

Marxism & Culture War FAQ

1. Why is Marxism important today?

Because there appears to be a cultural civil war going on in America today between far left *progressive* ideals (Marxist ideas) and traditional American values and beliefs. Many who are involved on either side aren't aware that the ideas from the left are actually Marxism or that the ideas on the right are part of a much broader set of ideals upon which America was founded. Collectively, these American ideas can be called *Conservative* or *Conservativism*.

2. But wait, aren't Marxists communists?

You could say that, yes. But they have gone by many names. In America they often call themselves *socialists* or even *democratic socialists*, sometimes *progressives* or sometimes even *radicals* or *activists*. I would imagine that many socialists would not self-identify as communists but prefer something along the lines of *social justice activist*. But there are two overarching organizations in America today: 1) *Communist Party USA* and 2) *Democratic Socialists of America*. I think it's fair to say these are two of the main communist organizations in America today. But there are about 30 or so other organizations that also have various degrees connection to other communist organizations.

3. So what's a conservative?

Ultimately, a conservative believes in conserving the original values and beliefs of the founding fathers as expressed in *The Declaration of Independence* and *The United States Constitution*. Those two documents contain a distillation of the foundational American beliefs: 1) Government's first role is to protect inalienable (inherent) human rights, 2) These human rights do not come from government, but from God or Nature or The Universe (or Someplace Inexplicable), so Government cannot (or must not) amend or abridge them, 3) These rights include Life, Liberty, The Pursuit of Happiness, and Property (more discussion required on that last one, but it was in the original drafts—it was thought to be redundant by writers of that day). These Human Rights were put into law as the *Bill of Rights*, also known as the first 10 Amendments to the US Constitution.

One preeminent value is that *we the people* are ultimately responsible for the government. If the government stops being responsive to us we are responsible for re-electing people who will be responsive. Unfortunately, today we seem to have a political elite who have stopped listening to we the people. They have created bureaucracy that doesn't answer to the people even for funding. This is called *The Swamp* and it's a serious threat to our freedom. Conservatives argue against the permanent political class as embodied in *The Swamp* and try to create a smaller version of federal government that is responsive to state and local governments and especially to we the people. We want representatives who represent our values and interests, not just the values and interests of the permanent political class and elites.

4. Is that all there is to it?

I suppose on one simplistic level, you could say yes. But honestly, human beings can get very complicated. Another part of being human seems to be arguing about ideas. A free society should be full of arguing and discussing of ideas. We humans can get tendencious in our ideas, and we usually require lots of discussion and argument to begin to see perspectives beyond our own. The fundamental American values protect this discussion and arguing. It helps us humans to grow and evolve. The Founding Fathers had lots of arguments. Ironically, full-blown Marxism or Communism would see this as a threat to the totallitarian state and forbid this type of discussion, much like we've seen happen in Hong Kong under the CCP's rule. Discussion and Arguing is supposed to be healthy and necessary to growing and evolving individually and collectively. Censorship prevents that freedom and is really more indicative of a totallitarian level of influence that is against the intentions of the *Declaration* and the *US Constitution*.

5. So why do people become Marxists or Socialists or Communists?

I'm sure the reasons are as varied as why people become Christians or Buddhists or other faiths. I'm not sure, but I don't think Marxists believe in any sort of God or Higher Power. I'm pretty sure they believe that Man is it. That the Mind of Man is about as good as it gets here in this life. So we want deliverance from our Life Conditions, it must come from man himself, not from any higher power. The State, for them, is the ultimate answer.

Beyond this point, motives become quite individualistic and murky. I would bet that many social activists do not even know that they are following Marxist tentants or that their history goes back to the Jacobians and the *Reign of Terror* following the *French Revolution* in the 18th century, not just to Karl Marx or Fredrich Engels. There's actually an entire genealogy of ideas for Marxism. You could read Marx's poetry to see his own evolution from a believer in God as a boy to a devout Athiest, or possibly a Satanist, as an adult. Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals* is dedicated to Lucifer, the first radical, if that gives you any clue as to his possible motivations and orientation. The Hebrew word for Lucifer means "Bringer of Light", so that's another possible perspective. In any event, you can always just ask the nearest socialist about their motivations.

Marxists tend to have a completely different notion of history and economic and social theory. Personally, I fail to see how history supports their claims or Marx's claims. I cannot think of a single instance in history where Marxist ideas have created a Utopia, except possibly for the top 0.5% of party elites who survive the mass murders following a revolution. Marxist ideas create social destruction and eventual revolution, not Utopia. I'm open to hearing counter examples.

