

## **The 4 Big Socioeconomic Systems**

Below are excerpts from various doctrines advocating capitalism, socialism, and communism (the 4 ISM's ... well, minus a mixed economy for the purposes of this assignment). While reading, keep in mind the different traits of each socioeconomic system. When finished reading, please answer the accompanying questions. Use specific quotes and explain how those quotes tie into the socio-economic theory at hand.

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### **Text #1**

It is in the age of (property owners), inequality of fortune first begins to take place, and introduces among men a degree of authority and subordination which could not possibly exist before. It thereby introduces some degree of that civil government which is indispensably necessary for its own preservation: and it seems to do this naturally, and even independent of the consideration of that necessity. The consideration of that necessity comes no doubt afterwards to contribute very much to maintain and secure that authority and subordination. The rich, in particular, are necessarily interested to support that order of things which can alone secure them in the possession of their own advantages. Men of inferior wealth combine to defend those of superior wealth in the possession of their property, in order that men of superior wealth may combine to defend them in the possession of theirs. All the inferior shepherds and herdsmen feel that the security of their own herds and flocks depends upon the security of those of the great shepherd or herdsman; that the maintenance of their lesser authority depends upon that of his greater authority, and that upon their subordination to him depends his power of keeping their inferiors in subordination to them. They constitute a sort of little nobility, who feel themselves interested to defend the property and to support the authority of their own little sovereign in order that he may be able to defend their property and to support their authority.

### **Questions:**

BRIEFLY describe the main idea of this excerpt

Which of the 4 ISM's would this approach to economics fall under?

Defend your previous answer with examples from the text. What key words, phrases, or ideas show you that this writer supports whichever socio-economic system you chose?

**Text #2**

"The general-in-chief of the industrial army must have passed through all the grades below him, from the common laborers up. Let us see how he rises. As I have told you, it is simply by the excellence of his record as a worker that one rises through the grades of the privates and becomes a candidate for a lieutenancy. Through the lieutenancies he rises to the colonelcy, or superintendent's position, by appointment from above, strictly limited to the candidates of the best records. The general of the guild appoints to the ranks under him, but he himself is not appointed, but chosen by suffrage."

**Questions:**

Which of the big 4 socio-economic systems would this excerpt most likely advocate?

Defend your previous answer with examples from the text. What key words, phrases, or ideas show you that this writer supports whichever socio-economic system you chose?

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**Text #3**

**Before you read, please define the following words:**

**Proletariat**

**Bourgeoisie**

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.

Freeman and slave, patrician and plebian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.

The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of

oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones.

Our epoch, the epoch of the bourgeoisie, possesses, however, this distinct feature: it has simplified class antagonisms. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other -- bourgeoisie and proletariat. ...

... The public power will lose its political character... we shall have an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."

**Questions:**

Which of the 4 economic systems does this excerpt support? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

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**Text 4**

If many individuals took part in that production, each deserves his share in accordance to how much of it they produced -- as mutually agreed upon amongst themselves by their own free-will. The principle in such instances being: those who produced less, receive less, those who produced more, receive more. A man can neither demand more than he deserves because he is full of "greed", or demand more than he deserves, because he feels "need." All he can demand is what the market -- the uncoerced judgment of others -- will offer him. What is the name of such a principle? It is justice -- the judge in all such cases being the marketplace.

**Question:** Which of the 3 big economic systems would this author advocate? Underline excerpts of the text that support your answer.

**Text 5**

"The proletariat must carry the democratic revolution to completion, attracting to itself the mass of the peasantry in order to crush the autocracy's resistance by force and paralyze the bourgeoisie's instability. The proletariat must accomplish the ... revolution, forming an alliance with the mass of semi-proletarian elements of the population so as to crush the bourgeoisie's resistance by force and paralyze the instability of the peasantry and the petty bourgeoisie."

**Questions:**

Which of the 3 big economic systems would this author advocate? What examples from the above text support your answer?

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**Text 6**

(Our socio-economic system/political party works toward a society) where working people own and control the means of production and distribution through democratically-controlled public agencies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few.

**Questions:**

Which of the 3 big economic systems would this author advocate? (Be careful with this one) What examples from the above text support your answer?