**Socialism**

Socialism developed as a reaction against the emergence of **industrial capitalism**.

Socialism interested artisans and craftsmen that were threatened by **Mechanization**.

Its goal was to **abolish a capitalist economy** and replace it with the principle of **common ownership**.

**Key Ideas:**

1. **Community**:

The core of socialism is the vision of human beings as social creatures linked by the existence of a common humanity.

This refers to the importance of community, and the degree to which individual identity is built by social interaction and membership of social groups and collective bodies.

Socialists 1emphasize **nurture over nature**, and 2explain individual behavior in terms of social factors, rather than innate qualities.

1. **Fraternity**:

As human beings share a common humanity, they are bound together by a sense of **comradeship** or **fraternity**.

This encourages socialists to prefer **cooperation** to **competition**, and to favor **collectivism** over **individualism**.

In this view, **cooperation** enables people to harness their collective energies and strengthens the bonds of community, while **competition** pits individuals against each other, breeding r**esentment**, **conflict** and **hostility**.

1. **Social equality:**

Equality is the central value of socialism.

Socialism is sometimes portrayed as a form of ‘**Egalitarianism’**, the belief in the primacy of equality over other values.

In particular, socialists emphasize the importance of **social** **equality**, as opposed to **equality of opportunity**.

1. **Need:**

Sympathy for equality also reflects the socialist belief that *material benefits* should be distributed on the **basis of need**, rather than on the **basis of merit (or work)**.

However, distribution according to need requires people to be motivated by *moral incentives*, rather than just *material ones*.

1. **Social class:**

First, Socialists have tended to analyze society in terms of the distribution of income or wealth, and they have thus seen social class as a significant social cleavage.

Second, Socialism has traditionally been associated with the interests of an **oppressed** and **exploited** working class

The Socialist goal is either the **eradication** of **economic** and **social** inequalities, or their significant reduction.

1. **Common ownership:**

The relationship between **Socialism** and **Common** **Ownership** has been **deeply controversial**.

Some see it as the **end** of Socialism itself, and others see it as a means of **broader equality**.

**Common Ownership** is a means of harnessing material resources to **the common good**.