

Socialism promises a utopia-like economy to its adherents. As a political philosophy, it requires a strong, centralized government to be maintained, and it produces a command-style economy. However, critics of socialism argue against the authoritarianism and/or totalitarianism that results from implementing it. In addition, they also argue that no true opportunity for individual economic advancement avails itself with a system such as socialism. Instead, everyone is reduced to poverty. The aim of this study is to examine socialism in its various forms, including communism, and the effects it has had on nations in which it has been introduced (specifically citing modern examples such as China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). The study is done from an integrated perspective using History and Public Policy Economics. It combines the methods of examining the people, places, and civilizations of the past, and the different forms of government and how people behave within them to create a common synthesis out of both.