

the case against socialism

the case against socialism is a subject of ongoing debate among economists, historians, and political commentators. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the most prominent arguments against socialism, examining its historical outcomes, economic implications, and social consequences. We will explore why critics argue socialism often fails to deliver prosperity, discuss concerns about economic inefficiency, and highlight the potential threats to personal liberty. Through a comprehensive review of both theoretical and real-world examples, this article aims to offer a balanced and factual perspective for readers interested in understanding the main objections to socialism. Key topics include the history of socialist states, economic performance under socialism, the impact on innovation, and the effect on individual rights. Readers will gain valuable insights into the complexities and controversies surrounding this economic and political system. Continue reading to learn about the core arguments in the case against socialism and what evidence supports these perspectives.

- Historical Performance of Socialist Systems
- Economic Inefficiency and Resource Allocation
- Impact on Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Effects on Individual Freedom and Rights
- Social Outcomes and Equality
- Common Arguments Against Socialism Summarized

Historical Performance of Socialist Systems

Case Studies from the 20th Century

One of the central arguments in the case against socialism revolves around its historical track record. Critics often cite the experiences of countries like the Soviet Union, Maoist China, and Cuba as examples where socialist policies led to economic stagnation, political repression, and reduced standards of living. These nations endeavored to implement centrally planned economies, where the state owned or controlled the means of production. In many cases, this led to shortages of consumer goods, lack of incentives for productivity, and widespread inefficiency. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 is frequently referenced as a demonstration of the systemic vulnerabilities of socialism.

Comparisons with Market Economies

Comparative studies between socialist and capitalist nations suggest that market-oriented economies have generally outperformed their socialist counterparts in terms of GDP growth, innovation, and overall prosperity. For example, East and West Germany, North and South Korea, and the divergence between Venezuela and other Latin American countries are often discussed to illustrate how socialist policies can hamper economic progress when compared to mixed or free-market systems.

- Economic decline in centrally planned economies
- Lower standards of living and consumer choice
- Widespread shortages and rationing
- Limited political freedoms and civil rights

Economic Inefficiency and Resource Allocation

The Role of Central Planning

Critics argue that socialism's reliance on central planning leads to economic inefficiency. In a planned economy, government agencies are responsible for deciding what to produce, how much to produce, and how to distribute resources. This system often struggles to respond to consumer demand or adapt to changing market conditions, resulting in misallocation of resources, surpluses, and shortages. Without the price signals produced by supply and demand, planners lack the information needed to make efficient decisions.

Incentives and Productivity

Another key point in the case against socialism concerns the weakening of incentives. In socialist economies, where profits are often eliminated or heavily regulated, individuals and businesses may have little motivation to innovate or improve productivity. The lack of competition can reduce efficiency and discourage hard work, as rewards are typically distributed equally regardless of effort or output. This can lead to lower economic growth and stagnation over time.

Impact on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Barriers to New Business Creation

Socialist systems often restrict private ownership and tightly regulate entrepreneurship. Critics argue that these policies can stifle innovation by removing the financial incentives and competitive pressures that drive inventors and entrepreneurs to develop new products and services. Without profit motives or the freedom to start and grow businesses, economies can become less dynamic and less responsive to the needs of consumers.

Technological Progress and Global Competitiveness

Economic historians point out that many of the world's leading technological advancements have emerged from market-based economies, where competition fosters creativity and risk-taking. The case against socialism notes that countries with heavy government control over innovation tend to lag behind in technological progress and struggle to compete globally. This is visible in historical comparisons between socialist and capitalist blocs during the Cold War era, where market economies outpaced socialist states in most technological sectors.

Effects on Individual Freedom and Rights

Centralization of Political Power

The concentration of economic power within the state under socialism often translates into political centralization. Critics warn that this can erode civil liberties and restrict political freedoms. In many historical cases, socialist governments have curtailed freedom of speech, limited the free press, and suppressed political dissent in order to maintain control over the economy and society. The case against socialism emphasizes that these trends are not accidental but stem from the requirements of enforcing centralized control.

Property Rights and Personal Autonomy

Socialism typically involves the reduction or elimination of private property rights. Opponents argue that this undermines personal autonomy and economic freedom, as individuals lose the ability to control their assets and make independent financial decisions. The absence of property rights is seen as a primary cause of reduced motivation, lower investment, and decreased social mobility in socialist states.

Social Outcomes and Equality

Promises of Equality vs. Reality

While socialism is often promoted as a means to achieve greater social equality, critics contend that it frequently fails to deliver on this promise. Instead, the redistribution mechanisms and central planning structures can create new forms of inequality, often favoring political elites or party members over ordinary citizens. This phenomenon has been observed in various historical examples, where those with access to state power enjoyed privileges unavailable to the general population.

Quality of Social Services

Another point in the case against socialism involves the quality and efficiency of social services. While socialist models may provide universal access to education, healthcare, and welfare, critics argue that these services often suffer from underfunding, bureaucratic inefficiency, and lack of innovation. In many cases, citizens experience long waiting times, limited options, and lower standards compared to countries with more market-oriented systems.

Common Arguments Against Socialism Summarized

The case against socialism is built on a range of economic, political, and social arguments. Critics highlight the following key points as central reasons for their opposition:

1. Poor historical performance and economic failure in socialist states
2. Inefficiency due to central planning and lack of market signals
3. Suppression of innovation and entrepreneurship
4. Threats to individual freedom, property rights, and political pluralism

5. Failure to achieve genuine equality and improved social outcomes

These arguments are supported by numerous historical examples and economic studies, which suggest that socialism often struggles to produce the prosperity, freedom, and equality it promises. The debate continues as new movements and proposals emerge, but the case against socialism remains rooted in these core concerns.

Q: What are the main arguments in the case against socialism?

A: The main arguments include historical economic failures, inefficiency in central planning, lack of innovation, threats to personal freedom, and the failure to achieve true equality or improved social outcomes.

Q: How have socialist economies performed historically?

A: Historically, many socialist economies have experienced slow growth, resource shortages, and lower standards of living compared to market economies. The collapse of the Soviet Union and ongoing challenges in countries like Cuba and Venezuela are often cited examples.

Q: Why do critics say socialism stifles innovation?

