many social scientists held the view that Plato's "Republic" is the first evidence of socialism. The marrow of the Republic is to be found in social justice for people

within states. He stated, “unless....political power and philosophy meet together....there can be no rest from troubles....for states, nor.....For all mankind....”<sup>1</sup> Whereas some social scientists ponder to reveal the fact that history of socialism is traceable to Bible particularly to the Old Testament. Christian teachings preached and practiced socialism in everyday life and repelled from the concept of “Mine and Thine.” The Old Testament declared: “Leave what you have; free yourself from all fetters; be!”<sup>2</sup> If we turn the pages of history we will be aware of the fact that from the Middle Ages to the 16<sup>th</sup> century the age of Renaissance and the Reformation, strong protest was recorded based on hoarding of wealth. From 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in a number of west European countries feudalism was ascended by capitalism with the speedy development of Technology, Natural science and production. The manual work of labors are replaced by machinery, mills and mines, the energy of human mind and muscles and engendered energy of steam engine subsequently electricity. Within the hectic span of two or three centuries; Technology and natural science and production are getting novelty by developmental forces of capitalism at unprecedented rate. Despite the rapid progress rate that ever had in history, the rate of exploitation became the counterpart of capitalism as it was under the slave owning and feudal system. So capitalism was marked by the essence of apathy, inhumanity and found to be at dagger drawn for man’s comfort. Capitalism itself heralded the dawn of socialist doctrines and became evident for the strong protest of people against existing social order.

The basic notion of socialism was the idea of Humanism--respect and concern for man, real democracy, equality, justice, tolerance and peace. In forties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Karl Marx

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<sup>1</sup> Fundamentals of Scientific Socialism(1969): translated from the Russian by G. Ivanov-Mumjiev-L. Iempert and M. Saifulin, Progress Publishers Moscow, pp,28-45

<sup>2</sup> Western Political Thought(1996): Brian R. Nelson Florida International University Pearson Education Press (Singapore), pp 330-333

(1818-1883) and Frederick Engels (1820-1895) commenced painstakingly their work in Germany.<sup>3</sup> By that time, capitalism had gained strength like growth of cancer in a body in Europe and North America. It seemed that the bourgeois, who lay down the law to private property and exploitation extended to such an extent of endless rule. But to the thesis of capitalism there appeared anti-thesis in 1848, the Communist Manifesto prophetically by Marx and Engels. They proved that a new socialist society by revolution was emerging without wage-slavery, class war, tyranny, despotism, inequality and injustice. The social force acted as right wing behind socialist revolution was the Proletariat, extremely rebellious and revolutionary class against capitalism. Marx and Engels stated in the communist manifesto "let the ruling classes tremble at a communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win."<sup>4</sup>

## **REPLACEMENT OF CAPITALISM**

Man is a social animal and social life is based upon labour. Human life would cease to exist without labour and productive activity. The vital element in social development is the production of material wealth. Productive faculty requires two things: labour of men and objects of labour. Labour power turned into definite relations with production. The relations of production, disposition and distribution of productive wealth bank upon the ownership. For instance in the case of private ownership the owner himself never toil and bruised in productive labour but captured the lion's share. In capitalism production means social products, yielding commodities easily available to society. Production stands for social actions rather than isolated actions. Such as under feudalism the peasant

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<sup>3</sup> Communism and Freedom(1970): R. Kosolapov, Progress Publishers Moscow pp 48-50

<sup>4</sup> The Socialist Case: Douglas Jay, Faber and Faber limited London Press pp 2-3

alone destined to cultivate flax, spinning wheel, the hand loom and developed it into yarn, cloth and garments. Under capitalism all the operations are being done under capitalism mechanically which coalesces hundreds of enterprises employing thousands of people. Capitalism established international market united the entire world into economic internationalism. The foundation of the League of Nations and the United Nations is a proof of international consciousness. In 19<sup>th</sup> century capitalism was entering into its last phase of imperialism, a chief supporter to internationalism. Capitalism par excellence imperialism became the ground reality for onerous and ruinous courses for all states of colonial slavery globally. Few references are made here: Heinous atrocities committed by the Belgians in the Congo, same bigotry and exploitation was done in India under British rule, whites in Kenya and South Africa relinquished birthright of natives and usurped their land. It has been estimated that 1.5 millions of whites owned about 280 millions of acres of land while 5.5 millions of Negroes having only 27 millions of acres of land.

