

Democratic Movement

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Capitalism is the only economic system that allows human ingenuity to flourish and holds the promise of individual success. It does so by fulfilling society's needs based on national customs, laws, and a system of government.

In the United States, as a public institution, the federal government, through fiscal policy and economic-related regulations, is expected to subside market inefficiencies and failures of the economic cycle without being engaged in activities of capitalism. Therefore, if capitalism does not function as conceptualized, we should look for the primary cause of its dysfunction. For example, income and wealth inequality have been the past century's most significant economic and political issues. The rich are getting more prosperous, and the poor are getting more destitute, causing an enormous division in our society.

Proponents of capitalism claim that the primary cause of inequalities is due to policies set forth by the government. Therefore, the *government must be held responsible for all societal inequalities*. Opponents of capitalism claim that inequalities in America stem from capitalists prioritizing profit over social needs. Therefore, some politicians such as

self-proclaimed socialist Senator Bernie Sanders, who uses the term “democratic socialism,” have created a political movement among some young Americans, convincing them by continuously repeating: “I think we should look to Nordic countries like Denmark, Norway, and Sweden and learn what they have accomplished for their working people.” Senator Sanders believes that the Nordic Model is a Scandinavian form of socialism, which caused Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, while speaking at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, to say, “**Denmark is far from a socialist planned economy.**”

History provides a straightforward narrative: Social Capitalism and Mixed Economy were short-lived experiments despite their proponents' best efforts. These social and economic systems, which often incorporated elements of true capitalism, were abandoned when their economies thrived. The rich getting richer was a common criticism, but the real issues were often misunderstood, leading to the downfall of these systems.

The concept of democratic socialism, a hybrid capitalism without workplace democracy, has proven impossible. Its failures serve as a cautionary tale, highlighting the challenges of implementing such a system.

Based on my analysis and observation of the American government's economic mandates and corporatists' actions, they show various contradictions to American society's expectations, and undoubtedly, they are guilty as charged.

Here are some facts to consider: the role of a capitalist in a free-market society that believes in individualism is to take risks by promoting invention and innovation and invest in new ventures to meet consumers' needs for profit. Accordingly, through economic and welfare policies, the role of government is prioritizing, not restraining, economic development and giving precedence to genuine social needs through taxation and appropriate allocation of taxpayers' money. So, the question is: if capitalists and the government fulfill their obligations, why do poverty and economic inequalities continue to persist? As James Madison said:

The day will come when our Republic will be an impossibility because wealth will be concentrated in the hands of a few. When that day comes, we must rely upon the wisdom of the best elements in the country to readjust the laws of the nation.

Yes! That day has come; wealth has concentrated in the hands of a few, and capitalism is being destroyed from within by

those whose monetary power controls the economy and the government through legislative processes, chipping down the roots of American democracy and free-market capitalism.

Unfortunately, capitalism is being destroyed from within by those who significantly benefited from American democracy and individual capitalism- the elite group - who have no regard for the working class, which continues creating significant wealth for them. Likewise, the government has no regard for the working class and, through legislative processes, serves its elite group while chipping down the roots of American democracy and individual capitalism.

Much unbiased scholarly research indicates that the vicious circle of poverty is not due to a lack of support for the working people; it is due to the government's refusal to educate poor people to learn how to help themselves. That is why welfare programs have become so expensive and lopsided that defies logic. The intellectual dishonesty of the supporters of the current welfare system keeps feeding needy people to remain poor because they would keep them in power. This is a simplistic solution that rarely resolves inequality. A workable economic policy must enable every member of society to thrive, regardless of their economic status.

Considering the preceding impediments caused by the sociopolitical and economic structure, I was convinced that the only way forward was to develop a grassroots democratic movement. I developed the Edified Capitalist Platform (ECP) as a conduit to raise awareness for the grassroots movement and cultivate business relationships to foster social trust, competence, and humility.