[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Use American English](/wiki/Template:Use_American_English) [Template:Communism sidebar](/wiki/Template:Communism_sidebar) [Template:Basic forms of government](/wiki/Template:Basic_forms_of_government) In [political](/wiki/Political_science) and [social sciences](/wiki/Social_science), **communism** (from [Latin](/wiki/Latin) *communis*, "common, universal")[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) is a social, political, and economic ideology and movement whose ultimate goal is the establishment of the [communist society](/wiki/Communist_society), which is a socioeconomic order structured upon the [common ownership](/wiki/Common_ownership) of the [means of production](/wiki/Means_of_production) and the absence of [social classes](/wiki/Social_class), [money](/wiki/Money),[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) and the [state](/wiki/State_(polity)).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Communism includes a variety of schools of thought, which broadly include [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism), [anarchism](/wiki/Anarchism) ([anarchist communism](/wiki/Anarchist_communism)), and the political ideologies grouped around both. All these hold in common the analysis that the current order of society stems from its economic system, [capitalism](/wiki/Capitalism), that in this system, there are two major social classes: the [working class](/wiki/Proletariat) – who must work to survive, and who make up a majority of society – and the [capitalist class](/wiki/Bourgeoisie) – a minority who derive profit from employing the proletariat, through private ownership of the [means of production](/wiki/Means_of_production) (the physical and institutional means with which commodities are produced and distributed), and that political, social and economic [conflict between these two classes](/wiki/Class_conflict) will trigger a fundamental change in the economic system, and by extension a wide-ranging transformation of [society](/wiki/Society). The primary element which will enable this transformation, according to this analysis, is the [social ownership](/wiki/Social_ownership) of the means of production.

## Contents

* 1 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
  + 1.1 Early communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 1.2 Modern communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 1.3 Cold War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 1.4 Dissolution of the Soviet Union[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
* 2 Marxist communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.1 Marxism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.2 Leninism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 2.3 Marxism–Leninism, Stalinism, and Trotskyism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
    - 2.3.1 Marxism–Leninism and Stalinism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
    - 2.3.2 Trotskyism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 2.4 Libertarian Marxism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 2.5 Council communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 2.6 Left communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
* 3 Non-Marxist communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 3.1 Anarchist communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 3.2 Christian communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
* 4 Criticism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
* 5 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
* 6 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 7 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Early communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

The origins of communism are debatable, and there are various historical groups, as well as theorists, whose beliefs have subsequently been described as communist. German philosopher [Karl Marx](/wiki/Karl_Marx) saw [primitive communism](/wiki/Primitive_communism) as the original, [hunter-gatherer](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) state of humankind from which it arose. For Marx, only after humanity was capable of producing [surplus](/wiki/Economic_surplus), did private property develop. The idea of a classless, egalitarian society first emerged in [Ancient Greece](/wiki/Ancient_Greece).[[7]](#cite_note-7)[thumbnail|175px|A monument dedicated to](/wiki/File:Marx_et_Engels_à_Shanghai.jpg) [Karl Marx](/wiki/Karl_Marx) (left) and [Friedrich Engels](/wiki/Friedrich_Engels) (right) in Shanghai, [China](/wiki/China). In the [history of Western thought](/wiki/History_of_Western_philosophy), certain elements of the idea of a society based on common ownership of property can be traced back to [ancient times](/wiki/Ancient_history). Examples include the [Spartacus](/wiki/Spartacus) [slave revolt](/wiki/Slave_rebellion) in Rome.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The 5th-century [Mazdak](/wiki/Mazdak) movement in [Persia (Iran)](/wiki/Iran) has been described as "communistic" for challenging the enormous privileges of the noble classes and the clergy, criticizing the institution of [private property](/wiki/Private_property) and for striving for an egalitarian society.[[9]](#cite_note-9) At one time or another, various small communist communities existed, generally under the inspiration of [Scripture](/wiki/Scripture).[[10]](#cite_note-10) In the [medieval](/wiki/Middle_Ages) [Christian church](/wiki/Christian_Church), for example, some [monastic](/wiki/Monasticism) communities and [religious orders](/wiki/Religious_order) shared their land and other property (see [*Religious*](/wiki/Religious_communism) and [*Christian communism*](/wiki/Christian_communism)).