A: Critics argue that socialism removes the profit motive and competitive pressures that drive entrepreneurship and innovation, resulting in fewer technological advancements and less dynamic economies.

Q: How does socialism impact individual freedom?

A: Socialism often leads to centralized government control, which can restrict personal freedoms, property rights, and political dissent, as seen in several historical examples.

Q: Does socialism promote equality in practice?

A: While socialism aims for equality, critics point out that it can create new forms of inequality, often benefitting political elites and leading to bureaucratic privileges rather than true social parity.

Q: What is the role of central planning in the case against socialism?

A: Central planning is criticized for causing inefficiency and resource misallocation, as planners lack the knowledge and flexibility provided by market price signals.

Q: Are there any successful examples of socialism?

A: Critics argue that fully socialist economies have not achieved lasting economic success. Some mixed economies with social welfare policies have prospered, but these typically retain significant market elements.

Q: How does socialism affect economic incentives?

A: By diminishing the link between effort and reward, socialism can reduce motivation for hard work and innovation, leading to lower productivity and economic stagnation.

Q: What are common social outcomes in socialist systems?

A: Common outcomes include universal access to basic services but often at the cost of quality, efficiency, and consumer choice, with long waiting times and limited options.

Q: Why is socialism still debated today?

A: Despite criticisms, socialism remains a topic of debate due to ongoing concerns about inequality and the search for alternatives to capitalism, prompting renewed interest in its principles and policies.

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The Case Against Socialism: Examining the Economic and Social Realities

Socialism, a system advocating collective ownership and control of the means of production, distribution, and exchange, has been a topic of intense debate for centuries. While proponents highlight its potential for greater equality and social welfare, critics raise serious concerns about its economic viability and impact on individual liberty. This article delves into the core arguments against socialism, examining its historical track record and exploring the potential consequences of its implementation. We'll analyze its impact on economic growth, individual freedom, and innovation, offering a balanced perspective on this complex and controversial system.

1. The Stifling Effect on Economic Growth: A Historical Perspective

One of the most compelling arguments against socialism lies in its historical track record. Countries that have adopted socialist or centrally planned economies have frequently experienced periods of stagnant or negative economic growth. This isn't merely anecdotal; numerous studies demonstrate a strong correlation between socialist policies and reduced economic output. The lack of price signals and competition in centrally planned economies leads to inefficiencies in resource allocation. Businesses lack the incentive to innovate or improve efficiency when the government dictates production and prices. The Soviet Union, a prime example, suffered from persistent shortages of goods and technological backwardness despite its vast resources. Even modified socialist models, such as those found in some Scandinavian countries, often rely on robust market mechanisms to drive economic prosperity, tempering the pure application of socialist principles.

1.1 The Absence of Innovation: A Key Weakness

The absence of competitive pressure under socialism severely hinders innovation. Without the profit motive driving companies to develop new products and services, technological advancement stagnates. In a free market, businesses constantly strive to improve their offerings to attract customers, fostering a dynamic environment of continuous improvement. This competitive pressure is largely absent in socialist systems, leading to a lack of dynamism and ultimately slower economic

growth.

2. The Erosion of Individual Liberty and Freedom of Choice

Beyond economic concerns, a significant argument against socialism centers on its impact on individual liberty. Socialist systems, by their nature, concentrate significant power in the hands of the state. This concentration can lead to the suppression of dissent, restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, and limitations on personal choices. While proponents argue for social equality, critics contend that this often comes at the cost of individual autonomy. The state's control over resources and the means of production inevitably translates to control over individuals' lives, limiting their choices and opportunities.

2.1 The Danger of Authoritarianism

History provides ample evidence of the link between socialism and authoritarianism. Many socialist regimes have evolved into totalitarian states, suppressing individual rights and freedoms in the name of the collective good. The absence of checks and balances on government power creates a fertile ground for abuse, undermining fundamental human rights.

3. Inefficient Resource Allocation and Lack of Accountability

Centralized planning, a cornerstone of socialist economies, inevitably leads to inefficiencies in resource allocation. Government planners, lacking the detailed information and incentives available in a free market, struggle to accurately predict demand and supply. This leads to shortages of essential goods, surpluses of unwanted products, and ultimately, a misallocation of valuable resources. Furthermore, the lack of competition and the absence of profit motives reduce the pressure on state-owned enterprises to operate efficiently. This lack of accountability often results in waste and mismanagement.

3.1 The Problem of Bureaucracy and Inefficiency

The sheer complexity of managing a centrally planned economy often leads to bureaucratic inefficiencies. Decision-making processes become slow and cumbersome, hindering the responsiveness of the system to changing market conditions. This rigidity contrasts sharply with the flexibility and adaptability of free market economies.

4. The Demise of Personal Responsibility and the Incentive to Work Hard

Socialist systems, by aiming to provide for everyone's basic needs, often reduce the incentive for

individuals to work hard and strive for success. The absence of a direct link between effort and reward can lead to decreased productivity and a decline in overall economic output. The concept of "free riders," individuals who benefit from the system without contributing their fair share, becomes a significant concern. While social safety nets are crucial, they should be designed to encourage self-reliance rather than dependence.

Conclusion

The case against socialism rests on several critical points: its historical record of economic stagnation, its potential to erode individual liberty, its inherent inefficiencies in resource allocation, and its tendency to diminish the incentive to work hard and innovate. While the idealistic goals of socialism – equality and social justice – are laudable, the practical realities of implementing such a system have consistently fallen short, leading to widespread economic hardship and the suppression of individual freedoms. A balanced approach, incorporating elements of both free markets and social safety nets, may offer a more effective path toward achieving a prosperous and just society.

