

CPF Bulletin
Late Fall 2025

Horrors of socialist policies in America? I think not!

by Scott Fina

Scott's commentary was published by the Santa Maria Times and also carried by the Lompoc Record, Hanford Sentinel, and Santa Ynez Valley News. See the link to the published article here:

https://santamariatimes.com/opinion/columnists/horrors-of-socialist-policies-in-america-i-think-not-guest-commentary/article_778cb4c5-9fa1-4837-81f2-55b56ace60a4.html

On November 21, 2025 was an unusual day for politics in Washington, D.C.

Zohran Mamdani, the 34-year-old, Muslim, democratic socialist, mayor-elect of New York City, met with President Trump in the White House. The president was surprisingly [out of character](#) during the meeting, congratulating Mamdani on his electoral victory, complimenting him for his political savvy, and offering him support.

Earlier that day, in the U.S. Capitol Building, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution, [H.Con.Res.58](#), titled "Denouncing the horrors of socialism". The resolution "denounces socialism in all its forms, and opposes the implementation of socialist policies in the United States."

The [vote](#) in the House on the resolution was remarkably bipartisan: 199 Republicans and 86 Democrats passed it with a total of 285 "yeas.". Among the Democrats who supported the resolution were House Minority Leader, Representative Hakeem Jeffries (from New York City) and 13 from California, including Salud Carbajal, representing Santa Barbara County and parts of San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties.

On November 21, the U.S. political world was upside down!

There's little doubt that H.Con.Res.58 was inspired by the election of Mamdani, with a collateral shot taken at [Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#), who also identify as democratic socialists. There's plenty of doubt, however, that the text of the resolution is accurate or anywhere near reasonable.

Consider this statement in the resolution: "socialist ideology necessitates a concentration of power that has time and time again, collapsed into communist regimes, totalitarian rule, and brutal dictatorships"... leading "to famine and mass murders, and the killing of over 100,000,000 people worldwide...."

This statement belies what socialism actually entails.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, socialism refers to “any of various egalitarian economic and political theories or movements advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distributions of goods.” Surely terms like “egalitarian” and “collective” in this definition are far removed from the concept of a “concentration in power” claimed in the H.Con.Res.58 resolution. Moreover, the supporters of the resolution seem to have a blind eye toward a blatant concentration of power in what is increasingly a mix of oligarchy and corporatocracy in our nation.

Here I refer readers to an extensive study in 2014 by scholars from Princeton and Northwestern Universities, “[Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens](#)”. The study found that a limited number of [wealthy elites](#) have extensive influence over political outcomes, while average citizens have very little.

Oxfam published a November 3, 2025 study titled, “[Inequality: The Rise of a New American Oligarchy and the Agenda We Need](#)”, confirming the U.S. is already or quickly moving toward an oligarchy. Here are some striking facts about American inequality from the Oxfam study that should make folks question Congress’s concern with concentration of power due to any socialist policies:

“Although the U.S. has far and away the world’s largest economy and is home to more billionaires than any country, tens of millions of people face significant economic hardship and financial distress. According to the most recent data from 2024, 35.9 million people live below the bare-bones official poverty threshold—a poverty line considered by many too low to cover the cost of basics like food and housing, just \$32,130 for a family of four. Over 40% of the country— including 48.9% of children—live below 200% of the supplemental poverty threshold and are thus considered poor or low income. Credit card delinquencies recently hit their highest in over a decade, and last year, 43% of families had difficulty paying bills. This extreme inequality also defines access to housing, food, and care.”

Facts from a report generated by the Federal Reserve, “[Distribution of Household Wealth in the U.S. since 1989](#)”, reveal an even more salient picture of inequality among Americans. In the second fiscal quarter of 2025, the top .1% of Americans held 23.33 trillion dollars of wealth; the next top .9% held 28.53 trillion; the next top 9% held 60.93 trillion, the next top 40% held 50.27 trillion, while the bottom 50% held only 4.21 trillion.

Then there is the escalation of American corporatocracy, thanks in large part to the U.S. Supreme Court in its 2010, “[Citizens United v. Federal Election](#)”, decision, allowing corporations to flood elections with politically influential monies.

Perhaps the most questionable argument in the H.Con.Res.58 resolution is its claim that socialism led to the rise of such criminal totalitarian leaders as “Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, Pol Pot, Kim Jong il, Kim Jong Un, Daniel Ortega, Hugo Chavez, and Nicolás Maduro”.

Interestingly, the two U.S. presidents who supported policies that were most socialistic in American history, were Franklin Delano Roosevelt with his “New Deal” programs during the Great Depression, and Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s with his “Great Society” programs. Among the numerous programs launched under these presidents were Social Security, Welfare, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamp programs, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and Head Start, all of which continue to serve Americans today.

How is it that Roosevelt and Johnson did not become criminal totalitarians? And fascinatingly, a majority of Americans today support the socialist programs that were launched under these presidents and remain operational. Are not housing, nutrition, health care, and education basic human needs, and thereby human rights, as opposed to private, profit-making enterprises?

Americans beware: there is immense influence of concentrated wealth on policies addressing taxes and social welfare protections, over which few of us and especially those in need, have little say. None need look any further than the House of Representatives to see that influence in action. Let's hope for such a different America!

Reminder: PAX Christi online meeting December 15, 4:30pm

Please email us at CPFphila@gmail.com if you wish to join us.

Second Sunday CPF Phila meeting After the 10 am Mass at
St. Malachy 1429 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122 Starting about 11:45 pm

CPF Phila - Second Sunday - Link for 14 Dec 2025; Join Zoom Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605561453?pwd=KrkuNCbymCwRheW96ChOHldxHINTXK.1>

Meeting ID: 816 0556 1453

Passcode: 074595



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We thank you all again for your interest and generosity,

Catholic Peace Fellowship

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