Leonard Woolf in 1924 stated that: “out of the total revenue estimated about 2 million pounds, the government of Kenya spent £44000 pound on prisons, £37000 pound on education the policy of government was to favor about 10000 Europeans at the expense of 36000 Asian and 25000 Africans. All the best land was reserved for Europeans and the native is on the road which leads to economic slavery.”<sup>5</sup>

In southern Rhodesia (currently Zimbabwe), Libya, Egypt, Africa, Burma, Ceylon and Singapore handful of whites reduced majority of natives to the position of slavery Englishman had a monopoly to attain highest possible profits. To accomplish the task the imperialists escalated the exploitation for both proletarian (natives, workers, slaves) and those of colonial and dependent nations. Modern imperialism began in 1884 with the scramble for Africa. All European

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<sup>5</sup> Democratic Theory and Socialism(1987): Frank Cunningham, Cambridge University Press pp 85-89

nations vied with each other to vanquish as much territory as they could. Between 1884 and 1914 France possessed 4 million square miles with 50 million inhabitants, Great Britain possessed more than three million square miles with 57 million inhabitants and Germany possessed one million square miles with 15 million inhabitants of Dark Continent. During 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia prolonged its territory up to Central Asia, Japan established its territory up to Korea and China, Italy extended its territory up to Ethiopia. In 1935 white people controlled 85% around the globe for the motives of Lease-holds, financial control, traffic control, raw material control, condominium and protectorates.<sup>6</sup>

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was an outbreak of two world wars waged among the imperialist powers for national interest as bone of contention. As a result of two Great wars (World War I&II) In 1922 The Irish Free State was set up. Iraq became independent in 1932. Pakistan and India got independence in 1947. In 1948 Burma got independence. In 1949 Indonesia became independent. In 1956 Morocco and Tunisia became independent states. In 1956 Sudan became independent. In 1960 Ghana became independent country. In 1962 Tanganyika became independent state. In 1962 Uganda got independence. In 1963 Kenya became independent. In 1963 the federation of Malaysia was founded. In 1963 Nigeria became a republic. In 1964 the state of Zambia was created. In 1964 the new state of Malawi appeared on the map of globe. In 1964 new state of Tanzania emerged as independent country. In 1975 Angola became independent. In 1980 Zimbabwe was declared as an independent state.

The first historic mission of working class in capitalism rather imperialism is to organize a revolutionary party as a defender of their everyday economic interest. Second historic mission of working class is to tarnish private ownership of

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<sup>6</sup> The Politics of Socialism(1984): John Dunn, Cambridge University Press, pp 4-5

means of production and bring them under control of state as a primogenitor and repository of the interest of masses. At the eve of imperialism a socialist revolution was ripening in Russia. To fulfill its missions, the theory of Karl Marx worked in venture with Lenin (1870-1924) as the theory of scientific Socialism, Marxism-Leninism. Lenin not only developed the revolutionary theory to defy the challenge of imperialism but also drafted the “constructive strategy” and implemented the plans for reform, recovery and relief motives. In Russia, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1917 the Lenin’s Bolshevik party make a way the capitalist rule. Lenin stated: “the land of Soviet is a torch of international socialism and an example to all the working people.”<sup>7</sup>

In March 1919 modern communist movement was organized in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. All socialist countries are different from each other regarding size, shape, population, language, historical traditions, national culture, machinery of state power and constitution etc. But their common interest is same i.e. socio-economic system to raise living standards and speed up industrialization, to dart their glory in the economic competition with capitalism. The socialist system laid down its foundation upon principles of respect for national sovereignty, fraternal mutual co-operation and assistance. For the purpose of economic co-operation socialist countries---U.S.S.R, German democratic republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Mongolia and Czechoslovakia build up council for mutual economic assistance (CMEA) in 1960. The tasks of council are co-ordination of national economic development plans, extensive trade, joint construction and scientific assistance, technical assistance, granting credits at low rate interest, specialization and co-operation in production. Socialist countries do not repress or segregate others smaller socialist states but to speed up the process of aggrandizement.

