



Knowledge Organiser : Socialism

Subject Specific Vocabulary	Short-hand definitions
Dialectic	
Historical materialism	
Class consciousness	
Fundamentalist socialism/Revisionist Socialism	
Common Ownership	
Social justice	
Fraternity	

Key question 1:
What are the
five key ideas of
socialism

Key question 2: What
are the different
types of equality
favoured by different
socialists

Key question 3: How
do different
socialists see
worker's control

Revolutionary Socialism

Derived from work of Marx and Engels. Argues that socialist values cannot coexist with capitalism and therefore a revolution is inevitable to create a communist society. Utopian socialists like Owen tried to form small scale co operatives. Dismissed by Marxists as fantasy Marxists Human Nature deformed by capitalism, perverted into a false consciousness by greed selfishness of capitalism. so humans are not their true selves. That the crises and recessions of capitalism would lead to fewer and fewr people benefitting Class central to Marxist thinking. Proletariat and Bourgeoisie are the two classes in the capitalist stage of history. Historical materialism is the catalyst for social change driven by the dialectic which will push history through a series of changes (Primitive, Slave, feudal, small scale capitalism, capitalism - ending in communism. Believed this was empirical and scientifically determined.

Luxemburg influenced by Marx and Engels. She reacted to the evolutionary socialism of Beatrice Webb maintaining a revolution was necessary to end capitalism. Disagreement with Lenin over vanguard elite claiming strike action would lead to class consciousness. Disagreed with Marx about having to wait for end stage capitalism. Disagreed with Marx because she believed there would need to be elections or democracy after the revolution

Evolutionary Socialism (Revisionism)

Remove the worst excesses of capitalism by using the state to reform society and economy through democratic parliamentary institutions. Democratic socialism (Webb) , Social Democracy (Crosland, Third Way Giddens Clause IV written by the Webbs asserting common ownership. 'Inevitability of gradualness', expansion of the state, run by technocratic elite not workers. Different to revolutionary socialist in this respect but still a fundamentalist. This elite deliver socialist policies, workers vote for them time and againg, capitalism dies.Worker's control by evolutionary means. Revolutions chaotic damaging human nature even more

Social Democracy

Revision of democratic socialism. Capitalism delivering tangible benefits. No longer a dialectic. Capitalism can be managed by state through Keynesianism, Mixed economy, to deliver social justice. Use it to secure wealth to more fairly distribute proceeds. Keynesianism can deliver permanent economic growth and maintain full employment. Crosland abolished grammar school

Third Way: Free market should be embraced but post Fordian economies had damaged tight knit communities. Neo liberal economic management, free market wealth to harness social inclusion – hand up not hand out – for a meritocracy. Target excluded groups min wage, tax credits but combine these righst with responsibilities. Stakeholders in society Communitarianism. Accepts individualism but also that individuals operate in an interdependent community

Common humanity

Agree: all branches believe social creatures who want to cooperate, work together to produce best results fr society. Understanding and mutual support = common humanity, fraternity All believe capitalism has corrosive effects on common humanity. RS see it as corrupting and deforming and only with its abolition will common humanity return. Disagree SD and TW both less pessimistic about corrosive effects. Both believe capitalism can be reformed to mitigate against negative effects but even further disagreement on how. SD State managed capitalism to reduce inequality + equal opportunity TW equal opportunity only

Collectivism: Group over individual

RS see collectivism as common ownership. Webb cooperative federalism businesses owned by customers plus strong TU movement. State providing healthcare education etc. Disagree; Crosland suspicious but advocated strong TU movement. Also NHS/State education are collectivist Giddens even weaker. TUs exist but wages market oriented , committed to education but tuition fees, NHS yes but marketised



Equality

Social equality a fundamental goal – reinforces cooperation, peaceful society, human nature. Capitalism produces class structure which determines wealth by social position.

However different views on nature of equality that is desirable

Absolute equality: Same rewards if giving best of ability. RS. Only after revolution. Rejected by all others. Too illiberal

Equality of Outcome: Similar outcomes. Webb. Democratic socialists. Not absolute but far less than free market. State managed. Rejected by RS for too tame and SDs and TW for being too illiberal and disincentivising wealth creation

Equality of Opportunity. Crosland SDs. No barriers to success for talented. @Extra talent and responsibility deserve differential reward. Education key. Dismissed by RS as impossible without absolute equality

Equality of Welfare: SD Crosland. Progressive taxation, Keynesianism to fund welfare state to give generous standard of living. TW critical dependency culture

Social Class

Crucial to RS. Informs world view. Capitalist parasites profiting from workers by taking surplus value, alienating workers from labour. Stae reinforced this, police, religion, army etc

Evolutionary socialism

Webb same as Marx in class analysis but state could reform

Crosland no. No freedom. Life a dull functionalist nightmare. Class not binary post war. Managerial class, technocrats but just Proletariat Bourgeoisie but believed it still existed. Hence abolition of grammar schools and comprehensive introduced.

TW No. Giddens.

Worker's Control

RS : Common ownership through dictatorship of proletariat to restore common humanity before classless society. No need for worker's control because all capitalism eliminated

Webb> No . Workers not capable. Man can describe grievances not prescribe remedies. Technocrats

Crosland. Worker's control outdated. Mixed economy in major industries but not all. Amended Clause IV

Giddens. Big no. No nationalisation. Workers not skilled enough. Blair amended Clause IV