Communist thought has also been traced back to the work of the 16th-century English writer [Thomas More](/wiki/Thomas_More). In his treatise [*Utopia*](/wiki/Utopia_(book)) (1516), More portrayed a society based on [common ownership](/wiki/Common_ownership) of property, whose rulers administered it through the application of reason. In the 17th century, communist thought surfaced again in England, where a [Puritan](/wiki/Puritan) [religious group](/wiki/Religious_denomination) known as the "[Diggers](/wiki/Diggers)" advocated the abolition of private ownership of land.[[11]](#cite_note-11) [Eduard Bernstein](/wiki/Eduard_Bernstein), in his 1895 *Cromwell and Communism*[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) argued that several groupings in the [English Civil War](/wiki/English_Civil_War), especially the [Diggers](/wiki/Diggers), espoused clear communistic, agrarian ideals, and that [Oliver Cromwell's](/wiki/Oliver_Cromwell) attitude to these groups was at best ambivalent and often hostile.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Criticism of the idea of private property continued into the [Age of Enlightenment](/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment) of the 18th century, through such thinkers as [Jean Jacques Rousseau](/wiki/Jean_Jacques_Rousseau) in France. Later, following the upheaval of the [French Revolution](/wiki/French_Revolution), communism emerged as a political doctrine.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Various social reformers in the early 19th century founded communities based on common ownership. But unlike many previous communist communities, they replaced the religious emphasis with a rational and philanthropic basis.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Notable among them were [Robert Owen](/wiki/Robert_Owen), who founded [New Harmony](/wiki/New_Harmony,_Indiana) in Indiana (1825), and [Charles Fourier](/wiki/Charles_Fourier), whose followers organized other settlements in the United States such as [Brook Farm](/wiki/Brook_Farm) (1841–47).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Later in the 19th century, [Karl Marx](/wiki/Karl_Marx) described these social reformers as "[utopian socialists](/wiki/Utopian_socialism)" to contrast them with his program of "[scientific socialism](/wiki/Scientific_socialism)" (a term coined by [Friedrich Engels](/wiki/Friedrich_Engels)). Other writers described by Marx as "utopian socialists" included [Saint-Simon](/wiki/Claude_Henri_de_Rouvroy,_comte_de_Saint-Simon).

In its modern form, communism grew out of the socialist movement of 19th-century Europe. As the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) advanced, socialist critics blamed capitalism for the misery of the [proletariat](/wiki/Proletariat)—a new class of urban factory workers who labored under often-hazardous conditions. Foremost among these critics were Marx and his associate Friedrich Engels. In 1848, Marx and Engels offered a new definition of communism and popularized the term in their famous pamphlet [*The Communist Manifesto*](/wiki/The_Communist_Manifesto).[[13]](#cite_note-13)

### Modern communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|275px|Countries of the world now (red) or previously (orange) having nominally Marxist–Leninist governments.](/wiki/File:Communism.svg) The [1917 October Revolution](/wiki/October_Revolution) in Russia set the conditions for the rise to state power of Lenin's [Bolsheviks](/wiki/Bolsheviks), which was the first time any avowedly communist party reached that position. The revolution transferred power to the [All-Russian Congress of Soviets](/wiki/All-Russian_Congress_of_Soviets),[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) in which the Bolsheviks had a majority. The event generated a great deal of practical and theoretical debate within the Marxist movement. Marx predicted that [socialism](/wiki/Socialism) and communism would be built upon foundations laid by the most advanced capitalist development. Russia, however, was one of the poorest countries in Europe with an enormous, largely illiterate peasantry and a minority of industrial workers. Marx had explicitly stated that Russia might be able to skip the stage of bourgeois rule.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Other socialists also believed that a [Russian revolution](/wiki/October_Revolution) could be the precursor of workers' revolutions in the West.

The moderate [Mensheviks](/wiki/Menshevik) opposed Lenin's Bolshevik plan for [socialist revolution](/wiki/Communist_revolution) before capitalism was more fully developed. The Bolsheviks' successful rise to power was based upon the slogans such as "Peace, bread, and land" which tapped the massive public desire for an end to Russian involvement in the [First World War](/wiki/World_War_I), the peasants' demand for [land reform](/wiki/Land_reform), and popular support for the [Soviets](/wiki/Soviet_(council)).[[18]](#cite_note-18) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Soviet_Union,_Lenin_(55).jpg)[Vladimir Lenin](/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin) after his return to [Petrograd](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg). The [Second International](/wiki/Second_International) had dissolved in 1916 over national divisions, as the separate national parties that composed it did not maintain a unified front against the [war](/wiki/World_War_I), instead generally supporting their respective nation's role. Lenin thus created the [Third International](/wiki/Third_International) (Comintern) in 1919 and sent the [Twenty-one Conditions](/wiki/Twenty-one_Conditions), which included [democratic centralism](/wiki/Democratic_centralism), to all European [socialist parties](/wiki/Democratic_socialism) willing to adhere. In France, for example, the majority of the [French Section of the Workers' International](/wiki/French_Section_of_the_Workers'_International) (SFIO) party split in 1921 to form the [French Section of the Communist International](/wiki/French_Communist_Party) (SFIC). Henceforth, the term "Communism" was applied to the objective of the parties founded under the umbrella of the Comintern. Their program called for the uniting of workers of the world for revolution, which would be followed by the establishment of a [dictatorship of the proletariat](/wiki/Dictatorship_of_the_proletariat) as well as the development of a [socialist economy](/wiki/Socialist_economics).

