

APRIL 2020

# THE CONNECTER

INFORM. CONNECT. MOBILIZE.



## The Philosophies Behind the Candidates: Socialism Rising

By Aaron Mercer, IFA Contributing Writer

Forty years ago a team of college-aged young men invigorated a nation. Overcoming all odds, the players for Team USA defeated the seemingly unstoppable hockey juggernaut of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the 1980 Winter Olympics. They were heroes for a people searching for hope.



Today an alarming number of Americans seeking hope are instead choosing to rally behind unapologetic socialists like Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Dozens more socialists have won state and local races in recent years. Indeed, while socialism remains relatively unpopular nationwide, a recent Marist poll shows that half of Democrats and two-thirds of progressives now view the ideology favorably.

To be fair, while he did infamously “honeymoon” in the USSR and praise Fidel Castro, Sanders and company generally distance themselves from the Soviet Union and other totalitarian communist regimes. After a swipe from Michael Bloomberg in February’s Nevada debate, Sanders rejected any communist affiliation and said his ideology was “democratic socialism.”

What is democratic socialism? Is it a logical heir to FDR’s New Deal, as some Sanders proponents claim, or is it what conservative radio host Glenn Beck terms “diet communism”? Perhaps it is best to see what Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), the largest U.S. socialist association, states about itself.

DSA says it rejects total state control over society and centrally-planned economies. However, it does call for government and economic institutions to be “radically transformed.” Workers and consumers must own the nation’s economic engines. What might such “democratic control” look like? DSA states, “Social ownership could take many forms, such as worker-owned cooperatives or publicly owned enterprises managed by workers and consumer representatives.”

Meagan Day of the socialist magazine *Jacobin* is clearer: “[H]ere’s the truth: In the long run, democratic socialists want to end capitalism.” She asserts that today’s alliances with liberals and progressives on objectives like so-called Medicare-for-All are steps to that end.

Leaving aside communist tyrannies, numerous nations have experimented with the fundamentals of socialism and have found it wanting. The Heritage Foundation’s Lee Edwards recently highlighted the stories of Israel, India, and the United Kingdom embracing socialism after World War II only to toss its principles when their economies were on the brink of disaster. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher observed, “The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.”

Actually, Edwards has suggested a more insidious problem in his analysis of socialism. In 2018, he made a case that it is “a pseudo-religion grounded in pseudo-science and enforced by political tyranny.”

Indeed, history shows that socialism is an alluring ideal with devastating potential. Let us pray that Americans will see through its enticements and stop it in its tracks. Our true hope is found in Another. [\\*IFA](#)



## What is the Root of Social Justice?

By Karen Hardin, IFA Contributing Writer

The term “justice,” like many words in American society today, has been redefined in recent years. We now hear about social justice on a daily basis and many people refer to themselves as “social justice activists.” So what does it mean and how does it affect our society and families?

Social justice sounds good, even righteous. Throughout the Bible we see that God is all about justice. But justice and social justice aren't the same.

Social justice has been defined by the UN as “the fair and compassionate distribution of the fruits of economic growth.” The National Association of Social Workers defines it as “the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Social workers aim to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need.”

Justice, on the other hand, is defined by Merriam-Webster as: “the maintenance or administration of what is just especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments meting out justice; the quality of being just, impartial, or fair.”

Many have tried to connect the two words. But they are not the same. At. All.

The Bible is the authority on justice, for it is the very foundation and character of God. This is what it says about justice: *To do righteousness and justice is desired by the Lord more than sacrifice* (Prv 21:3 NASB); *When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous, but terror to evildoers* (Prv 21:15 NIV); and, *For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing* (Is 61:8 NIV).

Do you see the difference in the two words yet? Social justice almost



always circles back to an economic issue or money. The “social” in social justice comes from socialism and the belief that all things in all areas must be equal for everyone, that leveling the playing field will make life fair.

But even if we took all the money in the world and redistributed it evenly to all people, within one year the distribution of wealth would have returned to almost exactly what it was before the redistribution. Fair or not, that is fact.

I have met many good people, as I am sure you have as well, who have jumped on the social justice train. It is because an issue is first positioned as a “right” that is being denied to create an emotional response and anger to stir up good people to get behind it. However, if we actually look closer and follow the money trail, there is always a group or leader on the other end positioned to receive money, prestige, or votes/control from the proposed activism. In the end social justice is not about the compassionate care of rights or equality. It is about money and control.

Socialism and social justice prey on that emotional response to form an army of activists for a “good cause” which is really about control. Before we jump on the social justice bandwagon, we need to measure every issue by the plumb line of the Bible: is it about true justice or about emotionally triggering a desired response? **\*IFA**

You can contact Karen Hardin at [www.karenhardin.com](http://www.karenhardin.com).

