

# Philosophy 12: Socialism

## Historical Roots

- **Industrial Revolution:** Started in the early 1800s in Britain & France.
- **Unions** grew out of moderate self-help groups of workers who helped each other with \$ and support.

## Different Types of Socialism

- **Welfare State Socialism:** focuses on social welfare programs like welfare, medicare, public education & pensions. Capitalism exists, with worker input and, eventually, direct worker ownership (e.g. co-operatives).
- **Fabianism:** focuses on government ownership of key industries on behalf of workers plus social welfare.

## Uneasy Relationship: Marxist Communism

- **Its history:** Developed in 1840s as a revolutionary response to capitalism; surprisingly it was most popular in the “developing world”.
- **Karl Marx's** narrow definition of socialism not the same as socialist's own definition; for Marx, socialism was a temporary stage of progress. Unlike socialists, Marx cannot tolerate value pluralism; there must be unity.
- What it **shares with socialism:** both want real equality, and greater political and economic power for the workers.

## Essential Beliefs

- **Human Nature:** optimistic; improvable
- **Change:** pro-change in favour of workers; change takes time
- **Politics:** democratic and gradualist; more public goods
- **Ownership:** the economy is jointly owned & managed by the community (i.e. large companies owned by workers or a workers' state); small businesses remain private