

**AMERICANIZED
SOCIALISM: A YANKEE
VIEW OF CAPITALISM**

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Americanized Socialism: A Yankee View of Capitalism by James MacKaye

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JAMES MACKAYE

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A M E R I C A N I Z E D
S O C I A L I S M

AMERICANIZED SOCIALISM

*A Yankee View
of Capitalism*

BY

JAMES MACKAYE

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"THE HAPPINESS OF NATIONS," ETC.



UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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1918

PREFACE

Socialists differ about the philosophy and the tactics of socialism, but they agree about its program. Adherence to the program therefore is the test of a socialist. Morris Hillquit, probably the best authority on orthodox socialism in America, is fully in agreement with this position, as shown by the following quotation from an article in the *Metropolitan Magazine* for July, 1912:

"Stated in . . . concrete terms, the Socialist program requires the public or collective ownership and operation of the principal instruments and agencies for the production and distribution of wealth. The land, mines, railroads, steamboats, telegraph and telephone lines, mills, factories, and modern machinery. This is the main program, and the ultimate aim of the whole Socialist movement, the political creed of all Socialists. It is the unfailing test of Socialist adherence, and admits of no limitation, extension, or variation. Whoever accepts this program is a Socialist; whoever does not, is not."

On the basis of this definition, no doubt many persons who did not suspect themselves to be socialists will discover that they are. They will see that socialism and common sense have a closer connection than some reports have led them to believe.

The program of socialism rests both on a material and a moral foundation. The material foundation of socialism as expounded in the philosophy of Karl Marx is not the theme of the following chapters. They are concerned more particularly with the moral foundation, which deserves greater attention than it has heretofore received because the justification of any pro-

posed program must, in the final analysis, be a moral one. The moral foundation of socialism is to be found in the philosophy of utility, which tests all acts or courses of action by their presumable power to promote the happiness of mankind; and if socialism cannot be justified by its usefulness it cannot be justified at all.

Reasons for claiming that a socialism grounded in the philosophy of utility embodies the best traditions of Americanism will be found in the pages to follow. These reasons have not been generally recognized heretofore because the Americanism of the men who founded, and those who saved, this Republic has in the last generation or so been superseded by a Toryism identical in spirit with that against which they contended. Indeed, the proportion of Tories in America to-day is greater than in the time of our Revolution.

But true Americanism during the last generation has not been dead; it has merely been sleeping. With the entrance of this country into a war for democracy it has once more revived, and already is beginning to rebuild our Tory economic institutions on the old American principles. Such a revival of Americanism should not only be everywhere encouraged to the utmost, but should be recognized for what it really is; and it is the main object of the following exposition therefore to point out how the original principles of Yankee democracy, applied to modern industrial conditions, not only justify the program of socialism, but supply a practical American tactic for bringing it to pass.

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