

# The Little Red Book

How socialism destroys freedom  
and prosperity





Socialism has never worked, wherever it has been tried.

The consequences have been broadly as harmful as the implementation has been faithful, with the very worst from Marxist and Stalinist communist regimes.

It has led to unspeakable human tragedy, with millions of lives lost under brutal dictatorships. It has bankrupted countries and paid scant regard for taxpayers.

One only has to look to Venezuela to see what hardline socialism is truly about, and how unattached it is from social democracy.

It is also plain to see when you compare a socialist country with its neighbours. Look at the wealth, prosperity and freedom of South Korea. Bright lights, positivity and a world-leading economy that embraces technology stands in stark contrast to North Korea.

But it's not just other places that have felt the negative effects of socialism. British taxpayers who were around in the 1970s will remember all too well the damage caused to our own economy.

Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it, though, so today's taxpayers should be mindful that the tax burden is the highest it has been for 50 years.

Taxpayers should never be used as the cash cows for failed social experiments.

Economic freedom is vital in promoting both personal and national prosperity. Many former Soviet countries have successfully broken free of the shackles of communism. Lithuania and Estonia embrace low taxes and technology, and deliver first class public services as a result. We should learn from them.

We must make this case. And we must help usher in an era of respect for taxpayers.

**John O'Connell**

Chief Executive, TaxPayers' Alliance

# Communist body count up to **100 million**

<b>People's Republic of China</b>	<b>65 million</b>
<b>Soviet Union</b>	<b>20 million</b>
<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>2 million</b>
<b>North Korea</b>	<b>2 million</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>1.7 million</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>1.5 million</b>
<b>Eastern Bloc</b>	<b>1 million</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>1 million</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>150,000</b>

SOURCE: THE BLACK BOOK OF COMMUNISM



**At least 36 million  
people starved to death  
in communist China  
between 1959 -1961  
under Mao Zedong's  
regime.**

SOURCE: THE GREAT CHINESE FAMINE

Photo editorial credit: Hung Chung Chih / Shutterstock.com

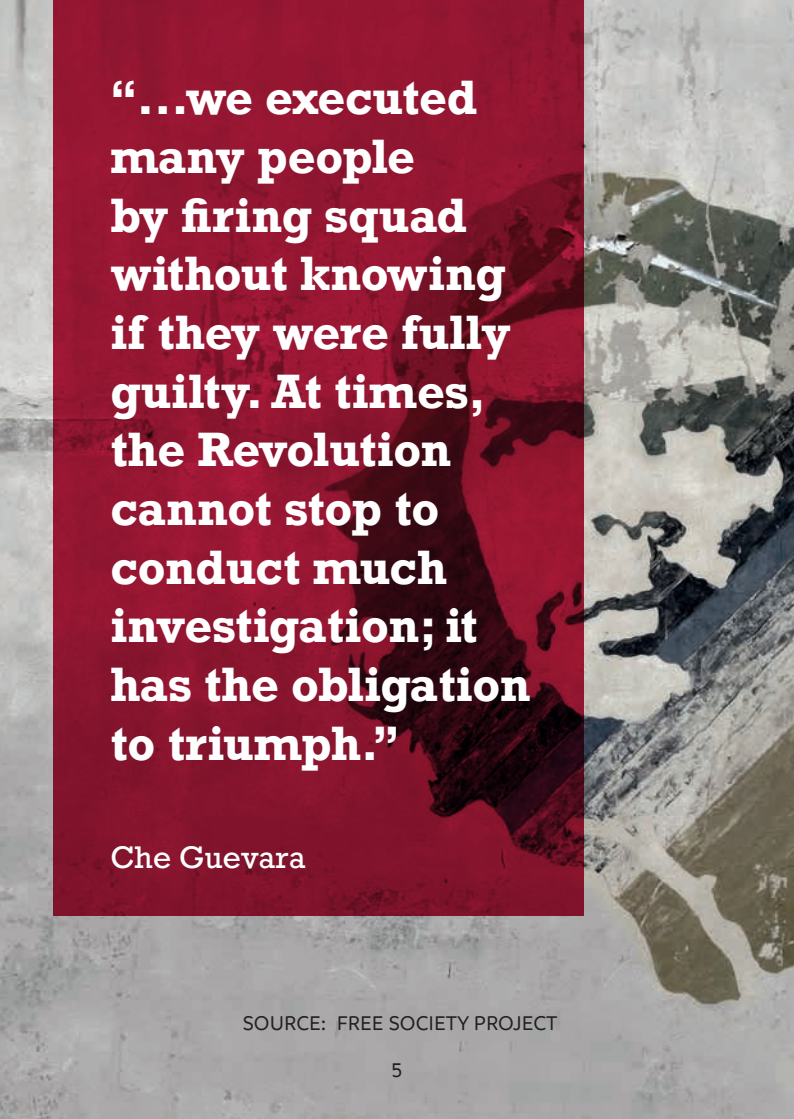


**“Death solves  
all problems.**

**No man,  
no problem.”**

Joseph Stalin


SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES



**“...we executed many people by firing squad without knowing if they were fully guilty. At times, the Revolution cannot stop to conduct much investigation; it has the obligation to triumph.”**

Che Guevara

SOURCE: FREE SOCIETY PROJECT



**Between 1945 and 1992,  
in the People's Socialist  
Republic of Albania:**

- **5,487 political prisoners were executed**
- **59,809 people were interned and internally deported**
- **11,536 families were banished from border regions to the interior**