During the [Russian Civil War](/wiki/Russian_Civil_War) (1918–1922), the Bolsheviks [nationalized](/wiki/Nationalization) all productive property and imposed a policy named [war communism](/wiki/War_communism), which put factories and railroads under strict government control, collected and rationed food, and introduced some bourgeois management of industry. After three years of war and the 1921 [Kronstadt rebellion](/wiki/Kronstadt_rebellion), Lenin declared the [New Economic Policy](/wiki/New_Economic_Policy) (NEP) in 1921, which was to give a "limited place for a limited time to capitalism." The NEP lasted until 1928, when [Joseph Stalin](/wiki/Joseph_Stalin) achieved party leadership, and the introduction of the Five Year Plans spelled the end of it. Following the Russian Civil War, the Bolsheviks, in 1922, [formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics](/wiki/History_of_Soviet_Russia_and_the_Soviet_Union_(1917–1927)#Creation_of_the_USSR) (USSR), or Soviet Union, from the former [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire). [150px|thumb|USSR postage stamp depicting the launch of the first artificial satellite,](/wiki/File:Sputnik-stamp-ussr.jpg) [Sputnik 1](/wiki/Sputnik_1). Following Lenin's democratic centralism, the Leninist parties were organized on a hierarchical basis, with active cells of members as the broad base; they were made up only of elite [cadres](/wiki/Professional_revolutionaries) approved by higher members of the party as being reliable and completely subject to [party discipline](/wiki/Party_discipline).[[19]](#cite_note-19) The [Great Purge](/wiki/Great_Purge) of 1937–1938 was Stalin's attempt to destroy any possible opposition within the Communist Party. In the [Moscow Trials](/wiki/Moscow_Trials) many old Bolsheviks who had played prominent roles during the Russian Revolution of 1917, or in Lenin's Soviet government afterwards, including [Kamenev](/wiki/Lev_Kamenev), [Zinoviev](/wiki/Grigory_Zinoviev), [Rykov](/wiki/Alexei_Rykov), and [Bukharin](/wiki/Nikolai_Bukharin), were accused, pleaded guilty, and executed.[[20]](#cite_note-20)

### Cold War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Its leading role in the [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War) saw the emergence of the Soviet Union as a superpower, with strong influence over Eastern Europe and parts of [Asia](/wiki/Asia). The European and Japanese empires were shattered and Communist parties played a leading role in many independence movements. Marxist–Leninist governments modeled on the Soviet Union took power with Soviet assistance in [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria), [Czechoslovakia](/wiki/Czechoslovakia), [East Germany](/wiki/East_Germany), [Poland](/wiki/Poland), [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) and [Romania](/wiki/Romania). A Marxist–Leninist government was also created under [Marshal Tito](/wiki/Joseph_Tito) in [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia), but Tito's independent policies led to the expulsion of [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) from the [Cominform](/wiki/Cominform), which had replaced the [Comintern](/wiki/Comintern), and [Titoism](/wiki/Titoism) was branded "[deviationist](/wiki/Deviationism)". [Albania](/wiki/Albania) also became an independent Marxist–Leninist state after World War II.[[21]](#cite_note-21) By 1950, the [Chinese Marxist–Leninists](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China) had taken over all of [mainland China](/wiki/Mainland_China). In the [Korean War](/wiki/Korean_War) and [Vietnam War](/wiki/Vietnam_War), communists fought for power in their countries against the [United States](/wiki/United_States) and its allies. With varying degrees of success, communists attempted to unite with [nationalist](/wiki/Nationalism) and [socialist](/wiki/Socialism) forces against perceived [Western](/wiki/Western_world) [imperialism](/wiki/Imperialism) in these poor countries.

Communism was seen as a rival of and a threat to western capitalism for most of the 20th century.[[22]](#cite_note-22) This rivalry peaked during the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War), as the world's two remaining superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, polarized most of the world into two camps of nations. They supported the spread of their respective economic and political systems. As a result, the camps expanded their military capacity, stockpiled [nuclear weapons](/wiki/Nuclear_weapon), and competed in space exploration. [[Image:Gdp per capita 1965.png|thumb|right|275px|Countries by GDP (nominal) per capita in 1965 based on a West-German school book (1971).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) | [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) |

]]

### Dissolution of the Soviet Union[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) In 1985, [Mikhail Gorbachev](/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev) became leader of the Soviet Union and relaxed central control, in accordance with reform policies of [glasnost](/wiki/Glasnost) (openness) and [perestroika](/wiki/Perestroika) (restructuring). The Soviet Union did not intervene as [Poland](/wiki/Poland), [East Germany](/wiki/East_Germany), [Czechoslovakia](/wiki/Czechoslovakia), [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria), [Romania](/wiki/Romania), and [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) all abandoned Marxist–Leninist rule by 1990. In 1991, the [Soviet Union dissolved](/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union).

At present, states controlled by Marxist–Leninist parties under a single-party system include the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China), [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba), [Laos](/wiki/Laos), and [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam). [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea) currently refers to its leading ideology as [Juche](/wiki/Juche), which is portrayed as a development of Marxism–Leninism. Communist parties, or their descendant parties, remain politically important in a number of other countries. The [South African Communist Party](/wiki/South_African_Communist_Party) is a partner in the [African National Congress](/wiki/African_National_Congress)-led government. [In India](/wiki/Communism_in_India), communists lead the governments of three [states](/wiki/States_and_territories_of_India), with a combined population of more than 115 million. In [Nepal](/wiki/Nepal), communists hold a majority in the [parliament](/wiki/Nepalese_Constituent_Assembly).[[23]](#cite_note-23) The [Communist Party of Brazil](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Brazil) is a part of the parliamentary coalition led by the ruling democratic socialist Workers' Party and is represented in the [executive cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Brazil) of [Dilma Rousseff](/wiki/Dilma_Rousseff).

