

# **UNITED STATES OF SOCIALISM**

**WHO'S BEHIND IT.**

**WHY IT'S EVIL.**

**HOW TO STOP IT.**

# **DINESH D'SOUZA**



**ALL POINTS  
BOOKS  
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For Ed McVaney

I treasure our friendship,  
which is rooted in a shared  
sense of wonder and  
love of the good.

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# UNITED STATES OF SOCIALISM



# PREFACE

## THE SPECTER OF SOCIALISM

Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine

Fair to the eye, inviting to the taste,

Of virtue to make wise; what hinders, then

To reach, and feed at once body and mind?<sup>1</sup>

—JOHN MILTON, *PARADISE LOST*

**A**specter is haunting America—the specter of socialism. Suddenly, almost out of nowhere, we encounter a mélange of strange socialist characters—Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Bernie Sanders—and a whole political party that seems magnetically drawn toward the socialist camp. This development by itself is surpassingly strange, because socialism is arguably the most discredited idea in history.

True, many big ideas, and their corresponding ways of organizing society, have ended up on the ash heap of history. Monarchy, for instance, is gone, surviving today only in cosmetic—which is to say, constitutional—form. Feudalism exists in some form in backward countries, but for us in the West it can only be seen in history's rearview mirror.

Even so, monarchy and feudalism have never been fully discredited. From the beginning of time, there have been good kings and bad kings. At some point in history—dating to around the time of the American Revolution—most people in the West decided that they didn't want to live under kings, not even under good kings. They wanted to govern themselves, through some form of representative government. And

# INTRODUCTION

## IDENTITY SOCIALISM

The blue wave is African-American. It's white, it's Latino, it's Asian, Pacific Islander. It is disabled. It is differently abled. It is LGBTQ. . . . It is comprised of those who are documented and undocumented.<sup>1</sup>

—STACEY ABRAMS, SPEECH AT DEMOCRATIC  
FUNDRAISER, 2018

**W**ho are the socialists? Ever since its invention in the nineteenth century, socialism has been a coat of many colors. So what hue of socialism do our American socialists want? They insist that they are a new breed, with a new vision and a new agenda. While history and other countries may supply useful models, American socialists have introduced a unique element—identity politics—that Marx would have repudiated and other socialists assiduously avoided. Consequently, American socialism deserves its own name, and the name I propose is “identity socialism.”

To understand identity socialism, we must begin with socialism itself, socialism in its original or classic sense. Here the most helpful definition does not come from Marx but from economist Joseph Schumpeter. In his classic work *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, Schumpeter defined socialism as a system in which, “as a matter of principle, the economic affairs of society belong to the public and not to the private sphere.”<sup>2</sup>

This strikes me as an excellent definition because it creates a spectrum. At one end is the free market society, which generates wealth and