

# Capitalism and the Dialectic

By Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Capitalism, also known as an economic system based on individual freedom, has been so maligned by the radical Left, that it is good to remind ourselves what capitalism really is and how it has improved our lives and raised our standard of living.

As everyone can plainly see, socialism does not improve lives or raise a country's standard of living. Just look at Cuba, North Korea, the old Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc. None of their economic systems created wealth or a life of freedom for their citizens. For example, in the Soviet Union a large archipelago of prison camps in Siberia forced prisoners to dig for gold so that the Soviet government could purchase what it needed in the outside world.

In Cuba, which has the most benign climate for agriculture, the socialist government not only deprived Cubans of normal democratic rights but also required rationing of food. It also forced the emigration of over a million Cubans.

As for North Korea, the most despotic socialist state in existence, all one has to do is compare North Korea with South Korea to see the startling difference. At night, satellite photos of the Korean peninsula show South Korea lit up like a Christmas tree, while North Korea is totally black. Its ordinary people live close to starvation.

Yet, the radical Left fights tirelessly night and day to impose its ideas of economic slavery all over the world. They point to Norway and Sweden as great socialist successes. But neither country is purely socialist. They have mixed economies, with a modicum of capitalism permitted to flourish, because they know that without that creator of wealth, their countries would wind up like Cuba and North Korea.

As for Communist China, which still maintains the notion that it is a socialist country, the leaders of the Communist party abandoned Marxist economics because they knew it could not produce the kind of wealth-creating system that had made Hong-Kong, under British rule, a dynamic, capitalist engine of human progress. Which proves that even a little capitalism in a socialist state like China can create economic wonders.

But it is here in America where capitalism has been under attack by the far Left since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No matter how successful American capitalism has been in creating our modern advanced standard of living, the Left blindly follows its philosophy of hatred toward the very system that has made the United States the greatest economic power on earth and the American people the richest human beings on earth.

And yet, most young Americans are being taught in their schools and universities that socialism is morally superior to capitalism. You might ask, how can this be in a nation that has demonstrated beyond any doubt that capitalism is superior in every way to socialism? The answer is simple: members of the far Left have been infiltrating our education system for decades and are now in virtual total control of the system.

It all started at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a significant number of American educators became socialists. They were called Progressives. They had rejected the religion of their fathers and adopted the Hegelian idea of progress: the constant battle between thesis and antithesis to produce a new synthesis.

The German philosopher, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831), had rejected the God of the Bible and came up with a pantheistic idea of God as a great universal soul. According to the Concise Columbia Encyclopedia:

At the center of the universe Hegel posited an enveloping absolute spirit that guides all reality, including human reason. His absolute idealism envisages a world-soul, evident throughout history that develops from, and is known through, a process of change and progress now known universally as the Hegelian dialectic. According to its laws, one concept (thesis) inevitably generates its opposite (antithesis), their interaction leads to a new concept (synthesis), which in turn becomes the thesis of the new triad. Thus philosophy enables human beings to comprehend the historical unfolding of the absolute.

American Progressives adopted Hegel's anti-Biblical notion and began their great crusade to change America into a socialist society. Karl Marx, on the other hand, rejected Hegel's idealist world-soul and developed the communist political philosophy of Dialectical Materialism, based on pure atheist materialism. This is the philosophy that was adopted by Lenin, Stalin, and all of the anti-capitalist leftists. To them, capitalism was merely a step in the dialectical progress toward socialism.

But by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it had become apparent that Hegel's pantheistic idea of a world-soul and its dialectical process were wonderfully inventive forms of science-fiction, with results that produced the most anti-human totalitarian governments in all of human history.

The Bible, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States remain the bedrock of the American economic and political system. But left-wing politicians have used the dialectical process in Congress to try to move America toward socialism. It has worked effectively until 2009 when a large number of Americans have suddenly realized where the government in Washington is taking us. They may not be aware of the dialectical process, but they recognize creeping totalitarianism when they see it, and the midterm elections of 2010 are a clear indication that the direction of government in Washington must change.

Biblical wisdom still motivates enough Americans so that this country will not fall into the socialist trap as the inevitable victim of the dialectic. Barack Obama, trained in the dialectic by Saul Alinsky, brought us to the brink of the socialist abyss. But the American people have said STOP. And now, with the Tea Partiers in Congress, we shall see where we go from here.