

Socialism 2.0



The Future We Want: Radical Ideas for the New Century

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Born out of massive political discontent and the Occupy movement, the collection of ten essays in this timely book each characterizes an important social problem before suggesting a solution. In each case the suggested solution is a bold shift toward socialism. Not your father's failed soviet-style socialism, but a more enlightened form that learns from the earlier failures of a poorly-conceived ideology, the failure of today's oligarchy disguised as democracy, the inequities of capitalism gone wild, and experiences of some of the most socially successful countries in the world.

You may not yet feel ready for this book. The editors and many of the contributors write for the *Jacobian* magazine, a political quarterly self-described as "a leading voice of the American left". The authors dismiss the choices provided by the major political parties as trivial adjustments of the status quo and choose instead a range of bold—some may say radical—approaches. If the tone seems a bit angry at times, perhaps you are hearing the voices of oppression.

Each chapter addresses a theme, characterized by these summaries and quotations:

- + Advocating for a living wage and shorter work hours: "So long as there is one man who seeks employment and cannot obtain it, the hours of labor are too long".
- + Imagining a more effective and equitable education system: "...education will be life and life will be education."
- + To make black lives really matter, we need to recognize that: "The large-scale relegation of black Americans to poverty is the essential 'race' problem."
- + Women are trapped in an underclass because: "they are required to engage in both production and reproduction." Therefore ... the first step toward woman's freedom must be universal, twenty-four-hour child care.

+ Environmental protection and sustainability can be achieved through various forms of tax-and-dividend approaches: “divorcing individual consumption from production is looking more and more like the only way to live decently in the face of resource constraints.”

+ Noting that “Apple’s tremendously successful lines of products...incorporate twelve key innovations...developed by publically funded research and development projects” a chapter argues for more public sharing in the fruits of innovation.

+ The cure for bad science “...involves reaffirming financial support for those agencies that already fund basic research.”

+ Finding the future of criminal justice requires: the hard work that could make “abolition of the police” possible.

+ Recognizing gay marriage is a start, but because “trans people are twice as likely as cisgender Americans to live in extreme poverty” we are far from achieving social equality.

+ Various ideas for restructuring ownership and control of firms seek to: “...sketch a rational economic mechanism that denies the pursuit of profit priority over the fulfillment of human needs.”

This book is as likely to alienate and enrage capitalists as it is to inspire, inform, and energize thoughtful people who have been excluded from our present economic, social, and political systems. The authors are neither crackpots nor traitors, far from it; they are clear thinking citizens concerned for the future of America. The authors have given careful thought to understanding the deep roots of the many problems we face and suggest bold and creative solutions.

This is a well-written, well-argued book addressing many of the most important problems Americans face today. The solutions offered are preliminary at best; each is better suited to initiating thoughtful dialogue than as templates for quick fixes. This book gives Americans much to consider as we continue our wise transformation from a tribal mindset toward a global perspective.