FAQs

1. Aren't some Scandinavian countries socialist and economically successful? Scandinavian countries are often cited as examples of successful socialist models. However, these countries operate primarily within market-based economies, with robust private sectors and significant elements of free market capitalism. Their social welfare systems are funded through high taxation, but they are not examples of centrally planned socialist economies.
2. Doesn't socialism ensure greater equality? While socialism aims to promote greater equality, the historical evidence suggests it often fails to achieve this goal. Inequalities may be reduced in some areas, but often at the expense of overall economic prosperity and individual liberty. Furthermore, power imbalances within the socialist system itself can lead to new forms of inequality.
3. What about democratic socialism? Democratic socialism aims to combine socialist principles with democratic governance. However, the challenge lies in balancing the competing demands of collective ownership and individual rights within a democratic framework. The risk of creeping authoritarianism remains a significant concern.
4. How does socialism impact innovation? Socialism often stifles innovation due to a lack of competitive pressure and the absence of the profit motive. Without the incentive to develop new products and services, technological advancement slows down significantly.
5. Are there any benefits to socialist principles? Socialist principles, such as emphasizing social welfare and reducing inequality, can have positive impacts on society. However, the question remains whether these benefits outweigh the potential economic and social costs associated with the implementation of a full-scale socialist system.

the case against socialism: The Case Against Socialism Rand Paul, 2019-10-15 A recent poll showed 43% of Americans think more socialism would be a good thing. What do these people not know? Socialism has killed millions, but it's now the ideology du jour on American college campuses and among many leftists. Reintroduced by leaders such as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the ideology manifests itself in starry-eyed calls for free-spending policies like Medicare-for-all and student loan forgiveness. In *The Case Against Socialism*, Rand Paul outlines the history of socialism, from Stalin's gulags to the current famine in Venezuela. He tackles common misconceptions about the "utopia" of socialist Europe. As it turns out, Scandinavian countries love capitalism as much as Americans, and have, for decades, been cutting back on the things Bernie loves the most. Socialism's return is only possible because many Americans have forgotten the true dangers of the twentieth-century's deadliest ideology. Paul reveals the devastating truth: for every college student sporting a Che Guevara T-shirt, there's a Venezuelan child dying of starvation. Desperate refugees flee communist Cuba to escape oppressive censorship, rationed food and squalid hospitals, not "free" healthcare. Socialist dictatorships like the People's Republic of China crush freedom of speech and run massive surveillance states while masquerading as enlightened modern nations. Far from providing economic freedom, socialist governments enslave their citizens. They offer illusory promises of safety and equality while restricting personal liberty, tightening state power, sapping human enterprise and making citizens dependent on the dole. If socialism takes hold in America, it will imperil the fate of the world's freest nation, unleashing a plague of oppressive government control. *The Case Against Socialism* is a timely response to that threat and a call to action against the forces menacing American liberty.

the case against socialism: The Case Against Socialism Rand Paul, 2019-11-19 Rand Paul, U.S. senator for Kentucky and America's most prominent libertarian, makes a case against socialist ideology, showing the impact of its deadly legacy and the threat of its new rise in America. Reintroduced by leaders such as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, socialism was once grounds for blacklisting during the McCarthy era. Yet now it is being embraced on American college campuses and among many leftists. In *The Case Against Socialism*, Rand Paul outlines the dangers of the twentieth-century's deadliest ideology, from Stalin's gulags to the Cuban Revolution to the current famine in Venezuela. He tackles common misconceptions about the "utopia" of socialist Europe and the false claim that there's never been "true" socialism. He also shows how college professors, leftist politicians, and the coastal elite media have played a role in covering up socialism's haunting legacy. Rand reveals the devastating truth: for every college student sporting a Che Guevara T-shirt, there's a Venezuelan child dying of starvation. Desperate people flee communist Cuba to escape death squads, oppressive censorship, and squalid hospitals, not "free" healthcare. Socialist dictatorships like the People's Republic of China crush freedom of speech and run massive death camps while masquerading as enlightened modern nations. Far from providing economic freedom, socialist governments enslave their citizens. They offer illusory promises of safety and prosperity while restricting personal liberty, tightening state power, sapping human enterprise and making citizens dependent on the dole. If socialism takes hold in America, it will imperil the fate of the world's freest nation, unleashing a plague of oppressive government control. *The Case Against Socialism* is a timely response to that threat and a call to action against the forces menacing American liberty.

the case against socialism: *The Case for Socialism* Alan Maass, Howard Zinn, 2010 Is socialism an impossible, discredited dream or the only realistic path for human survival? If you're not sure of the answer, or are just curious about what the Left really believes in, you need to read Maass. He's the Tom Paine of the contemporary American left. --Mike Davis, author of *Planet of Slums* This is a vivid, fluent and rare book about socialism for those uninterested in tracts and excited by new prospects. --John Pilger, author of *Freedom Next Time* We live in a world of poverty, war, and environmental devastation. A world where living standards for working people plummet while an elite few enjoy lives of unbelievable wealth and power. Something different--an alternative to capitalism--is desperately needed. But what should replace it? This book proposes socialism. A

society built from the bottom up through the struggles of ordinary people against exploitation, oppression, and injustice--one in which people come before profit. A society based on the principles of equality, democracy, and freedom. Alan Maass' *The Case for Socialism*...should be required reading in every high school and college civics class. Clearly and accessibly written, it posits socialism as a viable and necessary alternative to capitalism. --Eleanor J. Bader, Truthout Alan Maass is the editor of the website SocialistWorker.org.

the case against socialism: Socialism—The Tragedy of an Idea Lajos Bokros, 2020-12-20 This book explores the idea of socialism from three angles and raises the questions if socialism is possible, inevitable, and desirable. Socialism as an economic and societal system was possible based on the two most important pillars of Marxian political economy: State ownership in the means of production and mandatory central planning (command economy). Nevertheless, these two characteristics are compatible only with dictatorship. On this basis, socialism is neither inevitable nor desirable, because it excludes competition, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. The three questions are analyzed through the academic work of five towering figures: Joseph A. Schumpeter, Karl Polanyi, Friedrich A. Hayek, Karl Popper, and Hannah Arendt. The theoretical findings and inferences resulting from this analysis are compared with the reality of socialism as it existed rather than an imaginary uncontroversial blueprint of socialism. The book discusses the evolution of Soviet communism and its attempts with market reforms to solve its inherent contradictions. It concludes that totalitarian regimes tend to fail in reforms because market freedom is inconsistent with totalitarian control. The author makes a strong case against dictatorship, also in the context of the spreading of nationalist populism around the globe. This book is a must-read for everybody interested in a better understanding of the ideas of socialism, totalitarianism, and populism.

