

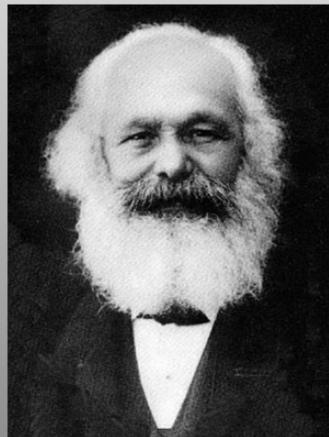
# The “Leftist” critics of Socialism

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*The Finnish Bolshevik*

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"Every Socialist country that existed was bad!

Every Marxist revolution was Stalinist!

It always inevitably resulted in atrocities and millions of dead!

Trust me, *real* "communists" should hate Socialist countries!

Many so-called leftist critics of historical Socialism [actually existing socialism like the Soviet Union, Cuba, etc.] often attack Leninists such as myself as "Stalinists" or "tankies" while proclaiming their own ideological superiority and purity. They are generally outraged or outright confused when Leninists suggest that these "leftist critics" are doing the work of the bourgeois and the imperialists. What do we mean by that?

### **What is Legitimate Criticism?**

Marxism is a scientific type of Socialism and science learns from its mistakes. Therefore it's logical and positive to engage in criticism and self-criticism and to keep in mind that the great socialist and progressive thinkers who came before us didn't have the luxury of following any pre-existing model of socialism. They erred more often than not due to the fact that they were pioneers in uncharted territory. It shouldn't surprise us they made mistakes but neither should we exaggerate those mistakes or use them to diminish their great successes and achievements. It is easier for us to see farther for we are standing on the shoulders of giants.

Leninists are by no means opposed to criticism. It is entirely

legitimate to analyse and challenge the theoretical contributions of Lenin, how they were applied by Stalin, Mao or Che Guevara for instance. However this criticism should be principled and based on facts. So-called "leftist critics" like Trotskyists, various Anarchists and revisionists simply parrot bourgeois talking points, bourgeois propaganda and "facts" provided to them by bourgeois sources. Often times this is totally unintentional on their part. They simply do not possess the necessary source criticism, lack the understanding of how media, academia, etc. functions and how the bourgeois influences them. Their inability to grasp this is particularly tragic as they claim to be Marxists and it was Marx himself who pointed out that the ideology of the ruling class is always the hegemonic one in society and, as a result, often held by a vast number of people *even outside said ruling class*.

### **"The Experts Tell Me You're Wrong!" (Evidence & Burden of Proof)**

Every now and then I encounter something akin to the following statements:

*"Only Stalinist crackpots like you believe X"*

*"All experts agree. You who believe X are only a fringe group that is not to be trusted"*

Everyone with even the most basic understanding of logic should realize the above statements are a logical fallacy – an appeal to authority, and to a degree an appeal to popularity. Naturally in many cases you would want to ask the opinion of an expert but even so it should be the evidence itself, not the person who is giving the evidence that should matter.

Basically, it boils down to this: I believe or don't believe something and instead of dealing with my argument like adults opponents (whether they be liberals, anarchists, Trotskyists, etc.) choose to attack my position as too extreme, too outlandish to even be worth considering – especially since, as they say "the experts" are against me. But are the experts

really against the Leninist point of view? Who even are these so-called experts? Due to the hegemonic position of the bourgeois point of view it is often seen as the *default position* by leftist critics of Socialism.

**It is “mainstream” in the sense that the ruling class media and academia supports it, but that doesn’t mean it is by any sense objective or correct.** The burden of proof lies on the one making the claim, not the one who is less popular. Still in a general political discussion the burden of proof is usually pushed onto the Communists themselves to prove their innocence of wrongdoings when in reality it should be on the ones making the accusations. A tendency among “leftist” and other critics of Socialism is to readily accept bourgeois propaganda against socialism, but approach any pro-socialist information with extreme skepticism because, “anti-capitalism is fringe” (and thus perceived as unreliable by default) while anti-communism is “mainstream” (and thus apparently automatically more reliable). In this way the burden of proof is effectively always shifted onto the Communists.

