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Clichés of Socialism

IN libertarian achievement knowing how to expose the flaws of socialism ranks second only to explaining the principles of freedom.

Never in FEE's sixteen years has any effort of ours been so agreeably received and widely duplicated as the CLICHÉS OF SOCIALISM series. Now, in an excellently-bound paperback — 32 chapters, 128 pages — are suggested rebuttals to the following clever and hard-to-answer bromides:

1. "The more complex the society, the more government control we need."
2. "If we had no social security, many people would go hungry."
3. "The government should do for the people what the people are unable to do for themselves."
4. "The right to strike is conceded, but . . ."
5. "Too much government? Just what would you cut out?"
6. "The size of the national debt doesn't matter because we owe it to ourselves."
7. "Why, you'd take us back to the horse and buggy."
8. "The free market ignores the poor."
9. "Man is born for cooperation, not for competition."
10. "Americans squander their incomes on themselves while public needs are neglected."
11. "Labor unions are too powerful today, but were useful in the past."
12. "We have learned to counteract and thus avoid any serious depression."
13. "Human rights are more important than property rights."
14. "Employees often lack reserves and are subject to 'exploitation' by capitalist employers."
15. "Competition is fine, but not at the expense of human beings."
16. "We're paying for it, so we might as well get our share."
17. "I'm a middle-of-the-roader."
18. "Customers ought to be protected by price controls."
19. "The welfare state is the best security against communism."
20. "Don't you want to do anything?"
21. "Big business and big labor require big government."
22. "We believe in presenting both sides."
23. "If free enterprise really works, why the Great Depression?"
24. "Federal aid is all right if it doesn't bring federal control."
25. "The United States Constitution was designed for an agrarian society."
26. "I prefer security to freedom."
27. "Individual workers are too weak to bargain with corporations."
28. "Tell me, just what liberties have you lost?"
29. "Private businessmen should welcome government competition."
30. "The government can do it cheaper because it doesn't have to make a profit."
31. "If government doesn't relieve distress, who will?"
32. "We never had it so good."

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