the case against socialism: Keynes Against Capitalism James Crotty, 2019-04-29 Keynes is one of the most important and influential economists who ever lived. It is almost universally believed that Keynes wrote his magnum opus, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, to save capitalism from the socialist, communist, and fascist forces that were rising up during the Great Depression era. This book argues that this was not the case with respect to socialism. Tracing the evolution of Keynes's views on policy from WWI until his death in 1946, Crotty argues that virtually all post-WWII Keynesian economists misinterpreted crucial parts of Keynes's economic theory, misunderstood many of his policy views, and failed to realize that his overarching political objective was not to save British capitalism, but rather to replace it with Liberal Socialism. This book shows how Keynes's Liberal Socialism began to take shape in his mind in the mid-1920s, evolved into a more concrete institutional form over the next decade or so, and was laid out in detail in his work on postwar economic planning at Britain's Treasury during WWII. Finally, it explains how *The General Theory* provided the rigorous economic theoretical foundation needed to support his case against capitalism in support of Liberal Socialism. Offering an original and highly informative exposition of Keynes's work, this book should be of great interest to teachers and students of economics. It should also appeal to a general audience interested in the role the most important economist of the 20th century played in developing the case against capitalism and in support of Liberal Socialism. *Keynes Against Capitalism* is especially relevant in the context of today's global economic and political crises.

the case against socialism: Why Not Socialism? G. A. Cohen, 2009-08-24 A compelling case for why it's time for socialism Is socialism desirable? Is it even possible? In this concise book, one of the world's leading political philosophers presents with clarity and wit a compelling moral case for socialism and argues that the obstacles in its way are exaggerated. There are times, G. A. Cohen notes, when we all behave like socialists. On a camping trip, for example, campers wouldn't dream of charging each other to use a soccer ball or for fish that they happened to catch. Campers do not give merely to get, but relate to each other in a spirit of equality and community. Would such socialist norms be desirable across society as a whole? Why not? Whole societies may differ from camping trips, but it is still attractive when people treat each other with the equal regard that such trips exhibit. But, however desirable it may be, many claim that socialism is impossible. Cohen writes that

the biggest obstacle to socialism isn't, as often argued, intractable human selfishness—it's rather the lack of obvious means to harness the human generosity that is there. Lacking those means, we rely on the market. But there are many ways of confining the sway of the market: there are desirable changes that can move us toward a socialist society in which, to quote Albert Einstein, humanity has overcome and advanced beyond the predatory stage of human development.

the case against socialism: Socialism Is Evil Justin Haskins, 2018 The greatest threat facing the United States today doesn't come from China, Iran, or even Russia; it's the growing number of Americans who believe Karl Marx's socialism provides the best strategy for making our communities safer, healthier, and more prosperous. But the most significant danger posed by socialism isn't that its implementation would lead to greater poverty and fewer property rights, it's that socialism would create numerous moral problems, including the limits it would place on individual liberty and religious freedom. In *Socialism Is Evil: The Moral Case Against Marx's Radical Dream*, conservative columnist and think tank research fellow Justin Haskins examines the moral perils of Marx's socialism and explains why if socialism were to be imposed in its fullest form, it wouldn't just damage people's freedoms, it would obliterate them. Haskins argues it would be dangerous to attempt to create Marx's utopian socialist world, and even more importantly, that such an attempt would be so highly immoral that it could reasonably be called evil. In *Socialism Is Evil*, Haskins makes the moral case against socialism and also describes in detail what socialists believe, the differences between socialism and communism, why Marx's socialism will never be completely adopted, and why even the more moderate European-style socialism, called democratic socialism by some, is highly immoral and anti-American. Many socialists are kind, generous people with good intentions, but sometimes, good intentions can create devastating results. *Socialism Is Evil* briefly tackles some of the most important moral controversies surrounding Marx's socialism, providing supporters of individual liberty with the tools they need to stop the rise of socialism in its tracks.

the case against socialism: Liberty Versus the Tyranny of Socialism Walter E. Williams, 2013-09-01 In this selected collection of his syndicated newspaper columns, Walter Williams offers his sometimes controversial views on education, health, the environment, government, law and society, race, and a range of other topics. Although many of these essays focus on the growth of government and our loss of liberty, many others demonstrate how the tools of freemarket economics can be used to improve our lives in ways ordinary people can understand.

the case against socialism: How to Be an Anticapitalist in the Twenty-First Century Erik Olin Wright, 2021-04-13 What is wrong with capitalism, and how can we change it? Capitalism has transformed the world and increased our productivity, but at the cost of enormous human suffering. Our shared values—equality and fairness, democracy and freedom, community and solidarity—can provide both the basis for a critique of capitalism and help to guide us toward a socialist and democratic society. Erik Olin Wright has distilled decades of work into this concise and tightly argued manifesto: analyzing the varieties of anticapitalism, assessing different strategic approaches, and laying the foundations for a society dedicated to human flourishing. *How to Be an Anticapitalist in the Twenty-First Century* is an urgent and powerful argument for socialism, and an unparalleled guide to help us get there. Another world is possible. Included is an afterword by the author's close friend and collaborator Michael Burawoy.

the case against socialism: Why You Should Be a Socialist Nathan J. Robinson, 2019-12-10 A primer on Democratic Socialism for those who are extremely skeptical of it. America is witnessing the rise of a new generation of socialist activists. More young people support socialism now than at any time since the labor movement of the 1920s. The Democratic Socialists of America, a big-tent leftist organization, has just surpassed 50,000 members nationwide. In the fall of 2018, one of the most influential congressmen in the Democratic Party lost a primary to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a 28-year-old socialist who had never held office before. But what does all this mean? Should we be worried about our country, or should we join the march toward our bright socialist future? In *Why You Should Be a Socialist*, Nathan J. Robinson will give readers a primer on twenty-first-century socialism: what it is, what it isn't, and why everyone should want to be a part of this exciting new

chapter of American politics. From the heyday of Occupy Wall Street through Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign and beyond, young progressives have been increasingly drawn to socialist ideas. However, the movement's goals need to be defined more sharply before it can effect real change on a national scale. Likewise, liberals and conservatives will benefit from a deeper understanding of the true nature of this ideology, whether they agree with it or not. Robinson's charming, accessible, and well-argued book will convince even the most skeptical readers of the merits of socialist thought.

