

Capitalism and its “Others”: Socialism

What are range of types of governments/economic arrangements confusingly referred to as “socialism”:

- 1) Communist countries – Soviet Union and satellites – centralized authoritarian governments and centralized planning; (Verdery refers to these as “state socialist” societies)
- 2) Market-based democracies w/ strong welfare states – Nordic countries
- 3) Marxist movements in formerly colonized regions in post-independence period of 60s-70s that followed still other logics - Ethiopia



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Don Donham – Marxist Modern: An Ethnographic History of the Ethiopian Revolution (1999)

Topics for discussion:

- What was historical situation in Ethiopia?
- What segments of society were attracted to Marxism? What did it mean to them? How did their concerns differ from Marxist theory in the abstract?
- What was the relationship between urban and rural groups in the area where Donham worked?
- How did things change over the course of the revolution?



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Images of Haile Selassie

Possible topics for final papers

- Pandora papers/tax havens
- Facebook papers
- debates over UBER and gig economy jobs in CA
- contingent faculty in academia
- debates over franchising
- Fast Food Forward/Fight for \$15
- Amazon warehouse jobs

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21A.461 What is Capitalism?
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