

Socialism

SS 30-1

Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
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Public Direction	Private Direction
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Planned Economy Centrally Planned Economy Command Economy	Mixed Economy	Free Enterprise Laissez-faire Invisible Hand
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Communism	Socialism	Welfare Capitalism	Capitalism
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Interventionist	Individualist
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Common Good Social Welfare Collectivism	Individual Initiative Individualism
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The term socialism, when used generally, refers to any ideology that believes that resources should be controlled by the public for the benefit of everyone in society and not by private interests for the benefit of private owners and investors.

Socialist supporters value economic equality among citizens. This equality is achieved by providing income security for all through guaranteed employment and guaranteed living standards. Co-operation is favoured over competition. The implementation of these beliefs is dependent on a high degree of state involvement in the control and direction of the economy.

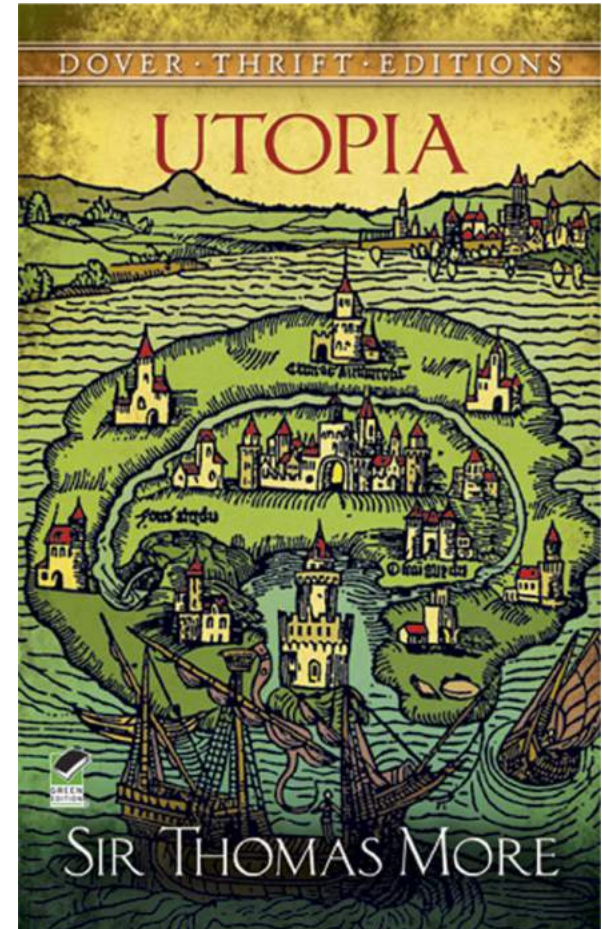
The great wealth produced by industrialization in 19th-century society was recognized by many people as a wonderful achievement. What was lacking, however, was a fair and just distribution of wealth to all who contributed to it, especially the workers. The starting point for socialist ideologies was the reform of the political, social, and economic structures of 19th-century liberal society.

Socialists rejected the lack of equality and humanitarianism in classical liberalism and deplored the social injustices that resulted. They were concerned with the same ill effects that the Luddites and Chartists were, but unlike those movements, various forms of socialism became effective ideologies.

Utopian Socialists

In 1516, Sir Thomas More wrote a book called *Utopia*, which outlined his concept of the ideal society. In the 19th century, Utopian socialism was applied to a school of socialist thought that emerged in opposition to classical liberalism.

The word **utopia** has since been used to refer to any imaginary, perfect world meant to serve as a model for real life.



The Utopians were essentially **humanitarians** who advocated an end to the appalling conditions of the average worker in the industrial capitalist countries of the time.

Idealistic rather than pragmatic, Utopian socialists did not intend to overturn the basic political, economic, and social systems.

Which principles of collectivism does this ideology embody?

Humanitarian = an individual who is concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.

Robert Owen

He believed that the harshness of life under laissez-faire capitalism corrupted human nature.

Apprenticed at the age of 10 to a draper, **Owen exemplified the classical liberal belief that individuals could realize their potential if they were free to pursue their own inclinations.** By the age of 19, Owen had opened his own business.