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<sup>7</sup> The Turning-Point of Socialism(1970): Roger Garaudy, Fontana/Collins Press, London pp 77-79

## **ECONOMIC DECISIVE FACTORS IN CAPITALISM**

The capitalist countries create and maintain the sort of political and economic environment in which success of one country means the failure of another, and vice versa. Division of labour between capitalist countries grounded on the enslavement of debilitated countries by strong ones to uphold imperialist power and to recede exacerbating their economical and cultural development. Marx stated: "within its pale, the gain of one state is the loss of the other."<sup>8</sup>

The capitalist economy is based on Laissez faire principle.<sup>9</sup> State-monopoly intervene the system to control, plan and program the economy. To accomplish the assigned strategy state monopoly assembles centrally administrated bodies and organizations which plans short—and long-term programmes, plans and scopes. Eventually every capitalist runs on his own firm with is own private interest. Gradually and ultimately capitalist society develops in a "free market" in unplanned way. Variably each private owner seeks his own benefit irrespective of welfare of society and whole economy so the free market is the engine that runs the whole economy. The market is the linker and connects different owners with one another. The market shows demand supply relation, if the product is in short supply demand would be high, the price automatically goes up. If the product is in good supply demand would be low the price goes down. The state regulation played vital role and takes the following initiative to increase demand of product: broad advertisement, the sale of durables on credit, speedily alterable mode in fashion, sales of undesirable goods at lower prices periodically etc. The excruciating encumbrance befell on taxpayers, whose income shapes the state budget. The government utilizes the state budget to finance its anti-crises

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<sup>8</sup> Socialism Short History(1949): Norman Mackenzie, Hutchinson's University Library, London Press, pp 168-169

<sup>9</sup> Which Socialism? Marxism, Socialism and Democracy: Norberto Bobbio Translated by Roger Griffin, Polity Press London, pp 162-164

measures, which hold the enlargement of state order, particularly military orders to monopolies; the purveyance of economic aid (free grants and subsidies) to monopolies, basically those who are in dire economic straits. State monopoly can increase or decrease the extemporaneous development of capitalism but cannot do away the inhuman nature of imperialism, Free market, effects of consumerism and competition.

## **ECONOMIC DECISIVE FACTORS IN SOCIALISM**

Socialist economy is singly centralized planned economy. The state stands for the great benefactor of Homo Sapiens. The state unites all producers in unison of single economy. In the initial stages of socialism or primarily in the period of Transition from capitalism to socialism the prevalent mode of economy is private producer (enterprises and firms) that eliminates the feature of direct planned economy due to market spontaneity. Thus state hastens the development in right direction through organized strategies. The state by law owns trade and money along with financial and trading organizations established by the bourgeois. The socialist enterprises are organized in two ways: via state trade (the state regulates the market by nationalization and municipalization the capitalist trade), via co-operative trade (which displace the role of private retailers).<sup>10</sup>

State property includes the major sectors: the bank, foreign and home trade, means of transport and communication, enterprises of heavy industry, the land with its mineral resources, forests, water and so on.

In socialist state two types of socialist property emerged state enterprises (factories, agricultural enterprises) co-operative enterprises (collective farms of peasants and consumer co-operative).

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<sup>10</sup> States and Social Revolution(1979): Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press

Both systems are guided under direct assistance of state. The socialist state ousted the capitalist regime by applying economic measures, by selling goods at lower cost prices, with lower circulation costs and of better quality and assortment.

## **THE THREATS OF NEO-COLONIALISM**

The imperialist powers are trying to revamp imperialism to curb socialism. Neo-colonialism is a system of ideological measures to control economic, social, cultural progress of socialist states and to retard it. Indeed most Afro-Asian, Latin American countries are now independent but still they found themselves in clutches of imperialist countries. The greater part of economy i.e. factories and natural resources are dominated and regulated by imperialist monopolies. Another reason of neo-colonialism is so called “economic grant” given to the socialist countries by imperialist powers. This foreign grant has a clear cut purpose: to fix and strengthen their economic positions in socialist countries and to make their economic development as obedient puppet. Imperialist powers build up pressure to infringe upon the national sovereignty recipient countries to destabilize them. The economic grant is the neo-colonialist policy to show great regard for the economic welfare of socialist countries but trying to de-escalate newly-liberated countries. Another policy of neo-colonialism is “collective colonialism” rampant today to ransack Asian, African and Latin American nations. The establishment of the organization of American states (OAS), Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), and Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) are the political alliances for old packages in NEW DEAL.<sup>11</sup>

On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great socialist revolution the representatives of communist parties in Moscow stated: “the demand of our epoch is to rid our planet completely of the

