

**SOCIALISM AS THE
SOCIOLOGICAL
IDEAL; A BROADER
BASIS FOR SOCIALISM**

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Socialism as the sociological ideal; a broader basis for socialism by Floyd J. Melvin

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FLOYD J. MELVIN

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BASIS FOR SOCIALISM**

SOCIALISM AS THE SOCIOLOGICAL IDEAL

A Broader Basis for Socialism

BY

FLOYD J. MELVIN, PH.D.

Submitted in partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate
School of New York University.

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TO THE
AMERICAN

*TO MY WIFE AND COMRADE
EVA ERNST MELVIN*

PREFACE

This study has grown out of an attempt to formulate a generic definition of socialism. Descriptive definitions there are a plenty, but these have the obvious shortcomings of all descriptive definitions. They seem to present little that can be set up as the norm to which all variations in the socialist movement can be traced. They are naturally not in entire agreement for their terms will vary according as one or another aspect of socialism is stressed. The unfortunate result of this is that all discussions of socialism tend to degenerate into controversy about the meaning of the term itself, and not infrequently lead to the most absurd assertions about what socialists want to do.

In order to clear up this confusion it has seemed necessary to seek for the fundamental basis of the socialist movement, its grounds or causes in the general social situation. Instead of basing the socialist system on the formal and rather materialistic science of economics, *a la* Marx, an attempt has been made to deduce the social system required and ordered by the more general science of sociology. Nevertheless it is

PREFACE

believed that the whole is in line with the teaching of the best socialists of all periods, and that although the subject is approached from an entirely different and apparently hitherto neglected point of vantage, the conclusions of "scientific socialism" are for the most part simply brought up to date and interpreted in modern terms.

That this attempt may prove of value in leading the many earnest students of social problems to realize the real nature of the socialist movement is the hope of the writer.

FLOYD J. MELVIN.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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