the case against socialism: *Heaven on Earth* Joshua Muravchik, 2003 The search for the Promised Land took socialists in diverse directions: revolution, communes and kibbutzim, social democracy, communism, fascism, Third Worldism. But none of these paths led to the prophesied utopia. Nowhere did socialists succeed in creating societies of easy abundance or in midwifing the birth of a New Man, as their theory promised. Some socialist governments abandoned their grandiose goals and satisfied themselves with making slight modifications to capitalism, while others plowed ahead doggedly, often inducing staggering human catastrophes. Then, after two hundred years of wishful thinking and fitful governance, socialism suddenly imploded in the 1990s in a fin de siècle drama of falling walls, collapsing regimes and frantic revisions of doctrine.--BOOK JACKET.

the case against socialism: *The Socialist Manifesto* Bhaskar Sunkara, 2019-04-30 The success of Jeremy Corbyn's left-led Labour Party and Bernie Sanders's 2016 presidential campaign revived a political idea many had thought dead. But what, exactly, is socialism? And what would a socialist system look like today? In *The Socialist Manifesto*, Bhaskar Sunkara, editor of Jacobin magazine, argues that socialism offers the means to achieve economic equality, and also to fight other forms of oppression, including racism and sexism. The ultimate goal is not Soviet-style planning, but to win rights to healthcare, education, and housing and to create new democratic institutions in workplaces and communities. The book both explores socialism's history and presents a realistic vision for its future. A primer on socialism for the 21st century, this is a book for anyone seeking an end to the vast inequities of our age.

the case against socialism: *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Socialism* Kevin Williamson, 2011-01-10 Argues that the same impulse for control that governed the Soviet Union is present in the American health care and educational systems and that socialism can never work because of human nature.

the case against socialism: *The End of Socialism* James Otteson, 2014-10-06 *The End of Socialism* explores the difficulties socialism faces and examines the extent to which its moral ideals can guide policy.

the case against socialism: United States of Socialism Dinesh D'Souza, 2020-06-02 The New York Times, USA Today, Publishers Weekly, and Wall Street Journal Bestseller For those who witnessed the global collapse of socialism, its resurrection in the twenty-first century comes as a surprise, even a shock. How can socialism work now when it has never worked before? In this pathbreaking book, bestselling author Dinesh D'Souza argues that the socialism advanced today by the likes of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders, Ilhan Omar and Elizabeth Warren is very different from the socialism of Lenin, Mao and Castro. It is "identity socialism," a marriage between classic socialism and identity politics. Today's socialists claim to model themselves not on Mao's Great Leap Forward or even Venezuelan socialism but rather on the "socialism that works" in Scandinavian countries like Norway and Sweden. This is the new face of socialism that D'Souza confronts and decisively refutes with his trademark incisiveness, wit and originality. He shows how socialism abandoned the working class and found new recruits by drawing on the resentments of race, gender and sexual orientation. He reveals how it uses the Venezuelan, not the Scandinavian, formula. D'Souza chillingly documents the full range of lawless, gangster, and authoritarian tendencies that they have adopted. *United States of Socialism* is an informative, provocative and thrilling exposé not merely of the ideas but also the tactics of the socialist Left. In making the moral case for entrepreneurs and the free market, the author portrays President Trump as the exemplar of capitalism and also the most effective political leader of the battle against socialism. He shows how

we can help Trump defeat the socialist menace.

the case against socialism: The "S" Word John Nichols, 2011-03-21 Political reporter Nichols argues that socialism has a long, proud American history. This short, irreverent book gives Americans back a crucial part of their history and makes a forthright case for socialist ideas today.

the case against socialism: Socialism Sucks Robert Lawson, Benjamin Powell, 2019-07-30 The bastard step-child of Milton Friedman and Anthony Bourdain, *Socialism Sucks* is a bar-crawl through former, current, and wannabe socialist countries around the world. Free market economists Robert Lawson and Benjamin Powell travel to countries like Venezuela, Cuba, Russia, and Sweden to investigate the dangers and idiocies of socialism—while drinking a lot of beer.

the case against socialism: The Problem with Socialism Thomas J. DiLorenzo, 2016-07-18 DiLorenzo's book is a pleasure to read and should be put in the hands of every young person in this country - and elsewhere! —FORMER CONGRESSMAN RON PAUL It is a worthwhile investment for parents with college-age children to buy two copies of *The Problem with Socialism* -one for their children and one for themselves. —WALTER E. WILLIAMS, John M Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics, George Mason University and nationally syndicated columnist Ever wonder what one book you should give a young person to make sure he doesn't fall for leftist propoganda? You're looking at it. —THOMAS E. WOODS, JR., host of The Tom Woods Show, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History* What's the Problem with Socialism? Let's start with...everything. So says bestselling author and professor of economics Thomas J. DiLorenzo, who sets the record straight in this concise and lively primer on an economic theory that's gaining popularity—with help from Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders—despite its universal failure as an economic model and its truly horrific record on human rights. In sixteen eye-opening chapters, DiLorenzo reveals how socialism inevitably makes inequality worse, why socialism was behind the worst government-sponsored mass murders in history, the myth of "successful" Scandinavian socialism; how socialism is worse—far worse—for the environment than capitalism, and more. As DiLorenzo shows, and history proves, socialism is the answer only if you want increasing unemployment and poverty, stifling bureaucracy if not outright political tyranny, catastrophic environmental pollution, rotten schools, and so many social ills that it takes a book like this to cover just the big ones. Provocative, timely, essential reading, Thomas J. DiLorenzo's *The Problem with Socialism* is an instant classic comparable to Henry Hazlitt's *Economics in One Lesson*. In the words of Thomas E. Woods - Dance on socialism's grave by reading this book.