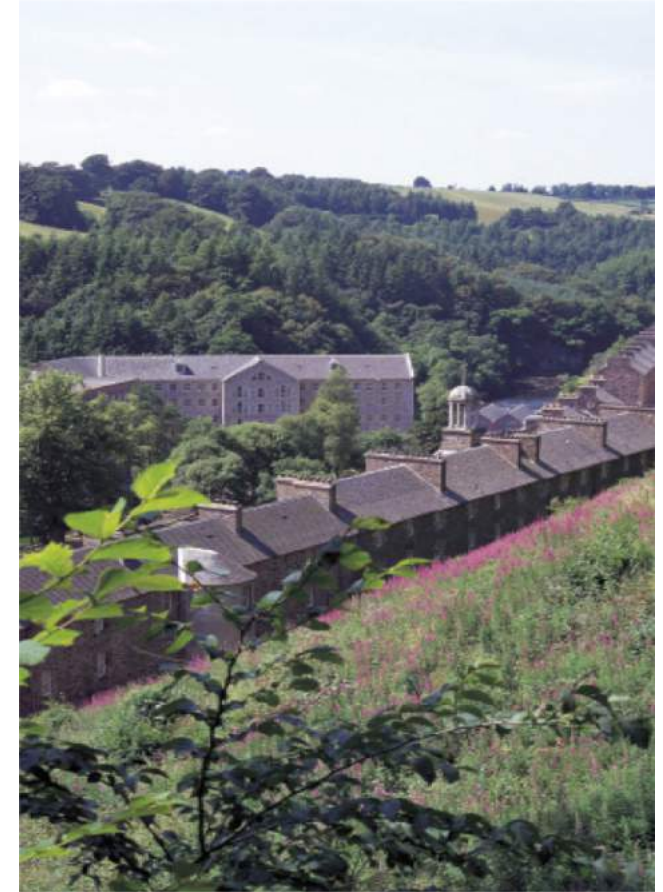


It is therefore, the interest of all, that every one, from birth, should be well educated, physically and mentally, that society may be improved in its character, that everyone should be beneficially employed, physically and mentally, that the greatest amount of wealth may be created, and knowledge attained, that everyone should be placed in the midst of those external circumstances that will produce the greatest number of pleasurable sensations, through the longest life, that man may be made truly intelligent, moral and happy, and be thus prepared to enter upon the coming Millennium.

—Robert Owen

Institute for the Formation of Character

Believing that education was the key to a humane society, Owen established the Institute for the Formation of Character, which was really a community education centre. Infants were cared for while their parents worked, and children attended school until the age of 10 (rather than 5 or 6 as was usual). At 10 years of age, they worked a 10- hour day (shorter than the usual 13- hour day), leaving them time to continue their education in the evening. Adult education was also available. In addition, the Institute sponsored free medical care, concerts, and dancing.



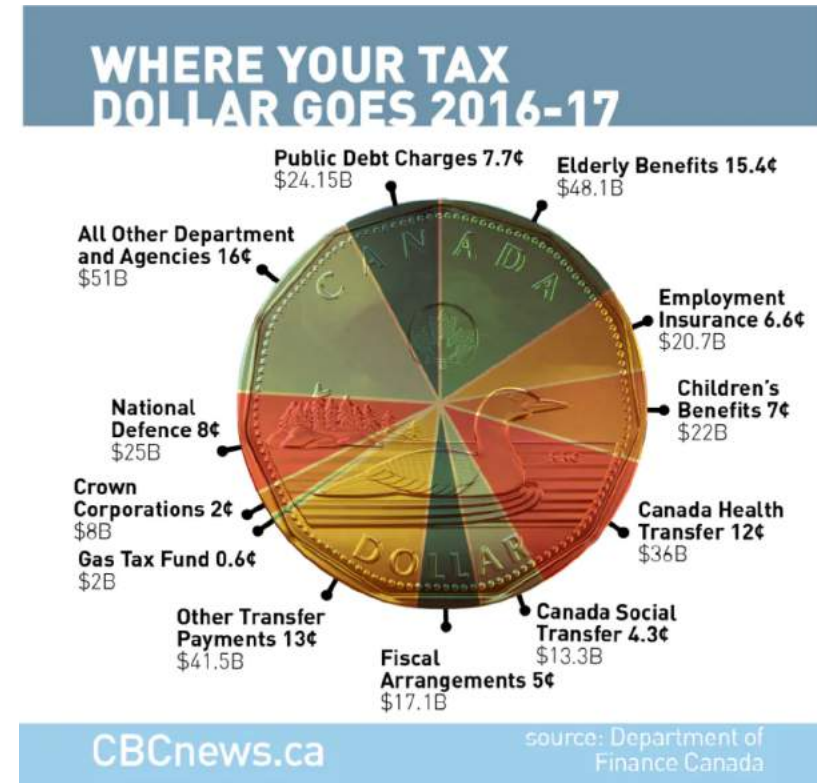
New Lanark has been restored and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

Utopian Socialism to Socialism

- Unlike the Utopians, who wanted only to modify classical liberalism, other socialist ideologies contemplated fundamental changes to society's structure. According to these socialists, the great evils in society were perpetuated by the concept of private property, which allowed industrialists to control the economy.
- The socialist intent was to encourage governments and the institutions of capitalism—banks, industry, commerce, and services—to rethink their purposes and consider replacing the liberal ideology of individualism and limited government.
- Socialist thought ranged from moderate and democratic social reform to radical revolutionary Marxism. Socialists agreed on the following beliefs and values:
 - Private ownership of the means of production permit exploitation.
 - The state should direct the economy to achieve economic equality for all citizens.
 - Society should be classless.

Aspects of Socialism in Canada

- Public ownership of property
 - ideals of equality and economic strength is promoted (usually in areas of national importance, areas of high risk or to protect employment)
 - Joint ownership is often favored
- Government controls and subsidies
- Redistribution of wealth
 - social programs and progressive taxation, direct and indirect taxation (GST, airline fuel taxes)



Service Canada is the Face of Government for Many Canadians

NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN

- Social Insurance Number
- Canada Child Benefit¹
- Canada Education Saving Program



YOUTH

- Youth Employment Strategy (e.g. Canada Summer Jobs)
- Canada Student Loans²
- Apprenticeship Grants



ADULTS

- Employment Insurance
- Job Bank
- Veteran Services³
- Social Insurance Number for immigrants



SUPPORTING EMPLOYERS

- Temporary Foreign Worker Program
- Record of Employment online



REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE

- Indigenous Peoples programs
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy
- Canada Pension Plan – Disability
- Indian Residential Schools Settlement⁵



SENIORS

- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement



ALL CANADIANS

- Passports⁴



¹ Delivered by the CRA. ² Delivered on behalf of ESDC by Provinces and Territories and a third party service provider. ³ Information services and applications on behalf of VAC. ⁴ Delivered on behalf of IRCC. ⁵ Delivered on behalf of INAC.