The People's Republic of China has reassessed many aspects of the Maoist legacy; it, along with Laos, Vietnam, and, to a lesser degree Cuba, has reduced state control of the economy in order to stimulate growth. [Chinese economic reforms](/wiki/Chinese_economic_reform) were started in 1978 under the leadership of [Deng Xiaoping](/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping); since then, China has managed to bring down the poverty rate from 53% in the Mao era to just 6% in 2001.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The People's Republic of China runs [Special Economic Zones](/wiki/Special_Economic_Zone) dedicated to market-oriented enterprise, free from [central government](/wiki/Central_government) control. Several other states run by self-proclaimed Marxist–Leninist parties have also attempted to implement market-based reforms, including Vietnam.

The ruling stratum of the Soviet Union was, according to Trotskyism, held to be a bureaucratic [caste](/wiki/Caste), but not a new [ruling class](/wiki/Ruling_class), despite its political control.

## Marxist communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

### Marxism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Marxism](/wiki/Template:Marxism)

[Marxism](/wiki/Marxism), first developed by [Karl Marx](/wiki/Karl_Marx) and [Friedrich Engels](/wiki/Friedrich_Engels), has been the foremost ideology of the communist movement. Marxism considers itself to be the embodiment of [scientific socialism](/wiki/Scientific_socialism); rather than model an "ideal society" based on intellectuals' design, it is a non-idealist attempt at the understanding of society and history, through an analysis based in real life. Marxism does not see communism as a "state of affairs" to be established, but rather as the expression of a real movement, with parameters which are derived completely from real life and not based on any intelligent design.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Marxism, therefore, does no blueprinting of a communist society; it only makes an analysis which concludes what will trigger its implementation, and discovers its fundamental characteristics based on the derivation of real life conditions.

At the root of Marxism is the [materialist conception of history](/wiki/Materialist_conception_of_history), known as *historical materialism* for short. It holds that the key characteristic of economic systems through history has been the [mode of production](/wiki/Mode_of_production), and that the change between modes of production has been triggered by [class struggle](/wiki/Class_struggle). According to this analysis, the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) ushered the world into a new mode of production: [capitalism](/wiki/Capitalist_mode_of_production_(Marxist_theory)). Before capitalism, certain working classes had ownership of instruments utilized in production. But because machinery was much more efficient, this property became worthless, and the mass majority of workers could only survive by selling their labor, working through making use of someone else's machinery, and therefore making someone else profit. Thus with capitalism, the world was divided between two major classes: the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.[[26]](#cite_note-26) These classes are directly antagonistic: the bourgeoisie has private ownership of the means of production and earns a profit off [surplus value](/wiki/Surplus_value), which is generated by the proletariat, which has no ownership of the means of production and therefore no option but to sell its labor to the bourgeoisie.

Historical materialism goes on and says: the rising bourgeoisie within feudalism, through the furtherance of its own material interests, captured power and abolished, of all relations of private property, only the feudal privileges, and with this took out of existence the feudal ruling class. This was another of the keys behind the consolidation of capitalism as the new mode of production, which is the final expression of class and property relations, and also has led into a massive expansion of production. It is, therefore, only in capitalism that private property in itself can be abolished.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The proletariat, similarly, will capture political power, abolish bourgeois property through the common ownership of the means of production, therefore abolishing the bourgeoisie, and ultimately abolishing the proletariat itself, and ushering the world into a new mode of production: communism. In between capitalism and communism there is the [dictatorship of the proletariat](/wiki/Dictatorship_of_the_proletariat), a democratic state where the whole of the public authority is elected and recallable under the basis of [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage);[[28]](#cite_note-28) it is the defeat of the bourgeois state, but not yet of the capitalist mode of production, and at the same time the only element which places into the realm of possibility moving on from this mode of production.

An important concept in Marxism is socialization vs. nationalization. Nationalization is merely state ownership of property, whereas socialization is actual control and management of property by society. Marxism considers socialization its goal, and considers nationalization a tactical issue, with state ownership still being in the realm of the capitalist mode of production. In the words of Engels: "the transformation [...] into State-ownership does not do away with the capitalistic nature of the productive forces. [...] State-ownership of the productive forces is not the solution of the conflict, but concealed within it are the technical conditions that form the elements of that solution".[[29]](#cite_note-29) This has led some Marxist groups and tendencies to label states such as the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), based on nationalization, as [state capitalist](/wiki/State_capitalism).[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### Leninism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:Lenin_CL.jpg)[Vladimir Lenin](/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin), 1920 [Template:Quotation](/wiki/Template:Quotation)

Leninism is the body of political theory, developed by and named after the Russian revolutionary and later Soviet premier Vladimir Lenin, for the democratic organisation of a revolutionary vanguard party and the achievement of a dictatorship of the proletariat, as political prelude to the establishment of socialism. Leninism comprises socialist political and economic theories, developed from Marxism, as well as Lenin’s interpretations of Marxist theory for practical application to the socio-political conditions of the agrarian early-twentieth-century Russian Empire. In February 1917, for five years, Leninism was the Russian application of Marxist economics and political philosophy, effected and realised by the Bolsheviks, the vanguard party who led the fight for the political independence of the working class.