the case against socialism: The Left Case Against the EU Costas Lapavitsas, 2018-12-05 Many on the Left see the European Union as a fundamentally benign project with the potential to underpin ever greater cooperation and progress. If it has drifted rightward, the answer is to fight for reform from within. In this iconoclastic polemic, economist Costas Lapavitsas demolishes this view. He contends that the EU's response to the Eurozone crisis represents the ultimate transformation of the union into a neoliberal citadel that institutionally embeds austerity, privatization, and wage cuts. Concurrently, the rise of German hegemony has divided the EU into an unstable core and dependent peripheries. These related developments make the EU impervious to meaningful reform. The solution is therefore a direct challenge to the EU project that stresses popular and national sovereignty as preconditions for true internationalist socialism. Lapavitsas's powerful manifesto for a left opposition to the EU upends the wishful thinking that often characterizes the debate and will be a challenging read for all on the Left interested in the future of Europe.

the case against socialism: Why Women Have Better Sex Under Socialism Kristen R. Ghodsee, 2018-11-20 A spirited, deeply researched exploration of why capitalism is bad for women and how, when done right, socialism leads to economic independence, better labor conditions, better work-life balance and, yes, even better sex. In a witty, irreverent op-ed piece that went viral, Kristen Ghodsee argued that women had better sex under socialism. The response was tremendous — clearly she articulated something many women had sensed for years: the problem is with capitalism, not with us. Ghodsee, an acclaimed ethnographer and professor of Russian and East European Studies, spent years researching what happened to women in countries that transitioned from state

socialism to capitalism. She argues here that unregulated capitalism disproportionately harms women, and that we should learn from the past. By rejecting the bad and salvaging the good, we can adapt some socialist ideas to the 21st century and improve our lives. She tackles all aspects of a woman's life - work, parenting, sex and relationships, citizenship, and leadership. In a chapter called *Women: Like Men, But Cheaper*, she talks about women in the workplace, discussing everything from the wage gap to harassment and discrimination. In *What To Expect When You're Expecting Exploitation*, she addresses motherhood and how having it all is impossible under capitalism. Women are standing up for themselves like never before, from the increase in the number of women running for office to the women's march to the long-overdue public outcry against sexual harassment. Interest in socialism is also on the rise -- whether it's the popularity of Bernie Sanders or the skyrocketing membership numbers of the Democratic Socialists of America. It's become increasingly clear to women that capitalism isn't working for us, and Ghodsee is the informed, lively guide who can show us the way forward.

the case against socialism: *Socialism: The Failed Idea That Never Dies* Kristian Niemietz, 2019-02-07 Socialism is strangely impervious to refutation by real-world experience. Over the past hundred years, there have been more than two dozen attempts to build a socialist society, from the Soviet Union to Maoist China to Venezuela. All of them have ended in varying degrees of failure. But, according to socialism's adherents, that is only because none of these experiments were "real socialism". This book documents the history of this, by now, standard response. It shows how the claim of fake socialism is only ever made after the event. As long as a socialist project is in its prime, almost nobody claims that it is not real socialism. On the contrary, virtually every socialist project in history has gone through a honeymoon period, during which it was enthusiastically praised by prominent Western intellectuals. It was only when their failures became too obvious to deny that they got retroactively reclassified as "not real socialism".

the case against socialism: *Arguing with Socialists* Glenn Beck, 2020-04-07 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The New York Times bestselling author of *The Great Reset* arms you to the teeth with information necessary to debunk the socialist arguments that have once again become popular, and proves that the free market is the only way to go. With his trademark humor, Beck lampoons the resurgence of this bankrupt leftist philosophy with thousands of stories, facts, arguments and easy-to-understand graphics for anyone who is willing to ask the hard questions. He shows that this new shiny socialism is just the same as the old one: a costly and dangerous failure that leaves desperation, poverty, and bodies in its wake.

the case against socialism: *The Black Book of Communism* Stéphane Courtois, 1999 This international bestseller plumbs recently opened archives in the former Soviet bloc to reveal the accomplishments of communism around the world. The book is the first attempt to catalogue and analyse the crimes of communism over 70 years.

the case against socialism: *Socialism - An Economic and Sociological Analysis* Ludwig von Mises, 2016-11-24 Socialism is the watchword and the catchword of our day. The socialist idea dominates the modern spirit. The masses approve of it. It expresses the thoughts and feelings of all; it has set its seal upon our time. When history comes to tell our story it will write above the chapter "The Epoch of Socialism." As yet, it is true, Socialism has not created a society which can be said to represent its ideal. But for more than a generation the policies of civilized nations have been directed towards nothing less than a gradual realization of Socialism.¹⁷ In recent years the movement has grown noticeably in vigour and tenacity. Some nations have sought to achieve Socialism, in its fullest sense, at a single stroke. Before our eyes Russian Bolshevism has already accomplished something which, whatever we believe to be its significance, must by the very magnitude of its design be regarded as one of the most remarkable achievements known to world history. Elsewhere no one has yet achieved so much. But with other peoples only the inner contradictions of Socialism itself and the fact that it cannot be completely realized have frustrated socialist triumph. They also have gone as far as they could under the given circumstances. Opposition in principle to Socialism there is none. Today no influential party would dare openly to

advocate Private Property in the Means of Production. The word "Capitalism" expresses, for our age, the sum of all evil. Even the opponents of Socialism are dominated by socialist ideas. In seeking to combat Socialism from the standpoint of their special class interest these opponents—the parties which particularly call themselves "bourgeois" or "peasant"—admit indirectly the validity of all the essentials of socialist thought. For if it is only possible to argue against the socialist programme that it endangers the particular interests of one part of humanity, one has really affirmed Socialism. If one complains that the system of economic and social organization which is based on private property in the means of production does not sufficiently consider the interests of the community, that it serves only the purposes of single strata, and that it limits productivity; and if therefore one demands with the supporters of the various "social-political" and "social-reform" movements, state interference in all fields of economic life, then one has fundamentally accepted the principle of the socialist programme. Or again, if one can only argue against socialism that the imperfections of human nature make its realization impossible, or that it is inexpedient under existing economic conditions to proceed at once to socialization, then one merely confesses that one has capitulated to socialist ideas. The nationalist, too, affirms socialism, and objects only to its Internationalism. He wishes to combine Socialism with the ideas of Imperialism and the struggle against foreign nations. He is a national, not an international socialist; but he, also, approves of the essential principles of Socialism.

