

OUTLINE Lecture 26. Sociology 621. April 24, 2017. What is Socialism?

I. What Do Socialists Want? What are the fundamental values?

II. The Classical Marxist Understanding of Socialism: The “Dictatorship of the Proletariat”

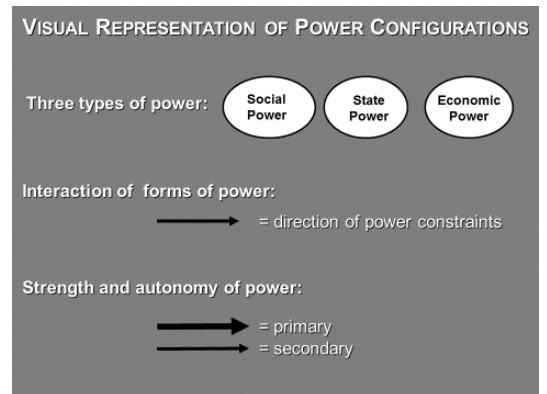
1. Meaning of term “dictatorship”.
2. Comparison to Capitalist State.
3. Socialism & repression.
4. Socialism as the negation of structural features of capitalism:

	Capitalism	Socialism
Direct Producers: relation to means production	Separated from means of production	collectively own means of production
Direct producers: relation to means of subsistence	separated from means of subsistence	united with means of subsistence
Property rights	private ownership	state ownership of means
Distribution of wealth	inegalitarian	egalitarian
Coordination of economy	markets	comprehensive planning
Relations among producers	competitive & individualist	cooperative & associative
Class power	capitalist class = ruling class	working class = ruling class

5. Problems with Comprehensive Planning and why socialism needs markets

III. An alternative framing of socialism: taking the ‘social’ in socialism seriously

1. Three kinds of power: economic, state, social
2. Capitalism, Statism, Socialism
3. Hybrids and ecosystems
4. Socialism as an ecosystem in which social power is dominant
4. Pathways/configurations of social empowerment



IV Real Utopias: some institutional designs for moving beyond capitalism

1. Unconditional Basic Income Grants

- 1.1. The idea:
- 1.2. Direct Implications
- 1.3. Ramifications if sustainably implemented
- 1.4. Sustainability
- 1.5. Implementability

2. Parecon: decentralized, anarcho-communist planned economy

3. Market Socialism (John Roemer’s model)

- 3.1. The Problem
- 3.2. Roemer’s Proposal: The Basic Idea
- 3.3. Consequences