6. What does *far left* or *far right* mean?

I think of it this way: imagine a horizontal line in front of you. This line represents a spectrum of levels of government involvement in the day to day affairs of its citizens. At the far left is Total Involvement in *every* aspect of life, and at the far right is Zero Involvement in the day to day affairs of

life. At the far left end you have Totalitarian regimes, such as Naziism, Communism, Radical Socialism and so on. At the Far Right you would have no government at all, so you could have anything from Utopia where people are literally all angels and require no governing to Law of the Jungle. Do whatever you can get away with.

The *Declaration of Independence* and the *US Constitution* tried to place federal authority in the center where it was powerful enough to provide government to fallable human beings and not intrude on their state and local governments but still protect individual rights and provide liberty to all individuals. No mean feat. The Democratic Party was always a little left of center and what became the Republican Party was always a little right of center.

Today, these words are often misused and associated with rhetoric and propaganda. There is often little or no reference to historical meanings of these terms.

7. Why is all this so hard to understand?

Part of it is that people are trying to persuade you one way or the other, so they aren't telling you the whole truth. Another part of it is that you have to do your own research and make up your own mind, so work is required to make an informed decision. Another part of it is that your perspective will be ever-changing as you continue to evolve as a human being, so there is no one-answer-fits-all, unless you're very lazy. Still another part is that as human beings, we are not omniscient and will always have some bias.

Still another part of all this is that America was always intended to be a place where arguments could happen passionately and hopefully with some level of safety. Unfortunately, today it has become unsafe to argue as censorship and political correctness have overtaken many college campuses, corporate boardrooms, and public forums. It is quite common for people on the right to be called Racist, Fascist, or have their accounts closed or limited for expressing conservative views.

In essence, the Left has become so powerful that they don't *need* to listen to the Right. So they don't. As open discussion is curtailed about these ideas, we don't get exposed to all the questions and answers that a full understanding requires. This lack of open conversation leads to more misinformation and people being under-informed.

8. So why do we have a cultural civil war now?

Because we have enough people in the country who were raised without a spiritual or religious tradition, so they believe *man is as good as it gets* and that a belief in God or The Universe or Spirituality is superstitious. Also, people who have not been educated with a Classical Education (where students learn *The True, The Good, and The Beautiful*) don't understand the reasons why America was founded on the principles it was founded upon. They don't understand the long legacy of American values that extends back into the history of Western Civilization. They fall for ideas like "American founders were a bunch of slavers and immoral white people who stole everything." To learn the true history of America, you have to do some research. You have to do some work, since they don't teach all this stuff in schools anymore. Lots of people don't know it, and there's always more to

learn about history. We have a cultural civil war because of ignorance and because our morality has declined, and because our clarity becomes distorted in this condition.

9. Marxists talk about Utopia, isn't that a good thing?

It would be if it ever happened in the history of communism. In reality, Marxism is more of a technology for creating revolution. Historically, totalitarian Marxist regimes have never created anything like a utopia. Usually there are mass murders and misery and lots and lots of lying and propaganda. Again, you have to do enough research to see beyond the propaganda.

Capitalism can produce *inequality of result* and tries to provide *equality of opportunity*. Marxism guarantees *equality of results*, but the results are usually equally miserable. I say usually because the elites who live in a totalitarian regime live extremely well compared to everyone else. The Communist Party Bosses tend to live like kings.

10. Isn't this all just Republicans versus Democrats?

No, not really. Not all Republicans are conservatives and not all Democrats are Marxists. As the Democratic party leadership have become increasingly Marxist, the party has moved further to the left on the political power spectrum I mentioned earlier. As the Democratic Party has moved to the left, the Republican Party has also moved to the left. Today, true conservatives have called themselves Libertarians, Christians, Ever Trumpers, and so on. The MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement is largely a conservative movement.

Donald Trump is an extremely controversial figure, especially to those on the Left, which includes about 95% of the mainstream media. The Left tried to impeach him twice (unsuccessfully), and the last time he had already left office, so they were trying unconstitutionally to impeach a citizen to prevent him from running for office again. They failed in both attempts at impeachment. But his conservative ideas are extremely threatening to the standing establishment in Washington, which is predominantly Democratic and Leftist at this point.

Political parties can swing from one idea to another, but a Constitutional Republic and a Communist Regime tend to be more fixed ideas. Communism is completely incompatible with American values. Today, there are about 100 or so federal senators and representatives with direct ties to Communist organizations. They couldn't pass a criminal background check to drive your child's school bus, but they can be your senator or house representative.

