

## Reading Passage (214 words): Socialism

Socialism is a political and economic theory that advocates collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods.

Among other things, socialism allows for more justice by transferring the rights and responsibilities from individuals and families to the State. As such, it is the State's responsibility to make sure that everyone has sufficient food and money to sustain themselves.

In addition, socialism seeks to promote absolute equality among citizens of a society. Thus, it sees any inequality as unjust in itself. According to this view, it is immoral to have one person earn \$44,000 a year while someone else in the same town earns \$500,000 annually. Toward this aim, it seeks to narrow the gap between the poorest wage earners and those who earn the most. Typically, to close this gap, socialist societies impose higher taxes on the wealthy, which is in turn used to fund programs and social services for the most disadvantaged.

Finally, socialism promotes relativism because, according to this philosophy, there are no absolute truths or revealed morals that establish codes of conduct that apply to everyone. For example, since right and wrong evolves there is no reason to restrict sex to marriage, that is, to an indissoluble union between a man and a woman.

Writing Prompt: How does the information in the lecture oppose the points made in the reading passage?

## Lecture (331 words): Socialism

You all just read that socialism seeks for more justice, it tries to eliminate all inequality, and it promotes relativism. Well, things may not always be as they seem.

As for the first idea mentioned that socialism seeks for more justice, it may in the process actually create injustice. It destroys true liberty: the freedom to decide all matters that lie within our own competence and to follow the course shown by our own reason, within the laws of mortality, including the dictates of justice and charity.

And, even though socialism seeks to promote equality, as the reading passage also claims, it promotes equality in the most radical sense. For example, employers such as Apple, Ford, Toyota, to name a few, are quickly portrayed as "exploiters" whose profits really belong to their employees. As a result, socialists rule out the system of wage earning which is used by non-socialists to pay employees hourly wages rather than a fixed salary. These views are, in my opinion, radical attempts at trying to equalize everyone.

Finally, with respect to the idea that socialism promotes relativism and therefore rejects religion goes counter culture to what many Christians, Buddhists, Jews, and Muslims believe. In socialists' sense, the idea that there is a God who is infinite and all powerful clashes with their idea of absolute equality. In addition, according to them, everything evolves including what is right and wrong and good and evil. Therefore, there is no place for the Ten Commandments, the Bible, or other holy scriptures from other religions which try to dictate the rules by which all women and men should abide. The socialists' negative attitude toward marriage explains why they oppose traditional marriage and support gay marriage. To them, there is no right or wrong to being gay; consequently, marriage should not be defined as being between a man and a woman. The definition of marriage has evolved to being between two persons as the socialists' view. I think that these relativistic ideas will lead to the destruction of religion, the family, and eventually our society.