### Marxism–Leninism, Stalinism, and Trotskyism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

#### Marxism–Leninism and Stalinism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:JStalin_Secretary_general_CCCP_1942_flipped.jpg)[Joseph Stalin](/wiki/Joseph_Stalin), 1942 [Marxism–Leninism](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism) is a political ideology developed by [Stalin](/wiki/Stalin),[[31]](#cite_note-31) which according to its proponents is based in [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism) and [Leninism](/wiki/Leninism). The term describes the specific political ideology which Stalin implemented in the [Communist Party of the Soviet Union](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_the_Soviet_Union) and, in a global scale, in the [Comintern](/wiki/Comintern). There is no definite agreement between historians of about whether Stalin actually followed the principles of Marx and Lenin.[[32]](#cite_note-32) It also contains aspects which, according to some, are deviations from Marxism, such as "[socialism in one country](/wiki/Socialism_in_one_country)".[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) Marxism–Leninism was the ideology of the most clearly visible communist movement. As such, it is the most prominent ideology associated with communism.

Marxism–Leninism refers to the socioeconomic system and political ideology implemented by Stalin in the Soviet Union and later copied by other states based on the Soviet model (central planning, single-party state, etc.), whereas [Stalinism](/wiki/Stalinism) refers to Stalin's style of governance (political repression, cult of personality, etc.); Marxism–Leninism stayed after [de-Stalinization](/wiki/De-Stalinization), Stalinism did not. However, the term "Stalinism" is sometimes used to refer to Marxism–Leninism, sometimes to avoid implying Marxism–Leninism is related to Marxism and Leninism.

[Maoism](/wiki/Maoism) is a form of Marxism–Leninism associated with Chinese leader [Mao Zedong](/wiki/Mao_Zedong). After de-Stalinization, Marxism–Leninism was kept in the Soviet Union but certain [anti-revisionist](/wiki/Anti-Revisionism) tendencies, such as [Hoxhaism](/wiki/Hoxhaism) and Maoism, argued that it was deviated from. Therefore, different policies were applied in Albania and China, which became more distanced from the Soviet Union.

Marxism–Leninism has been criticized by other communist and Marxist tendencies. They argue that Marxist–Leninist states did not establish socialism but rather [state capitalism](/wiki/State_capitalism).[[30]](#cite_note-30) The dictatorship of the proletariat, according to Marxism, represents the rule of the majority (democracy) rather than of one party, to the extent that co-founder of Marxism [Friedrich Engels](/wiki/Friedrich_Engels) described its "specific form" as the [democratic republic](/wiki/Republicanism).[[35]](#cite_note-35) Additionally, according to Engels, state property by itself is private property of capitalist nature[[36]](#cite_note-36) unless the proletariat has control of political power, in which case it forms public property.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Whether the proletariat was actually in control of the Marxist–Leninist states is a matter of debate between Marxism–Leninism and other communist tendencies. To these tendencies, Marxism–Leninism is neither Marxism nor Leninism nor the union of both, but rather an artificial term created to justify Stalin's ideological distortion,[[38]](#cite_note-38) forced into the CPSU and Comintern. In the Soviet Union, this struggle against Marxism–Leninism was represented by [Trotskyism](/wiki/Trotskyism), which describes itself as a Marxist and Leninist tendency.

#### Trotskyism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:1919-Trotsky_Lenin_Kamenev-Party-Congress.jpg)[Trotsky](/wiki/Leon_Trotsky), Lenin and [Kamenev](/wiki/Lev_Kamenev) at the II Party Congress in 1919. Trotskyism is a Marxist and Leninist tendency that was developed by [Leon Trotsky](/wiki/Leon_Trotsky), opposed to Marxism–Leninism. It supports the theory of [permanent revolution](/wiki/Permanent_revolution) and [world revolution](/wiki/World_revolution) instead of the [two stage theory](/wiki/Two_stage_theory) and [socialism in one country](/wiki/Socialism_in_one_country). It supported [proletarian internationalism](/wiki/Proletarian_internationalism) and another Communist revolution in the Soviet Union, which Trotsky claimed had become a "[degenerated worker's state](/wiki/Degenerated_worker's_state)" under the leadership of Stalin, rather than the [dictatorship of the proletariat](/wiki/Dictatorship_of_the_proletariat), in which class relations had re-emerged in a new form.

Trotsky and his supporters, struggling against Stalin for power in the Soviet Union, organized into the [*Left Opposition*](/wiki/Left_Opposition) and their platform became known as Trotskyism. Stalin eventually succeeded in gaining control of the Soviet regime and Trotskyist attempts to remove Stalin from power resulted in Trotsky's exile from the Soviet Union in 1929. Trotsky later founded the [Fourth International](/wiki/Fourth_International), a Trotskyist rival to the [Comintern](/wiki/Comintern), in 1938.

Trotsky's politics differed sharply from those of Stalin and Mao, most importantly in declaring the need for an international proletarian revolution (rather than socialism in one country) and support for a true dictatorship of the proletariat based on democratic principles.

