Reading List for Democratic Socialists

This a list of excellent books that are recommended for those who wish to better their understanding of democratic socialist theory, history, political strategy and values. Some of titles below are classics and others are more contemporary works. *Titles in bold are great introductory books to each respective category.*

**INTRODUCTIONS TO SOCIALISM:**
*Socialism Past and Future*, Michael Harrington
*Socialism for a Skeptical Age*, Ralph Miliband
*Socialism Unbound*, Stephen Eric Bronner
*Essential Works of Socialism*, Irving Howe, ed.
*The Long Detour: the History and Future of the American Left*, James Weinstein

**CONTEMPORARY SOCIALIST THOUGHT:**
*Renewing Socialism: Democracy, Strategy, and Imagination*, Leo Panitch
*The Future of Democratic Equality*, Joseph M. Schwartz
*Whose Millennium? Theirs or Ours?*, Daniel Singer
*Envisioning Real Utopias*, Erik Olin Wright

**CLASSICAL SOCIALIST THOUGHT:**
*Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, David McLellan, ed. (or *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Robert C. Tucker, ed.)
*The Rosa Luxemburg Reader*
*The Antonio Gramsci Reader*
*Lenin*, Lars T. Lih
*Leon Trotsky*, Irving Howe

**THE CLASS STRUGGLE:**
*The Making of the English Working Class*, E.P. Thompson
*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, Barbara Ehrenreich
*The Working Class Majority*, Michael Zweig
*Class Notes*, Adolph Reed Jr.
*Embedded with Organized Labor*, Steve Early
*Save Our Unions*, Steve Early
*In Solidarity*, Kim Moody
*"They're Bankrupting Us!": And 20 Other Myths about Unions*, Bill Fletcher, Jr.

**POLITICS, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS & THE STATE:**
*Marxism and Politics*, Ralph Miliband
*Poor People’s Movements: How They Succeed, Why They Fail*, Frances Fox Piven & Richard Cloward
*Fascism: Theory and Practice*, Dave Renton
*Rethinking the New Left*, Van Gosse

Young Democratic Socialists

ydsusa.org
BLACK HISTORY & POLITICS:
Black Reconstruction, W.E.B. DuBois
The Black Jacobins, C.L.R. James
The Black Atlantic, Paul Gilroy
How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America, Manning Marable
Race Matters, Cornel West

SOCIALIST FEMINISM:
Women, Class & the Feminist Imagination: A Socialist-Feminist Reader, Ilene Philipson
& Karen Hansen, eds.
Women and the Politics of Class, Johanna Brenner
Marxism and the Oppression of Women, Lise Vogel

SOCIALISM & RELIGION:
The Socialist Decision, Paul Tillich
Prophesy Deliverance! An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity, Cornel West
Liberation Theology, Phillip Benyman
Liberation Theology and Its Critics, Arthur F. McGovern
These Holy Sparks: The Rebirth of the Jewish People, Arthur Waskow
The Politics at God’s Funeral, Michael Harrington
Marxism and the Muslim World, Maxime Rodinson

AMERICAN SOCIALISM:
E.V. Debs, A Biography (originally published as The Bending Cross), Ray Ginger
Eugene V. Debs: Citizen and Socialist, Nick Salvatore
The Other American: A Biography of Michael Harrington, Maurice Isserman
California Red: A Life in the American Communist Party, Dorothy Healey
Marxism in the United States: Remapping the History of the American Left, Paul Buhle
Socialism and America, Irving Howe

AMERICAN LABOR HISTORY:
We Shall Be All: A History of the Industrial Workers of the World, Melvyn Dubofsky
Rebels, Reformers and Racketeers: How Insurgents Transformed the Labor Movement, Herman Benson
State of the Union: A Century of American Labor, Nelson Lichtenstein
The Fall of the House of Labor, David Montgomery
There Is Power in a Union: The Epic Story of Labor in America, Philip Dray
Strike!, Jeremy Brecher

SOCIALISM & ECOLOGY:
Ecology Against Capitalism, John Bellamy Foster
The Greening of Marxism, Ted Benton
Natural Causes: Essays in Ecological Marxism, James O’Connor
EUROPEAN SOCIALISM:
After Progress: European Socialism and American Social Reform in the 20th Century, Norman Birnbaum
Forging Democracy: The History of the Left in Europe, 1850-2000, Geoff Eley
One Hundred Years of Socialism: The West European Left in the Twentieth Century, Donald Sassoon
European Socialism: A Concise History with Documents, William Smaldone

CAPITALIST GLOBALIZATION:
Panic Rules!: Everything You Need to Know About the Global Economy, Robin Hahnel
A Brief History of Neoliberalism, David Harvey
The Economics of Global Turbulence, Robert Brenner
The Making of Global Capitalism, Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin

MODERN IMPERIALISM:
Empire of Capital, Ellen Meiksins Wood
The New Imperialism, David Harvey
How America Lost Iraq, Aaron Glatz
Masters of Mankind: Essays and Lectures, 1969-2013, Noam Chomsky

THE GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS:
The Enigma of Capital: and the Crises of Capitalism, David Harvey
In & Out of Crisis: The Global Financial Meltdown & Left Alternatives, Greg Albo, Sam Gindin, Leo Panitch
Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance, David McNally

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE:
The Bolsheviks Come to Power, Alexander Rabinowitch
Workers’ Control and Socialist Democracy: The Soviet Experience, Carmen Sirianni
Before Stalinism, Samuel Farber
History of the Russian Revolution, Leon Trotsky

VISIONS OF THE SOCIALIST FUTURE:
After Capitalism, David Schweickart
Democracy and Economic Planning, Pat Devine
Of the People, By the People: The Case for a Participatory Economy, Robin Hahnel
Imagine: Living In a Socialist U.S.A., Francis Goldin, Debby Smith, & Michael Steven Smith, eds.

This list is not intended as a complete bibliography, nor are all the books entirely consistent with DSA/YDS’s politics. There are a number of issues, authors, and perspectives that are not adequately covered in this list. Democratic socialists are in favor of vigorous debate and respect a diversity of opinions. We welcome member suggestions for titles to add to this list or critiques of those already referenced above.