## FIRST FRIDAY *prayer*

APRIL 3, 2020

*On the first Friday of every month we encourage intercessors to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.*

### SOCIALISM

Pray that Americans will resist the enticements of socialism. Pray for the protection of our nation from the dangers of socialism in all of its forms. Pray also for the many young people who are being led astray by the false promises of socialism and communism—ask the Lord to show them the truth. (1 Cor 13:6)

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pray for Christians in America to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. (Mic 6:8) Pray for righteousness and justice in our nation, in our government, in our courts, and in our communities. (Prv 21:3, 15) Give us discernment in these times; help us to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. (Mt 10:16)

### GLOBALISM

Pray for a developed and mature biblical worldview and the courage and ability to articulate it to others. (1 Pet 3:15) Pray for the spread of the Gospel and increasing biblical literacy, especially this year, the Year of the Bible. Pray for respect for national sovereignty and God-given rights in the U.S and abroad.



# The Problems with Globalism

By Kris Kubal, IFA Director of Strategic Engagement and Resources

“We reject the ideology of globalism,” said President Trump to the United Nations in 2018. What exactly IS the ideology of globalism and why should we reject it?

Globalism, as defined by the Cambridge Dictionary is “the idea that events in one country cannot be separated from those in another and that economic and foreign policy should be planned in an international way.” It seems like a noble concept—cooperation, interdependency, and interaction that purportedly would bring better trade, more understanding, and greater benefits for businesses, cultures, and countries. Not so fast. While it is true that the internet age has brought broader access to goods, services, and information, we are finding that it is not always a plus. The worldwide marketplace of ideas and products has seen a “consolidation of power politically and economically.” The rich and powerful elite are ruling a greater amount of space now that globalism has broken down barriers between countries.

Globalism threatens the freedom and values that we have. The process of creating a worldwide economy and culture often scrubs the faith foundation and religious freedom policies from nations in order to make a more palatable and uniform system of acceptance. It is political correctness in its broadest sense.

Another danger of globalism is the overarching design of control and coordinated planning. One example is Agenda 30, a central planning document outlining leadership and control of global policy through the United Nations: “On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals (sic) and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030.” There is no talk of nation sovereignty—all is planned and executed for the “greater good.” >>



TEAR-OFF

## PRAY OVER THESE KEY

# *election dates*

### REMAINING PRIMARIES

**APRIL 4**

- Alaska
- Hawaii
- Louisiana
- Wyoming

**APRIL 7**

- Wisconsin

**APRIL 28**

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Maryland
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island

**MAY 2**

- Guam
- Kansas

**MAY 5**

- Indiana

**MAY 12**

- Nebraska
- West Virginia

**MAY 19**

- Kentucky
- Oregon

**JUNE 2**

- District of Columbia
- Montana
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- South Dakota

**JUNE 6**

- Virgin Islands

**PRAY OVER  
THESE KEY**  
*election  
dates*

**DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**JULY 13-16, 2020**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**REPUBLICAN NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 24-27, 2020**  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**  
South Bend, Indiana

**OCTOBER 7, 2020**  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**OCTOBER 15, 2020**  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

**OCTOBER 22, 2020**  
Nashville, Tennessee

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**ELECTION  
DAY**  
**NOVEMBER 3  
2020**

TEAR-OFF

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**FIRST FRIDAY**  
*prayer*  
**CONFERENCE CALL**

Please plan on setting these  
important 30 minutes aside to  
join with hundreds across the  
U.S. in praying for America, its  
leaders, and its citizens.

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Central control inevitably results in loss of individual freedoms, individual responsibility, and individual achievement. In contrast, America has always been known for its climate of rugged individualism—a place where problem solvers, creators, and entrepreneurs can thrive. A global society where outcomes are managed for the theoretical benefit of society as a whole loses the incentive for innovation and the allowance for personal belief and convictions. Is biblical Christianity even compatible with globalism?

Ted Malloch, former state department senior official and author of *My Life Behind the Elite Curtain as a Global Sherpa*, shares, "...to some degree, I would say if you want to understand globalism, you need to get at the spiritual underlying currents in globalism, which is not only relativistic, but it's a divorce, a great divorce, from religion and from any notion that there is a God who exists or that you can know him personally." He goes on to assert that globalism at its core is really an attack on Judeo-Christian values, with an anti-family and anti-God underpinning. Without the very foundation of God and His natural law, which our nation, for one, was founded on, the real god of globalism is government. President Trump was right and hopefully prophetic when he declared that "we reject the ideology of globalism." ★ IFA

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IFA Office: PO Box 915,  
Purcellville, VA 20134;  
Tel: 800-USA-PRAY;  
e-mail: IFA@IFApray.org  
IFA Web sites: IFApray.org  
and IFAResources.com

