

Perspective

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Why the Rise of Socialism in America?

It seems sudden, but it has been brewing for many years in American politics. The last U.S. administration was the most loosey-goosey government under President Biden this country has ever seen. The Woke movement, a disguised socialism movement, practically dominated for four years. It burst on the scene promoting ideas which upended the nuclear family, including transsexualism and every other kind of evil thing one can imagine. They strived to come after the children and cause them to doubt their sexuality. Socialism in the United States has inched up because of a perception by some there is economic inequality; not only that, fiery attitudes of some against capitalism have been fanned by the liberal media. Socialist ideas go way back in the United States to the early 1800s with “utopian” communities like the Shakers, a Christian sect founded in about 1747 in England. They organized in the United States in the 1780s, and lived in New Lebanon, New York. At its acme, the village was home to nearly 600 people who lived and worked together in a commune. The Shakers shared all community property, ownership of land, tools, and goods, and worked together in communal workshops and farms. Will this be the kind of government in God’s kingdom? We need to know.

A commune lifestyle is unsustainable

You would expect such an idyllic, bucolic community setting like theirs would have grown by leaps and bounds, but it did not. By the early 20th century, only a few Shaker families remained, living in isolated villages like Sabbathday Lake, Canterbury, and Hancock. Today, the Shakers exist as a small, dwindling sect with a few hundred members worldwide. The Shakers’ disappearance was the result of a combination of internal social and spiritual shifts, economic changes, and external pressures, which made their unique communal lifestyle unsustainable in the modern world.

A joke about whether socialism can be successful goes like this: “If I had a dollar for every time socialism was successful, I’d have 0\$. Which is funny, because if it did work, I’d also have 0\$.”

I remember my Uncle Cecil telling a joke at a family dinner back in the cold war days. The joke was about the difference between socialism and communism: He said, “Socialism is, if you have two cows, you give one to your neighbor, and Communism is, if you have two cows, you give them to the government and the government then gives you some milk. Capitalism is, if you have two cows, you sell one and buy a bull.”

In spite of the fact that both socialism and communism have failed time and time again, people are electing socialists into office. It is a trend we need to watch. The United States seems to be following the lead of European countries who have adopted social democracy, which combines a capitalist economy with strong social welfare programs. Nations of Europe are not socialist in the strict sense of having socialism enshrined in their constitutions or fully controlling the economy.

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist political organization in U.S. history, with over 120,000 members as of 2026. “The mayor of New York City, Zohran Mamdani publicly identifies as a democratic socialist, and he is widely described as such, though he says he rejects communism. His political platform emphasizes affordability, social welfare, and public-sector interventions, including rent freezes, city-run grocery stores, free public transit, and universal childcare” (Wikipedia).

Other candidates have been elected in other states. In Washington D.C., Janeese Lewis George (DSA) won the D.C. mayoral race in 2025, becoming the first DSA-backed mayor of the nation’s capital (*The Guardian*). Katie Wilson (DSA) won the 2025 mayoral election, succeeding incumbent Jenny Durkan in Seattle, WA (*Fox News*).

In November 2025, DSA-endorsed candidates won multiple races nationwide, including in Atlanta, Minneapolis, and New York, often focusing on affordability and tenant protections upstate (*Jacobin*). Minnesota is a hot bed of action for socialism.

What kind of government did God give ancient Israel?

The concept of theocracy, where God Himself is recognized as the supreme ruler, is a central theme in the biblical narrative, particularly in the governance of ancient Israel. God did not set up a socialist or communistic system. God Himself acted as the King, and Moses and his successors were to look to Him in matters pertaining to Israel and the tabernacle. It was a system with many checks and balances which were in the form of elders who

provided counsel. The theocracy in Israel was established through a series of covenants, beginning with the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3) and further developed through the Mosaic Covenant at Sinai (Exodus 19-24). In these covenants God set forth His laws and decrees, establishing Himself as the ultimate authority over Israel. The theocracy was not merely a political system, but a spiritual and moral order where God guided all aspects of life.

God has mandated this same system will be set up in the future millennial kingdom of God on earth. Isaiah 9:6-7 prophesied this coming government: *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*

Revelation 20:6 says the saints of the church will reign with Christ on the earth for 1000 years. Revelation 5:10 states, *“... You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. And You made us kings and priests to our God, and we will reign over the earth.”*

The kingdom will be on Earth, not in heaven as many professing Christians have been taught to believe by false ministers. Jesus will set His throne in Jerusalem: *“Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”* (Isaiah 2:3-4)

God’s kingdom will not be a welfare state

In ancient Israel the tithing system made funds available to the widows and the poor to care for them. The third tithe was for the poor (Deuteronomy 14:28-29). The Church has an obligation to assist the poor (Acts 20:35; Galatians 2:10; 1 Timothy 5:3). This obligation stems from the Old Testament. Twice (Deuteronomy 14:28; 26:12-13), the Lord gives instruction regarding a tithe that is to be saved every third year. This third tithe was to be set aside locally and stored within the gates of each city or town (Deuteronomy 14:28; 26:12) for the use of handicap or aged Levites and the poor of the community - the stranger, fatherless, and widow. Besides the above, the corners of the fields and the produce left by the harvesters were reserved for the poor (Deuteronomy 24:19; Leviticus 19:9-10).

The first-century Jewish historian, *Josephus*, provides valuable insight into Jewish life and the Roman world. In his writings Josephus states, "Besides those two tithes, which I have already said you are to pay every year, the one for the Levites, the other for the festivals, you are to bring every third year a third tithe to be distributed to those in want; to women also that are widows, and to children that are orphans" (Book 4, chapter 8, section 22).

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul gave strict instructions to the church brethren in II Thessalonians 3:10-12: *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.”*

The church is not a socialist welfare system to take care of idle people, nor will the kingdom be that way. In the context of these verses Paul is warning the church against allowing those who are capable of work but refuse to work to be allowed to live off of others. He instructs them to maintain discipline and to avoid supporting those who are unwilling to labor. If a man doesn’t want to work, then he should not eat!

God’s kingdom will be a time of great prosperity for all

The Bible says the millennial reign of Jesus Christ will be a time of plenty for everyone on Earth: *“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, ‘When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.’”* (Amos 9:13-14)

The prophet Isaiah wrote of this tremendous time of great prosperity, *“And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees...”* (Isaiah 25:6-7)

“Wines on the lees” is the skill of making aged wine. This pictures the great richness of the 1000-year reign of Christ. These inspiring words motivate us to pray enthusiastically, *“Thy kingdom come!”*