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How Socialism Emancipates Workers to Freely Sell Their Labor

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How Socialism Emancipates Workers to Freely Sell Their Labor

The compulsion of subsistence and absence of tenure over the method of production in a capitalist society forces people to sell their labor-power as a commodity to the highest bidder. This concept is best explained via Marx's theory of alienation. In a general abstract sense, Karl Marx explains alienation as the loss of control over an individual's attribute. The person is alienated from any sense of agency relating to such powers. In a capitalist society, the conditions are ripe for alienation because workers do not own the means of production (Musto, 2021). Due to this, they must trade their labor to others. Precisely, workers are the custodians of their labor; hence they can give up all the claims associated with it by peddling it as merchandise. The result is that workers never own the products they produce. Someone else owns their labor and the goods produced from that labor; hence workers are isolated from the work. In Marx's thinking, labor is a commodity sold in the market. In addition to that, the value of labor is determined similarly to the other commodities. That explains why capitalists use labor as a product in the production practice.

The terms socialism and capitalism are used to pronounce political and economic systems. Theoretically, both terms define different schools of economic thought. One of the significant differences between socialism and capitalism lies in the state's intervention in the economy. In capitalism, the focus is on free-market conditions that enable people to create wealth (Kolodko, 2018). Also, in a capitalist society, goods and services are produced based on the supply and demands of the market. In a socialist structure, the production of goods and services is controlled by the government. In a capitalist economic model, companies manufacture the best products using cheap labor and materials because capitalism is intended to meet the supply and demands of the free market, where the government has no role. In addition to that, in

a capitalist system, the government does not employ the labor, leading to high levels of unemployment during economic downturns. In socialism, the government employs the workforce and the means of production. In addition to that, in some socialist economic models, cooperative unions possess and control the main production methods. A cooperative is an entity owned and independently managed by workers. The major concern in socialism is the equal distribution of resources among individuals (Gilbert & O'Neill, 2019). In addition to that, in a socialist model, the state is one of the major employers. During economic recessions, the government can hire labor, so the people are assured of full-time employment even if the workers are not performing duties demanded in the market.

The transformation of society towards socialism allows workers to sell their labor without exploitation freely. In a socialist world, the nature of work is altered in favor of the workers because no one makes a profit without lifting their hands (Hodgson, 2019). In addition to that, the owners of power and wealth cannot use their influence to set the terms and conditions for others in their work schedules. Instead, workers come together democratically to decide what kind of society they want, the needs to be met, the problems to be solved, and more importantly, how to sell their labor in a manner devoid of exploitation. Furthermore, once hired, workers can make decisions collectively on how to execute their mandate, including the internal compensation of the type of work done. In a socialist society, work is logical, and the decisions are not made by wealthy individuals who are only driven by acquiring more wealth. Hodgson (2019) argues that whereas work is little in a socialist society, the workers are motivated to perform it and take pride in their work, rather than breaking their backs for someone else to profit or castigating them for not performing to their level best when they lack motivation.

Based on my understanding of capitalism and its tendencies, it is crucial to transform into socialism to enjoy selling their labor. In a capitalist system, many employees detest their jobs, but they have to work because it accords them the opportunity to afford the basic needs of life. Karl Marx took issue with how a capitalist system alienates labor by detaching the worker from the end products they produce or their services (Harvey, 2017). Furthermore, in a capitalist system, workers lack control over their waking hours, and they lack a sense of purpose. In such systems, work is allocated not based on societal needs but what is deemed profitable for a chosen few. What capitalist entities do is make money. The result of such a system is the propagation of socially impractical works since they are demanding, and billions of individuals worldwide perform these jobs without a sense of connection to the tasks involved. In this regard, by transforming into a socialist society, people enjoy the freedom to sell their labor in the sense that the goal of job seekers will be to foster a new type of work principle. Instead of giving their labor in a manner that they are exploited, workers will be empowered to participate in work that better their lives and society.

To sum it up, whereas capitalism creates class barriers, a socialist society empowers workers in a manner that enables them to break class barriers. At the same time, they engage in the organization and production of products to live a fulfilled life. Socialism gives the workers an impetus to sell their labor in settings where they acquire democratic controls over their work environment within a democratic economy. Human needs and environmental sustainability are prioritized instead of profit-making for a few individuals. In addition to that, transforming into socialism eliminates the economic divisions in the society by establishing fairness for all workers, regardless of their social status. In such cases, regardless of a person's ethnic background, race or gender, they can acquire work just like any other person. Equality is a

principle in socialism that does not encourage constraints or discredit the value of an individual's output because of their gender. In this regard, socialism will empower both genders in the society to sell their labor, devoid of the artificially established societal constraints that limit the progress of one gender while promoting the progress of another gender.

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