### Libertarian Marxism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Libertarian Marxism refers to a broad scope of economic and political philosophies that emphasize the [anti-authoritarian](/wiki/Anti-authoritarian) aspects of [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism). Early currents of libertarian Marxism, known as [left communism](/wiki/Left_communism),[[39]](#cite_note-39) emerged in opposition to [Marxism–Leninism](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism)[[40]](#cite_note-40) and its derivatives, such as [Stalinism](/wiki/Stalinism), [Maoism](/wiki/Maoism), and [Trotskyism](/wiki/Trotskyism).[[41]](#cite_note-41) Libertarian Marxism is also critical of [reformist](/wiki/Reformist) positions, such as those held by [social democrats](/wiki/Social_democrats).[[42]](#cite_note-42) Libertarian Marxist currents often draw from Marx and Engels' later works, specifically the [*Grundrisse*](/wiki/Grundrisse) and [*The Civil War in France*](/wiki/The_Civil_War_in_France);[[43]](#cite_note-43) emphasizing the Marxist belief in the ability of the [working class](/wiki/Working_class) to forge its own destiny without the need for a revolutionary party or [state](/wiki/State_(polity)) to mediate or aid its liberation.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Along with [anarchism](/wiki/Anarchism), Libertarian Marxism is one of the main currents of [libertarian socialism](/wiki/Libertarian_socialism).[[45]](#cite_note-45) Libertarian Marxism includes such currents as [Luxemburgism](/wiki/Luxemburgism), [council communism](/wiki/Council_communism), [left communism](/wiki/Left_communism), [*Socialisme ou Barbarie*](/wiki/Socialisme_ou_Barbarie), the [Johnson-Forest tendency](/wiki/Johnson-Forest_tendency), [world socialism](/wiki/World_socialism), [Lettrism](/wiki/Lettrism)/[Situationism](/wiki/Situationist_International) and [operaismo](/wiki/Operaismo)/[autonomism](/wiki/Autonomism), and [New Left](/wiki/New_Left).[[46]](#cite_note-46) Libertarian Marxism has often had a strong influence on both [post-left](/wiki/Post-left_anarchism) and [social anarchists](/wiki/Social_anarchism). Notable theorists of libertarian Marxism have included [Anton Pannekoek](/wiki/Anton_Pannekoek), [Raya Dunayevskaya](/wiki/Raya_Dunayevskaya), [CLR James](/wiki/CLR_James), [Antonio Negri](/wiki/Antonio_Negri), [Cornelius Castoriadis](/wiki/Cornelius_Castoriadis), [Maurice Brinton](/wiki/Maurice_Brinton), [Guy Debord](/wiki/Guy_Debord), [Daniel Guérin](/wiki/Daniel_Guérin), [Ernesto Screpanti](/wiki/Ernesto_Screpanti) and [Raoul Vaneigem](/wiki/Raoul_Vaneigem).

### Council communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Council communism is a [far-left](/wiki/Far-left) movement originating in [Germany](/wiki/Germany) and the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) in the 1920s. Its primary organization was the [Communist Workers Party of Germany](/wiki/Communist_Workers_Party_of_Germany) (KAPD). Council communism continues today as a theoretical and activist position within both left-wing Marxism and [libertarian socialism](/wiki/Libertarian_socialism).

The central argument of council communism, in contrast to those of [social democracy](/wiki/Social_democracy) and Leninist communism, is that democratic [workers' councils](/wiki/Workers'_councils) arising in the factories and municipalities are the natural form of working class organization and governmental power. This view is opposed to both the [reformist](/wiki/Reformist) and the Leninist [ideologies](/wiki/Ideology), with their stress on, respectively, parliaments and [institutional](/wiki/New_institutionalism) government (i.e., by applying social reforms, on the one hand, and [vanguard parties](/wiki/Vanguard_party) and participative [democratic centralism](/wiki/Democratic_centralism) on the other).

The core principle of council communism is that the government and the [economy](/wiki/Economic_system) should be managed by [workers' councils](/wiki/Workers'_councils) composed of delegates elected at workplaces and [recallable](/wiki/Recall_election) at any moment. As such, council communists oppose [state-run](/wiki/Planned_economy) [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism) "[State socialism](/wiki/State_socialism)"/"[State capitalism](/wiki/State_capitalism)". They also oppose the idea of a "revolutionary party", since council communists believe that a revolution led by a party will necessarily produce a party dictatorship. Council communists support a worker's democracy, which they want to produce through a federation of workers' councils.

