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\*Broad and Shallow Knowledge for Intellectual Conversations\*

Vol 1. [Reality] Chapter 2. [Economics] Part 9.

> \*\*[Distinction between communism and socialism]\*\* - What’s communism and what’s socialism

It’s well known that these two are similar, and not easy to differentiate them. It’s because people used different terms in different times, regions, and people. Here are three main ways to distinguish them.

First is the leading subject of the revolution. Communism says workers the main subjects who solve social and economic problems and create a worker-centric world. Whereas socialism says workers are not actually equipped with the ability to overcome themselves so the elite class or the bourgeoisie must give up their rights and guarantee workers' rights. So here, the distinction is based on who can change society.

Second way is by means and ends. Goal of communism is workers’ dictatorship where workers can secure their own rights. But it can’t just change current capitalism society into worker-centric society in one day. So, a transitional state is needed where few political elites can substitute the state and the government, and that’s socialism. So here, the distinction is based on looking at communism as the ultimate goal, and socialism its transitional state.

Third is inclusion. Socialism can be seen a broad concept of a planned economy led by the state, and communism is especially planned economy led by workers.

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Socialism │ Communism

subject of revolution │ Elites │ Workers

stage of revolution │ Means │ Ends

inclusion │ Socialism ⊃ Communism

(moderate) (radical)

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There are other ways, but to busy people like us, minor differences don’t look that important. But keep in mind that socialism reforms society moderately, and communism more radically and directly. And they’re usually used in the similar vein, and the similarity is the state-led economic development promoted by government intervention.

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