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<sup>11</sup> The Bolshevik Party in Revolution: Ellman, Robert Service A Study in Organizational change(1917-1923), Macmillan & Co, London(1979), pp 152-158

curse of colonialism. Destroy its last centers and prevent its revival in new, camouflaged forms.”<sup>12</sup> The imperialist authoritatively imposed oppressive military expenditures using socialist territory to establish military bases for waging war against national liberation movement internationally. About 450 American bases are found on foreign territories. The quintessential enlightenment of neo-colonialism is U.S imperialism. The main proponent of U.S colonial expansion is the U.S dollar. The U.S foreign investment brings in profits twice as high as those in the U.S which accelerate the rate of dollar in international market. The socialist countries accumulated more than two-thirds of the population of capitalist world; produce only about 20% of the output of his manufacturing industry, 3% of machinery and 5% of metal produced in the non-socialist world. Thus the annual per capita income in U.S.A in 1967 was \$3,279, in Pakistan \$112, in India \$91, in Kenya \$77, in Congo \$61, in Burma \$56.<sup>13</sup>

Thomas R. Adam in modern colonialism stated in (1955): “Imperialism, notably U.S imperialism, was and continues to be the main enemy of the national liberation movement.”<sup>14</sup> The further tactic used by neo-colonialist is “divide and rule.” They create discrimination on part of social groups, tribes and religious communities. The onus forces of imperialism were behind the murders of Patrice Lumumba and Eduardo Mondale etc. Ceaseless endeavors are made to evict national liberation movement leaders for goods. Lenin stated: “There are diverse forms of dependent countries which, politically, are formally independent but in fact, are enmeshed in the net of financial and diplomatic dependence.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Understanding Revolutions(1982): John Dunn, pp 299-315

<sup>13</sup> Western Technology and Soviet Economic Development(1917-1930): A. C. Sutton, Hoover Institution Publications, Stanford (1968)

<sup>14</sup> Unimagined Community: The Deceptions of Socialist Internationalism, John Dunn, Instituto Gramsci, Florence (1983)

<sup>15</sup> Article by Jean Claude Chesnais in La Recherche, Reported in Sunday Times (London)25 Sep 1983

## CONCLUSION

A close analysis of this two antagonistic systems, leads us to the following conclusions:

Firstly socialism ennobles social welfare of all and sundry by fostering the primal elements of education, health, employment, high labour productivity etc on the basis of equal opportunity. On the contrary capitalism promotes deep economic inequality, anarchy, irremediable unemployment, mass poverty, illiteracy above all low labour productivity.

Secondly under socialism relations of co-operations and mutual assistance are knitted on fundamental principle of social property. Therefore the discrimination between property and labour, between masters and workers is annulled permanently. Thus create classless society. On the other hand in capitalism few capitalist own immense wealth and enjoy the fruits of labour produced by the biggest part of the world i.e. proletariat. The majority of working class is oppressed and suppressed by the exploiting minority which leads to class consciousness and class conflict.

Thirdly socialism produces humanitarian, fraternal relation in society. The slogan "One for all and all for one" is the driving force of socialist society. For instance capitalism is the history of colonialism, imperialism, racialism, chauvinism and individualism. The slogan "Man to man is a wolf"<sup>16</sup> is the driving force of the capitalist society.

Fourthly the socialist state ensures the happiness for all members of society. Man is happy because his interest, requirement and basic necessities are fulfilled by the system. Moreover majority of people in the capitalist system are not happy because socio-economic forces rip them apart. They feel insecure, uncertain and pessimistic about their future.

Fifthly socialism imparts the air of true democracy; to expand the scope of human freedom just because of incentives

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<sup>16</sup> Political Theory (1988): V. D. Mahajan New Delhi Publications pp 693-695

of non-profit. Every member of society will work according to his ability and receive according to his needs. While capitalism disfavors the spirit of democracy “give and take.” The capitalist society is based upon competition and impoverishment.

The beacon light for socialism Karl Marx had a clear vision to be crowned over capitalist system. Socialism is “goal directed”<sup>17</sup> phenomenon but at present socialist states have no remedy to the present apathetic chaos.

As the gulf between the U.S.S.R and the U.S.A widened it intensified the situation. The U.S.S.R, the Chinese communist, the countries of Eastern Europe had patrimonial right to support socialism while non-socialist nation led by the U.S.A are strong barrier to socialist expansion. The key to understand and assess the essence of modern age is unapproachable the hopeful factors are given by socialism. To suggest this or that reform is useless without implementation. As it is evident from a number of statements by specialists that our earth could accommodate a comfortable living for more than 10 thousand million people if the current scientific, technical and productive achievements are vested in right directions. Although world’s population at present is not much more than 3 thousand million people.

On the basis of above stated facts we conclude that the vision of new man and new society is comprehensible only if the old motivational forces of profit and power are commuted by new forces of being, sharing, and understanding; if cybernetic revolt is substituted by new vitalizing humanistic spirit.

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