Today's Americans first need to learn their own history and understand it. Then they need to decide if they want to throw it all away and become another communist country.

11. But aren't Republicans Racist?

Racism and hatred and Bigotry can find their way into any human heart. It's part of the human condition that fear leads to hatred, hatred leads to discrimination and racism. All humans have to remember to find the common humanity in each other, regardless of where our ancestors came from,

regardless of our cultural traditions. The idea of America was to allow people of many cultures to come to America and adopt a common set of beliefs where they could preserve their native cultures freely, as long as they didn't impinge on anyone else's right to do the same. That's a conservative ideal.

Historically, the Democratic Party was the defender of slavery, eugenics, and the Ku Klux Klan. There were possibly two Republicans who owned slaves. But they were Democrats when they owned the slaves, and then joined the Republican party after their slaves were freed.

Conservatives believe in the Rule of Law. That all people are equal under the law. They believe that even politicians in high office should be arrested when they break the law. Unfortunately, this rarely ever happens today, and the law is applied very unevenly between the rich and the poor.

12. What is Critical Race Theory?

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is the notion that societies all suffer from discrepancies of power or influence, and that some races or classes will always be oppressor races and other races will always be the oppressed races. In America, CRT-believers say that blacks, for example, are always oppressed and that whites are always oppressors, purely because of their skin color. They also teach that blacks cannot become racist and that whites cannot become anything except racist.

CRT attacks and undermines the central American ideal of *Epluribus Unum* or "Out of Many, One." It attacks the American ideal that by adopting a common respect and decency for all human beings and their rights as enumerated in the Bill of Rights, we create a common conceptual American Race--or family, even--based on our core beliefs. The American ideal is to respect all people regardless of their individual identities because we all share an American identity.

13. If it's so bad, why do so many people believe in Marxism?

Perhaps the central question, this. My simple answer is 1) We've all but lost the idea of Classical Education here in America, which is central to our way of life. 2) We've experienced an enormous moral decay over time, including a loss of spiritual practice and faith. 3) The forces behind these changes have been at it invisibly for 70 plus years, and they've been extremely organized about it. These changes have largely happened over the span of a single lifetime, even though the forces behind it have been active for much longer.

14. Are you talking about a deep conspiratorial rabbit hole?

It definitely sounds that way doesn't it? Like some film noire movie? But think of it more as a business plan behind closed doors. People do that all the time. It's just a business plan. Imagine one corporation wants to eliminate their competition and achieve a monopoly in their particular business sector. That way, they could lower their cost and maximize their profits without innovating a

commensurate value. This is ironic, because Marxists, while decrying the inequalities of free markets, have themselves become expert manipulators of those same markets, including the principles of marketing, propaganda, and advertising. Cultural marxism is an expert's master class in manipulating public opinion and achieving amazing results over time. It will take some work and research to catch up, but many things will start to make sense when you do this work.

15. So what do we do now?

There's no quick fix. It's taken a long time to get this far along the wrong path. It will take time to correct our country's direction. But the country was founded according individual needs, not collective needs. By serving the individual, we serve the collective.

First, we need to learn and understand our own American history. I would start with our Declaration of Independence and then the US Constitution. Then read *The Federalist Papers*. Hillsdale College has some excellent courses on these original documents. This education needs to continue for our entire life. As students of life, we need to be interested in *The Good, The True, and The Beautiful*. Some choices lead to freedom while other choices lead to slavery. We need to be able to recognize the difference.

Second, we need to cultivate genuine spiritual values. We need to respect humanity and the goodness of our potential. This will require a commitment to some kind of spiritual practice. Spiritual values are a fundamental part of American values.

Third, we need to get smarter about lies. The adversaries of American values will weaponize our own compassion against us. They call conservatives racist even when it is completely illogical according to their own precepts (black conservatives are often called racist, which according to CRT is not possible). Social justice activists will commonly use semantic and logical tricks to make their ideas seem "right", but those tricks are manipulative. If you slow down and back track, you can find the logical errors they have used to trick you. So part of your education has to be based in understanding rhetoric and how it can be misused to manipulate people. Communists are really good at it.

Fourth, since our American institutions have largely been infiltrated and subverted by the Left, we need to rebuild patriot institutions that are founded on American ideals. This is currently happening in America. We need to boycott corporations who support Communist values and buycott those companies who support traditional American values.