

Values and ideas

Gradualism - Achievement of socialism through gradual improvements, rather than revolution. Change is brought about through legal and peaceful reform.

Revolution - A fundamental and irreversible systematic change, often a brief but dramatic period of upheaval.

Class conflict - Irreconcilable antagonism between the bourgeoisie and proletariat.

Social justice - Morally justifiable distribution of wealth, usually implying a commitment to greater equality.

Equality - A fundamental value essential to ensuring social cohesion, justice, and freedom.

Community - A principle based on the collective identity of a social group.

Proletariat - The class that sells its labour.

Bourgeoisie - The ruling class of a capitalist society; the owners of productive wealth.

Ideological traditions

Social democracy

A moderate or reformist brand of socialism that favours a balance between the market and the state, rather than the abolition of capitalism.

Democratic socialism

A kind of socialism that favours political democracy that would exist alongside a socialist economy.

Communism

The principle of the common ownership of wealth, or a system of comprehensive collectivisation.

Political socialism

Class - A social division based on economic or social factors. A social class is a group of people who share a similar socio-economic position.

Society - Society is divided into unequal classes. These political, economic and property divisions are more significant than any bonds.

Equality - A fundamental value essential to ensuring social cohesion, justice and freedom.

Marxism - A scientific form of socialism primarily concerned with explaining the nature of social and historical development, rather than an ethical criticism of capitalism.

Revolutionary socialism - The belief that socialism can only be introduced by the violent overthrow of the existing political system.

Parliamentary Socialism - The belief that socialism would develop inevitably and peacefully out of liberal capitalism through a combination of education and political action.

Economic Socialism

Capitalism - An economic system in which wealth is owned by private individuals or businesses and goods are produced for exchange, according to the dictates of the market.

Property and public ownership - Private property is the basis of competition and inequality.

Ownership of the means of production - In Marxist terms, the means of production are the foundation of society. Whichever class controls the means production will also determine the political, legal, cultural, religious and artistic superstructure.

Collectivism - The belief that collective human endeavour is of greater practical and moral value than individual self-striving.

Wealth redistribution - Distribution of wealth should be based on a moral justification, implying greater equality.

Ethical socialism - A theoretical basis for socialism dependent on moral or religious beliefs rather than scientific analysis.