### Left communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:Rosa_Luxemburg.jpg)[Rosa Luxemburg](/wiki/Rosa_Luxemburg) Left communism is the range of communist viewpoints held by the communist left, which criticizes the political ideas and practices espoused—particularly following the series of revolutions which brought the [First World War](/wiki/First_World_War) to an end—by [Bolsheviks](/wiki/Bolshevik) and by [social democrats](/wiki/Social_Democracy). Left communists assert positions which they regard as more authentically [Marxist](/wiki/Marxism) and [proletarian](/wiki/Proletariat) than the views of [Marxism–Leninism](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism) espoused by the [Communist International](/wiki/Comintern) after its [first congress](/wiki/1st_Congress_of_the_Comintern) (March 1919) and during its [second congress](/wiki/2nd_World_Congress_of_the_Comintern) (July–August 1920).[[47]](#cite_note-47) Left communists represent a range of political movements distinct from Marxist–Leninists (whom they largely view as merely the left-wing of capital), from [anarchist communists](/wiki/Anarchist_communism) (some of whom they consider internationalist socialists) as well as from various other revolutionary socialist tendencies (for example [De Leonists](/wiki/De_Leonism), whom they tend to see as being internationalist socialists only in limited instances).[[48]](#cite_note-48)

## Non-Marxist communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

The dominant forms of communism are based on Marxism, but non-Marxist versions of communism (such as [Christian communism](/wiki/Christian_communism) and [anarchist communism](/wiki/Anarchist_communism)) also exist.

### Anarchist communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Anarchist communism (also known as libertarian communism) is a theory of [anarchism](/wiki/Anarchism) which advocates the abolition of the [state](/wiki/State_(polity)), [private property](/wiki/Private_property), and [capitalism](/wiki/Capitalism) in favor of [common ownership](/wiki/Common_ownership) of the [means of production](/wiki/Means_of_production),<ref name=Mayne>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[49]](#cite_note-49) [direct democracy](/wiki/Direct_democracy) and a horizontal network of [voluntary associations](/wiki/Voluntary_association) and [workers' councils](/wiki/Workers'_council) with production and consumption based on the guiding principle: "[from each according to his ability, to each according to his need](/wiki/From_each_according_to_his_ability,_to_each_according_to_his_need)".[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51)[thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:Kropotkin2.jpg)[Peter Kropotkin](/wiki/Peter_Kropotkin), main theorist of [anarcho-communism](/wiki/Anarcho-communism). Anarcho-communism differs from Marxism rejecting its view about the need for a State Socialism phase before building communism. The main anarcho-communist theorist [Peter Kropotkin](/wiki/Peter_Kropotkin) argued "that a revolutionary society should "transform itself immediately into a communist society,", that is, should go immediately into what Marx had regarded as the "more advanced," completed, phase of communism."[[52]](#cite_note-52) In this way it tries to avoid the reappearance of "class divisions and the need for a state to oversee everything".[[52]](#cite_note-52) Some forms of anarchist communism such as [insurrectionary anarchism](/wiki/Insurrectionary_anarchism) are [egoist](/wiki/Egoist_anarchism) and strongly influenced by radical [individualism](/wiki/Individualism),[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55) believing that anarchist communism does not require a communitarian nature at all. Most anarcho-communists view anarcho-communism as a way of reconciling the opposition between the individual and society.[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58) To date in human history, the best known examples of an *anarchist communist* society, established around the ideas as they exist today, that received worldwide attention and knowledge in the historical canon, are the anarchist territories during the [Spanish Revolution](/wiki/Spanish_Revolution) and the [Free Territory](/wiki/Free_Territory) during the [Russian Revolution](/wiki/Russian_Revolution_(1917)). Through the efforts and influence of the [Spanish Anarchists](/wiki/Spanish_Anarchists) during the [Spanish Revolution](/wiki/Spanish_Revolution) within the [Spanish Civil War](/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War), starting in 1936 anarchist communism existed in most of [Aragon](/wiki/Aragon), parts of the [Levante](/wiki/Levante,_Spain) and [Andalusia](/wiki/Andalusia), as well as in the stronghold of [Anarchist Catalonia](/wiki/Anarchist_Catalonia) before being brutally crushed by the combined forces of [the authoritarian regime that won the war](/wiki/Francoism), [Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler), [Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini), Spanish Communist Party repression (backed by the USSR) as well as economic and armaments blockades from the capitalist countries and the Spanish Republic itself. During the Russian Revolution, anarchists such as [Nestor Makhno](/wiki/Nestor_Makhno) worked to create and defend—through the [Revolutionary Insurrectionary Army of Ukraine](/wiki/Revolutionary_Insurrectionary_Army_of_Ukraine)—anarchist communism in the [Free Territory](/wiki/Free_Territory) of the Ukraine from 1919 before being conquered by the Bolsheviks in 1921.

### Christian communism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Christian communism is a form of [religious communism](/wiki/Religious_communism) based on [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity). It is a theological and political theory based upon the view that the teachings of [Jesus Christ](/wiki/Jesus_in_Christianity) compel Christians to support communism as the ideal social system. Although there is no universal agreement on the exact date when Christian communism was founded, many Christian communists assert that evidence from the [Bible](/wiki/Bible) suggests that the first Christians, including the [Apostles](/wiki/Acts_of_Apostles), established their own small communist society in the years following Jesus' death and resurrection. As such, many advocates of Christian communism argue that it was taught by Jesus and practiced by the Apostles themselves.