the case against socialism: *Another Now* Yanis Varoufakis, 2020-09-10 'I could not recommend this more. If you're looking for a sense of optimism, a sense of political possibility, this book is very important' Owen Jones What would a fair and equal society actually look like? Imagine a world with no banks. No stock market. No tech giants. No billionaires. In *Another Now* world-famous economist, Yanis Varoufakis, shows us what such a world would look like. Far from being a fantasy, he describes how it could have come about - and might yet. But would we really want it? Varoufakis's boundary-breaking new book confounds expectations of what the good society would look like and confronts us with the greatest question: are we able to build a better society, despite our flaws. 'A vision of a new society with new ways of thinking is possibly the most important thing an artist can offer at the moment' Brian Eno

the case against socialism: The People's Republic of Walmart Leigh Phillips, Michal Rozworski, 2019-03-05 Are multi-national corporations like Walmart and Amazon laying the groundwork for international socialism? For the left and the right, major multinational companies are held up as the ultimate expressions of free-market capitalism. Their remarkable success appears to vindicate the old idea that modern society is too complex to be subjected to a plan. And yet, as Leigh Phillips and Michal Rozworski argue, much of the economy of the West is centrally planned at present. Not only is planning on vast scales possible, we already have it and it works. The real question is whether planning can be democratic. Can it be transformed to work for us? An engaging, polemical romp through economic theory, computational complexity, and the history of planning, *The People's Republic of Walmart* revives the conversation about how society can extend democratic decision-making to all economic matters. With the advances in information technology in recent decades and the emergence of globe-straddling collective enterprises, democratic planning in the interest of all humanity is more important and closer to attainment than ever before.

the case against socialism: Half-Earth Socialism Troy Vettese, Drew Pendergrass, 2024-04-23 Empowers readers to write their own recipes for a future in peril: an exercise in democracy few books have dared to undertake. –Andreas Malm, author of *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* A plan to save the earth and bring the good life to all In this thrilling and capacious book, Troy Vettese and Drew Pendergrass challenge the inertia of capitalism and the left alike and propose a radical plan to address climate disaster and guarantee the good life for all. Consumption in the Global North can't continue unabated, and we must give up the idea that humans can fully control the Earth through technological "fixes" which only wreak further havoc. Rather than allow the forces of the free market to destroy the planet, we must strive for a post-capitalist society able to guarantee the good life the entire planet. This plan, which they call Half-Earth Socialism, means we must: •

rewild half the Earth to absorb carbon emissions and restore biodiversity • pursue a rapid transition to renewable energy, paired with drastic cuts in consumption by the world's wealthiest populations • enact global veganism to cut down on energy and land use • inaugurate worldwide socialist planning to efficiently and equitably manage production • welcome the participation of everyone—even you! Accompanied by a climate-modelling website inviting readers to design their own “half earth,” Vettese and Pendergrass offer us a visionary way forward—and our only hope for a future.

the case against socialism: *Socialists Don't Sleep* Cheryl K. Chumley, 2020-09-22 Socialists Don't Sleep is one of those timely books that just points out the roots of what's gone wrong in America, how we can get our country back on track to what founders envisioned and the Judeo-Christian community that holds the key to America's long-term successes. — Gov. Mike Huckabee, New York Times Bestselling author & Host of Huckabee Socialists Don't Sleep: Christians Must Rise or America Will Fall is about all the sneaky ways the secular left has pressed Socialism into American politics and life - AND WHY CHRISTIANS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP IT! Socialists Don't Sleep tells how America has gone from a country of rights coming from God - NOT government - to a country that embraces Socialism - where the US government is now expected to pretty much provide from cradle to the grave. Cheryl K. Chumley, an award-winning journalist and contributing editor to The Washington Times, explains how to return the country to its glory days of God-given, and why Christians, more than any other group, are best equipped to lead the way. “Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — when it comes to socialism in America, these two aren't the problem. Per se. They're simply symptoms of the real problems that usher in Socialism: a dysfunctional entitlement-minded society, a propaganda-pushing school system, a decayed culture, a sieve-like border. As Cheryl Chumley points out in Socialists Don't Sleep, we can't root out socialism unless we first address the real problems.” — Michael Savage, New York Times Bestselling author & host of The Savage Nation

the case against socialism: Socialism . . . Seriously Danny Katch, 2015-08-09 “Katch has done the impossible: he makes socialism sexy . . . eye-opening, inspiring, and funny . . . this book might turn you into a closet socialist” (Judah Friedlander, actor and comedian). Opinion polls show that many people in the United States prefer socialism to capitalism. But after being declared dead and buried for decades, socialism has come to mean little more than something vaguely less cruel and stupid than what we have now. That's not exactly going to inspire millions to storm the barricades. Danny Katch brings together the two great Marxist traditions of Karl and Groucho to provide an entertaining and insightful introduction to what the socialist tradition has to say about democracy, economics, and the potential of human beings to be something more than being bomb-dropping, planet-destroying racist fools. “The most hilarious book about socialism since Karl Marx and his brother Harpo wrote their joke book.” —Hari Kondabolu, filmmaker and comedian “If The Communist Manifesto and America's Funniest Home Videos had a baby, it would be Danny Katch's new book. It's a hilarious and fun way to think about what's wrong with our world, how it could be different, and how we might get there. Keep an extra copy of Socialism . . . Seriously in your bag and hand it to the next person who asks you what socialism is all about; as long as that person is not your boss . . . seriously.” —Brian Jones, actor, educator, and activist “A lighthearted, easy read that packs an intro course on socialism into a short volume. With jokes that made me laugh out loud, and a lot of heart. Socialism is for lovers. Indeed.” —Sarah Jaffe, Belabored podcast host

the case against socialism: *A Plea for Liberty* Thomas Mackay, 1891

the case against socialism: *Over to You, Mr Brown* Anthony Giddens, 2007-04-09 Labour stands at a decisive point in its history. A change of leadership can help reinvigorate the party, but winning a fourth term of government will be impossible unless Labour's ideological position and policy outlook are thoroughly refurbished. What form should these innovations take?

