

Intellectual sources of socialism

David Lipka

1

Religious utopian thinking (RUT)

- Joachim de Floris (1145 – 1202)
- Brethern of the free [spirit](#)
- Taborites (-1434)
- Adamites (-1421)
- Anabaptists (in Münster)
- [Thomaso Campanella](#) (1568 – 1639)
- Etienne Cabet (1788 – 1856)
- Pilgrims – Plymouth colony 1620-1623

2

Common themes in RUT

- History as suffering
- Utopia as a vision that would make the suffering worthwhile
- Millenarism
- Individuality and property as the cause of suffering (alienation)

3

Secular socialism

- Gabriel Bonnot de Mably (1709 – 1785)
- [Morelly](#)
- Francois Noel Babeuf (1760 – 1797)
- [Francois Charles Marie Fourier](#) 1772 – 1837

4

Karl Marx (1818-1883)



- Considered all his predecessors „utopian thinkers“
- Science means silence about the specification of communism
- Elimination of private property
- People freed from division of labor and exchange
 „[As soon as the division] of labour comes into being, each man has a particular, exclusive sphere of activity, which is forced upon him... He is a hunter, a fisherman, a shepherd, or a critical critic, and must remain so if he does not want to lose his means of livelihood; while in communist society, where nobody has one exclusive sphere of activity but each can become accomplished in any branch he wishes, society regulates the general production and thus makes it possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, shepherd or critic.“

Karl Marx, The German Ideology, part I

5

- People freed from necessity of labor
 “man will realize his natural tendency to arrange things according to the laws of beauty”
 Karl Marx, Paris Manuscripts
- Superabundance of goods
 “The new rate of industrial growth will produce enough goods needed to satisfy all the demands of society... Society will achieve an output sufficient for the needs of all members.”
 Engels, Principles of Communism
- Elimination of all institutions (economic system)

6

Manifesto of the Communist Party

- Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes.
- A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.
- Abolition of all right of inheritance.
- Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels.
- Centralization of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly.
- Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the State.

7

- Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State; the bringing into cultivation of waste-lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan.
- Equal liability of all to labour. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.
- Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country, by a more equitable distribution of the population over the country.
- Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labour in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production

8

How to achieve socialism?

By revolution

Man will be redeemed but must take active part in revolution... It is up to mankind to establish communism according to the laws of history.

„[C]apitalist production begets, with the inexorability of a law of Nature, its own negation. It is the negation of negation.“
Karl Marx, Capital

Participation in the fulfillment of the history is moral imperative!

Man is generally good but fettered by wrong institutions - revolution will unleash the true potential...

9

“...a new type of man will arise... a superman... an exalted man.”

Karl Kautsky

“Communist man will be enclosed, will develop all the vital elements of contemporary art to the highest point. Man will become immeasurably stronger, wiser and subtler; his body will become more harmonised, his movements more rhythmic, his voice more musical. The forms of life will become dynamically dramatic. The average human type will rise to the heights of an Aristotle, a Goethe, or a Marx. And above the ridge new peaks will rise.”

Leon Trotsky, Literature and Revolution

10

Problem of transitory period

How to live before the new man rises and the superabundance of goods prevails?

Raw communism – when people are self-interested and scarcity prevails (free access, diversity, scarcity, plurality)

Dictatorship of the proletariat:

- Coercion
- enforced egalitarianism
- confiscating and destroying wealth
- gradual improvement of **material conditions**

This stage of history can be called socialism

Word „**Socialism**“: 1827 Robert Owen

Word „**Communism**“: 1839 Etienne Cabet

11

Communism vs. socialism

Definition of Socialism:

Transitory period – common (state) property of the means of production; „democratic“ state controlled by the working class.

- Elimination of private property in lands and the means of production
- Centralized management of production and distribution of resources
- Abolition of commodity production and money relations
- Centralized distribution of consumption goods “to everybody according to his needs/work”

Definition of Communism:

Final stage of historical development, no scarcity, no institutions

12