Christian communism can be seen as a radical form of [Christian socialism](/wiki/Christian_socialism). Christian communists may or may not agree with various parts of [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism). They do not agree with the [atheist and antireligious views held by secular Marxists](/wiki/Marxism_and_religion), but do agree with many of the economic and existential aspects of Marxist theory, such as the idea that [capitalism](/wiki/Capitalism) exploits the [working class](/wiki/Working_class) by extracting [surplus value](/wiki/Surplus_value) from the workers in the form of [profits](/wiki/Profit_(economics)) and that [wage-labor](/wiki/Wage-labor) is a tool of human [alienation](/wiki/Social_alienation) that promotes arbitrary and unjust [authority](/wiki/Authority). Christian communism, like Marxism, also holds that capitalism encourages the negative aspects of human nature, supplanting values such as mercy, kindness, justice and compassion in favor of greed, selfishness and blind ambition.

## Criticism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|175px|The government's](/wiki/File:Holodomor-Chicago.jpg) [forced collectivization](/wiki/Collectivization_in_the_Soviet_Union) of agriculture is considered a main reason for the [Soviet famine of 1932–1933](/wiki/Soviet_famine_of_1932–1933). [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Criticism of communism can be divided into two broad categories: those concerning themselves with the practical aspects of 20th century [Communist states](/wiki/Communist_state),[[59]](#cite_note-59) and those concerning themselves with communist principles and theory.[[60]](#cite_note-60)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

* [Communism by country](/wiki/Category:Communism_by_country)
* [Communist party](/wiki/Communist_party)
* [Communist society](/wiki/Communist_society)
* [Communist state](/wiki/Communist_state)
* [Common ownership](/wiki/Common_ownership)
* [Commons-based peer production](/wiki/Commons-based_peer_production)
* [Gloria Victis Memorial](/wiki/Gloria_Victis_Memorial)
* [List of communist parties](/wiki/List_of_communist_parties)
* [Marxism](/wiki/Marxism)
* [Marxism–Leninism](/wiki/Marxism–Leninism)
* [Post-scarcity economy](/wiki/Post-scarcity_economy)
* [Socialist state](/wiki/Socialist_state)
* [Sociocultural evolution](/wiki/Sociocultural_evolution)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

**Notes** [Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

**Bibliography** [Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin) [Template:Columns-list](/wiki/Template:Columns-list) [Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

**Further reading**

* Adami, Stefano. "Communism", in Encyclopedia of Italian [Literary Studies](/wiki/Literary_criticism), ed. Gaetana Marrone – P. Puppa, Routledge, New York, London, 2006
* Beer, Max. *The General History of Socialism and Social Struggles Volumes 1 & 2*. New York, Russel and Russel, Inc. 1957
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* Daniels, Robert Vincent. *A Documentary History of Communism and the World: From Revolution to Collapse*. University Press of [New England](/wiki/New_England), 1994. ISBN 978-0-87451-678-4.
* Dirlik, Arif. *Origins of Chinese Communism*. Oxford University Press, 1989. ISBN 978-0-19-505454-5
* Forman, James D. *Communism From Marx's Manifesto To 20th century Reality*. New York, Watts. 1972. ISBN 978-0-531-02571-0
* [Furet, Francois](/wiki/François_Furet) and Deborah Kan (translator). *The Passing of An Illusion: The Idea of Communism In the Twentieth Century*. [University of Chicago Press](/wiki/University_of_Chicago_Press), 2000. ISBN 978-0-226-27341-9
* [Marx, Karl](/wiki/Karl_Marx) and [Friedrich Engels](/wiki/Friedrich_Engels). [*Communist Manifesto*](/wiki/The_Communist_Manifesto). (Mass Market Paperback – REPRINT), Signet Classics, 1998. ISBN 978-0-451-52710-3
* Pons, Silvio and Robert Service. *A Dictionary of 20th century Communism*. 2010.
* [Zinoviev, Alexandre](/wiki/Alexandre_Zinoviev). *The Reality of Communism* (1980), Publisher Schocken, 1984.

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category) [Template:Wikisource portal](/wiki/Template:Wikisource_portal) [Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote) [Template:Wiktionary](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary)

* [Marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org/) ([Marxists Internet Archive](/wiki/Marxists_Internet_Archive)) An archive of over 53,000 documents from 592 authors in 45 languages, mostly Marxist works
* [Libcom.org](http://www.libcom.org/library) Extensive library of almost 20,000 articles, books, pamphlets and journals on [libertarian communism](/wiki/Libertarian_communism)
* [Template:Cite EB1911](/wiki/Template:Cite_EB1911)
* [Template:Cite NIE](/wiki/Template:Cite_NIE)
* [The Radical Pamphlet Collection](http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/coll/rad.html) at the [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) contains materials on the topic of communism.

[Template:Communism](/wiki/Template:Communism) [Template:Political ideologies](/wiki/Template:Political_ideologies) [Template:Soviet Union topics](/wiki/Template:Soviet_Union_topics) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Communism](/wiki/Category:Communism) [Category:Anarchism](/wiki/Category:Anarchism) [Category:Anti-capitalism](/wiki/Category:Anti-capitalism) [Category:Anti-fascism](/wiki/Category:Anti-fascism) [Category:Economic ideologies](/wiki/Category:Economic_ideologies) [Category:Far-left politics](/wiki/Category:Far-left_politics) [Category:Political ideologies](/wiki/Category:Political_ideologies) [Category:Political culture](/wiki/Category:Political_culture) [Category:Socialism](/wiki/Category:Socialism)