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politics, and a bold proposal for a new and fairer economic system. Thomas Piketty's bestselling *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* galvanized global debate about inequality. In this audacious follow-up, Piketty challenges us to revolutionize how we think about politics, ideology, and history. He exposes the ideas that have sustained inequality for the past millennium, reveals why the shallow politics of right and left are failing us today, and outlines the structure of a fairer economic system. Our economy, Piketty observes, is not a natural fact. Markets, profits, and capital are all historical constructs that depend on choices. Piketty explores the material and ideological interactions of conflicting social groups that have given us slavery, serfdom, colonialism, communism, and hypercapitalism, shaping the lives of billions. He concludes that the great driver of human progress over the centuries has been the struggle for equality and education and not, as often argued, the assertion of property rights or the pursuit of stability. The new era of extreme inequality that has derailed that progress since the 1980s, he shows, is partly a reaction against communism, but it is also the fruit of ignorance, intellectual specialization, and our drift toward the dead-end politics of identity. Once we understand this, we can begin to envision a more balanced approach to economics and politics. Piketty argues for a new "participatory" socialism, a system founded on an ideology of equality, social property, education, and the sharing of knowledge and power. *Capital and Ideology* is destined to be one of the indispensable books of our time, a work that will not only help us understand the world, but that will change it.

the case against socialism: Socialism 101 Kathleen Sears, 2019-09-03 *Socialism 101* is a comprehensive and accessible guide to the historical and modern applications of socialism. In today's political climate, more and more presidential candidates are espousing socialist—or democratic socialist—policies. Once associated with oppression, socialism is now a current topic of conversation with everyday Americans, including policies like taxing the rich and healthcare for all. But what exactly is socialism and why does it spark such an intense debate? *Socialism 101* provides an easy-to-understand, unbiased overview to the nearly 300-year-old origins of this mode of government, its complex history, basic constructs, modern-day interpretations, key figures in its development, and up-to-date concepts and policies in today's world. As capitalism has become less appealing and socialism experiences a surge in popularity, the need for clarification of what it means has never been more necessary than now.

the case against socialism: Why Not Capitalism? Jason F. Brennan, 2014-06-05 Most economists believe capitalism is a compromise with selfish human nature. As Adam Smith put it, It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. Capitalism works better than socialism, according to this thinking, only because we are not kind and generous enough to make socialism work. If we were saints, we would be socialists. In *Why Not Capitalism?*, Jason Brennan attacks this widely held belief, arguing that capitalism would remain the best system even if we were morally perfect. Even in an ideal world, private property and free markets would be the best way to promote mutual cooperation, social justice, harmony, and prosperity. Socialists seek to capture the moral high ground by showing that ideal socialism is morally superior to realistic capitalism. But, Brennan responds, ideal capitalism is superior to ideal socialism, and so capitalism beats socialism at every level. Clearly, engagingly, and at times provocatively written, *Why Not Capitalism?* will cause readers of all political persuasions to re-evaluate where they stand vis-à-vis economic priorities and systems—as they exist now and as they might be improved in the future.

the case against socialism: Can a Catholic Be a Socialist?: The Answer Is No- Here's Why Trent Horn, Catherine R. Pakaluk, 2020-02-26

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the case against socialism: *The Road to Serfdom* John Blundell, F.A Hayek, 2018 In the last years of World War II, Friedrich Hayek wrote 'The Road to Serfdom'. He warned the Allies that policy proposals which were being canvassed for the post-war world ran the risk of destroying the very freedom for which they were fighting. On the basis of 'as in war, so in peace', economists and others were arguing that the government should plan all economic activity. Such planning, Hayek argued, would be incompatible with liberty, and had been at the very heart of the movements that had established both communism and Nazism. On its publication in 1944, the book caused a sensation. Neither its British nor its American publisher could keep up with demand, owing to wartime paper rationing. Then, in 1945, Reader's Digest published 'The Road to Serfdom' as the condensed book in its April edition. For the first and still the only time, the condensed book was placed at the front of the magazine instead of the back. Hayek found himself a celebrity, addressing a mass market. The condensed edition was republished for the first time by the IEA in 1999 and has been reissued to meet the continuing demand for its enduringly relevant and accessible message.

the case against socialism: *The Road to Wigan Pier* George Orwell, 2024-04-26 George Orwell provides a vivid and unflinching portrayal of working-class life in Northern England during the 1930s. Through his own experiences and meticulous investigative reporting, Orwell exposes the harsh living conditions, poverty, and social injustices faced by coal miners and other industrial workers in the region. He documents their struggles with unemployment, poor housing, and inadequate healthcare, as well as the pervasive sense of hopelessness and despair that permeates their lives. In the second half of the *The Road to Wigan Pier* Orwell delves into the complexities of political ideology, as he grapples with the shortcomings of both socialism and capitalism in addressing the needs of the working class. GEORGE ORWELL was born in India in 1903 and passed away in London in 1950. As a journalist, critic, and author, he was a sharp commentator on his era and its political conditions and consequences.

the case against socialism: *Palestine* Sumaya Awad, brian bean, 2020-12-01 This essay collection presents a compelling and insightful analysis of the Palestinian freedom movement from a socialist perspective. In *Palestine: A Socialist Introduction*, contributors examine a number of key aspects in the Palestinian struggle for liberation. These essays contextualize the situation in today's polarized world and offer a socialist perspective on how full liberation can be won. Through an internationalist, anti-imperialist lens, this book explores the links between the struggle for freedom in the United States and that in Palestine, and beyond. Contributors examine both the historical and contemporary trajectory of the Palestine solidarity movement in order to glean lessons for today's organizers. They argue that, in order to achieve justice in Palestine, the movement must take up the question of socialism regionally and internationally. Contributors include: Jihad Abusalim, Shireen Akram-Boshar, Omar Barghouti, Nada Elia, Toufic Haddad, Remi Kanazi, Annie Levin, Mostafa Omar, Khury Petersen-Smith, and Daphna Thier.

the case against socialism: *Politics and the English Language* George Orwell, 2021-01-01 George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature – his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While *1984* and *Animal Farm* are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. In *Politics and the English Language*, the second in the Orwell's Essays series, Orwell takes aim at the language used in politics, which, he says, 'is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind'. In an age where the language used in politics is constantly under the microscope, Orwell's *Politics and the English Language* is just as

relevant today, and gives the reader a vital understanding of the tactics at play. 'A writer who can - and must - be rediscovered with every age.' — Irish Times

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