### **The Anti-Soviet Paradigm**

Without getting into the wider political debate I will point out that it's no coincidence certain groups such as Trotskyists, anarchists, liberals, etc. are more prone to believing the “mainstream” (hegemonic bourgeois) point of view on various subjects. This is not an insult, or a judgement on the validity of this point of view, but merely a statement of fact.

To put matters bluntly, according to them, we Leninists are *fringe* crackpots who shut our eyes and ears from anything contradicting our worldview – while according to us they are gullible and anti-Marxist people believing almost anything the capitalists tell them. Maybe they are right. Maybe we are right. Maybe neither one of us is right, but this will have to be determined with evidence.

Let us ask ourselves this one question. Why are the Trotskyists for instance seemingly so eager to accept bourgeois sources as fact while the Leninists are so hesitant to do the same? Trotskyists and the bourgeois are both by and large critics of historical socialist experiments while Leninists tend to be defenders of them. For this reason, the bourgeois generally tend to spread views hostile to historical socialism which Trotskyists eat up gleefully. Only the Leninist "fringe" would defend historical socialism. Personally, I believe that most supporters of Trotskyism are such precisely because of this bourgeois propaganda.

### **Bourgeois Hegemony**

Sometimes I'm taken by surprise by just how naive some self-proclaimed socialists are. I'm talking about the kind of "left critics" of socialism who simply do not understand that the bourgeois have a countless number of overt and subtle ways of controlling information.

Is it any wonder that in the USA you cannot be a professional historian unless you periodically publish anti-Soviet material? J. Arch Getty, a liberal historian of the Soviet period comes under constant attacks from the Right as a Communist sympathizer because of his more balanced approach, and his views on the Soviet Union are hardly positive, just not negative enough. Since the beginning of the cold war the CIA, HUAC and others have been overtly involved in monitoring how 'history' is written and presented to the public but on top of that the Robert Conquest school of red bashing also makes a lot of money for its authors. Check the sources on your history books, do they have primary sources or secondary sources? What are these sources? *The Black Book of Communism*? *The Great Terror*? Or merely some other book citing the previous two as "evidence" of Communist atrocities?

The CIA has been, and still is deeply involved in the media (Operation Mockingbird, CCF, Radio Free Europe, NED, AI, HRW,

etc., etc. ) and on top of that most of American media (which dominates the world) is in the hands of private corporations – in the hands of capitalists. They are not stupid, even when they don't outright lie they choose to cover topics which cast a negative light on socialism and choose to ignore topics which portray socialism positively. They present a scale of authors or experts *with varying degrees of anti-communist bias* and thus appear to not be monolithic or to control the discussion. They even allow anti-government speech as long as it's liberal enough or can be marginalized easily. News, documentaries or history books are not objective fact that falls from the sky – they are written and created by *people*, people who get together and plan what to write, how to write and when to write it.

### **Do the Capitalists Really Defend Ultra-Leftism, Trotskyism Or Anarchism?**

The answer to this question is in a way both yes and no. Obviously, capitalists don't support any of the above-mentioned -isms. However, they share a common enemy with them. The CIA realized long ago that extreme Right-Wing or conservative anti-Communist propaganda doesn't work well on liberals or Left-Wingers (cf. Congress for Cultural Freedom), instead it's much more effective to claim that Anti-Soviet-ism is the *real Left-wing thing to do (sic)*. George Orwell, Leon Trotsky, Khrushchev, Gorbachev and even Noam Chomsky are some of the big names in "left-wing" anti-communism – people who appear to challenge capitalism but whose ideas are either entirely misguided ideologically, tactically unsound, dishonest or too limited in their scope to be effective and serve only to steer people away from genuine anti-capitalist struggle.

[su\_testimonial name="–The Editor" photo="https://www.greenvillepost.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PG2-front-rosier.jpg"]Futhermore, "Left anti-Communists"

also always end up siding with the imperialists in whatever adventure Washington and its accomplices are engaged, whether it be attacking Libya, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba, China, Russia/Soviet Union, Iran, or any other sovereign anti-imperialist nation, since according to their principles they cannot support "totalitarians", "authoritarians", and any other "regimes" that do not measure up to their perfectionist scales of Western values.[/su\_testimonial]

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