



Discussions with Wolff

“Understanding Socialism”

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The following discussion prompts were written by Professor Wolff to create a discussion based around his book “*Understanding Socialism*,” published by Democracy at Work in 2019. This book can be purchased on [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com).

1. What is the reasoning behind the notion that socialism is the product of capitalism: its critical mirror?
2. What are the key differences among the three major strains of socialism:
 - a. Social democracy or democratic socialism
 - b. Communism or peoples’ democracies
 - c. Democratization of the workplace
3. What does it mean to refer to a. and b. above as “traditional socialism” versus c. as “socialism for the “21st century”
4. Why did fascists like Adolf Hitler – who hated and persecuted socialists – call his philosophy and political party “national “socialist.”?
5. How would you explain the long-standing hostility against socialism of leaders in capitalist systems (CEOs, top politicians, mass media and leading academics)?
6. How would you explain the resurgence of interest in and support of socialism in the USA over the last 10 years?