

# **THE LIMITS OF SOCIALISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649636266

The Limits of Socialism by O. Fred Boucke

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**O. FRED BOUCKE**

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OF SOCIALISM**



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**THE MACMILLAN COMPANY**  
NEW YORK · BOSTON · CHICAGO · DALLAS  
ATLANTA · SAN FRANCISCO

**MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED**  
LONDON · BOMBAY · CALCUTTA  
MELBOURNE

**THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, Ltd.**  
TORONTO

# THE LIMITS OF SOCIALISM

BY

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**New York**

**THE MACMILLAN COMPANY**

1920

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Set up and electrotyped. Published April, 1920.

IN MEMORIAM

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## PREFACE

At the present time the general reader will, the author believes, be interested in some of the following questions which socialism has sought to answer in its own peculiar way. First, to what extent can the income of the average man be raised under socialism, as contrasted with the present individualistic régime? Second, if any marked change in national income is to be expected from socialism, in what direction will it most naturally occur, and what are the limits set to this endeavor? Third, is it true that socialism can establish a democracy in the political sense such as individualism has not as yet pretended to have realized? Fourth, is Marxian economics an indispensable basis to the program mapped out by socialists, or is the refutation of such doctrine, as hitherto submitted by professional economists, a relatively unimportant step which in no wise invalidates the general outlook of socialists? Fifth, if socialism is a theory of prosperity, what is the scientific basis for it, and, more particularly, what data has present day science to offer in support of the thesis expressed or implied by socialism, that a rational method for socio-economic reform exists? Sixth, what are the ultimate questions which socialism has attempted to answer, or must feel obliged to discuss hereafter, in order to find a logical groundwork for its demands?

These and some other outstanding topics have been given consideration in the following pages, and it is hoped that in them will be found a review, from partly new standpoints, of what is most important in socialistic plat-

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## PREFACE

forms. The fourth and fifth chapters contain foundations for all later ones. On them the treatment of the whole subject largely rests. However, it is hoped that the summary which opens the last chapter will furnish a convenient guide to some of the main points advanced, and in this way make clearer the idea of limits in socialism, within which socialists hand in hand with social scientists may continue their studies, but beyond which progress is less certain and more open to the sort of criticism which up to date has injured the socialist cause.

State College, Pa.

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