SOURCE: RENT FROM THE LAND: A POLITICAL ECOLOGY  
OF POSTSOCIALIST RURAL TRANSFORMATION



# Solidarity!

**In 1953, a strike in East Germany was brutally crushed by the government.**

SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Photo credit: Bundesarchiv, B 285 Bild-14676 / Unknown / CC-BY-SA 3.0  
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/deed.en>)

A close-up photograph of a person's right fist raised in a gesture of solidarity. The fist is clenched and positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame. The person is wearing a red long-sleeved garment, which is partially visible. The background is out of focus, showing a crowd of people, suggesting a public demonstration or protest. A semi-transparent red rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

# **Solidarity!**

**Cuban workers do not have the right to strike or bargain collectively, and independent labour unions are illegal.**

SOURCE: FREEDOM HOUSE

# The Koreas at night

A satellite night-time map of the Korean Peninsula. The map shows the North and South Korean borders, with the South Korean peninsula heavily illuminated by city lights, while the North Korean peninsula is mostly dark with some scattered lights. The surrounding sea is dark blue, and other landmasses are visible in the background.

North

South

Photo credit: <https://stock.adobe.com/uk/images/planet-earth-east-asia-zone-using-satellite-imagery-nasa/86334904>

63.6 million



# Mobile phone subscriptions

North v. South Korea

3.6 million



North Korea



South Korea

SOURCE: CIA WORLD FACTBOOK

100,428km

# Total paved and unpaved roads

North v. South Korea

25,554km



Paved **724**km  
Unpaved **24,830**km



North Korea



Paved **92,795**km  
Unpaved **7,633**km



South Korea

SOURCE: CIA WORLD FACTBOOK



**So much for  
equality...**

**Hugo Chávez's  
worth at the  
time of his  
death was an  
estimated  
\$2 billion.**

**Nearly 90% of  
the Venezuelan  
population live  
in poverty.**

SOURCE: VARIOUS

A photograph of a long, brightly lit hospital hallway with multiple skylights and recessed ceiling lights. Medical equipment and carts are visible on the left side of the hallway.

**At least  
22,000  
Venezuelan  
doctors -**

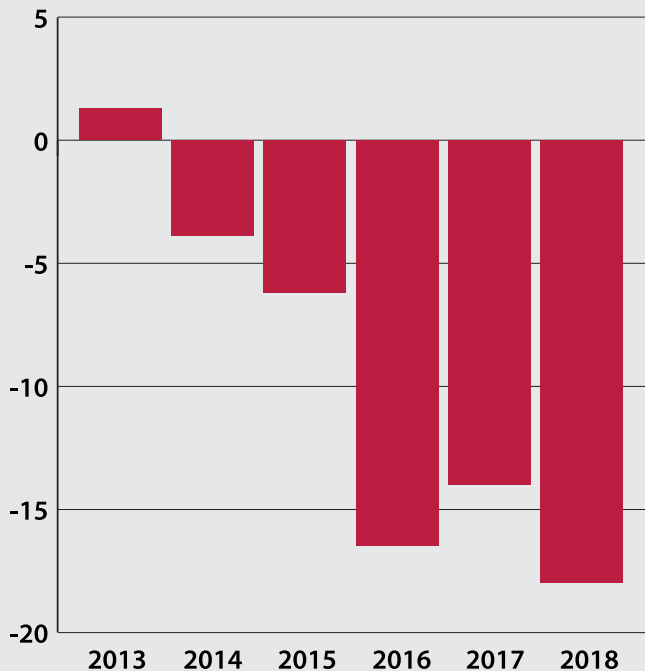
**55%  
of the total**

**- left the country  
between 2012  
and 2017.**

SOURCE: CEPAZ

# The decline of Venezuela's GDP

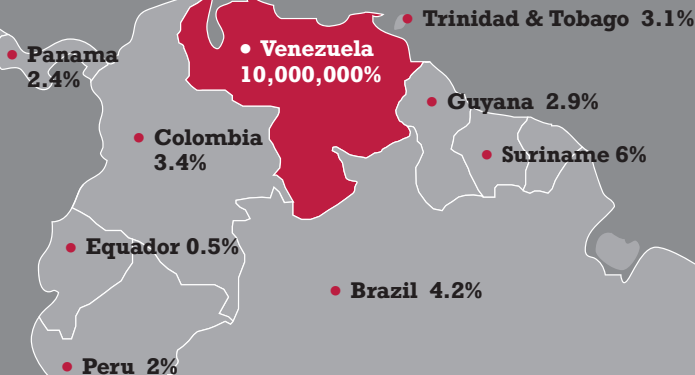
**Venezuelan GDP growth (%), 2012-2017**



SOURCE: IMF



# The inflation rate in Venezuela is set to hit 10 million%.



SOURCE: IMF

# The Winter of Discontent

During the widespread strikes by public sector trade unions in 1978-79...

...Liverpool council had to store corpses in a factory because there was no one around to bury them...

SOURCE: GUARDIAN



**...and Leicester Square became a rubbish dump.**

SOURCE: BBC



**In 1974, to preserve power:**

- **British businesses could only use electricity 3 days a week**
- **TV broadcasts switched off at 22:30**

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION


**In 1974, the government introduced an effective 98% rate of income tax.**



HM Revenue  
& Customs

**Your details** Please use  
National Insurance number  
This is very important  
benefits right.

SOURCE: INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES

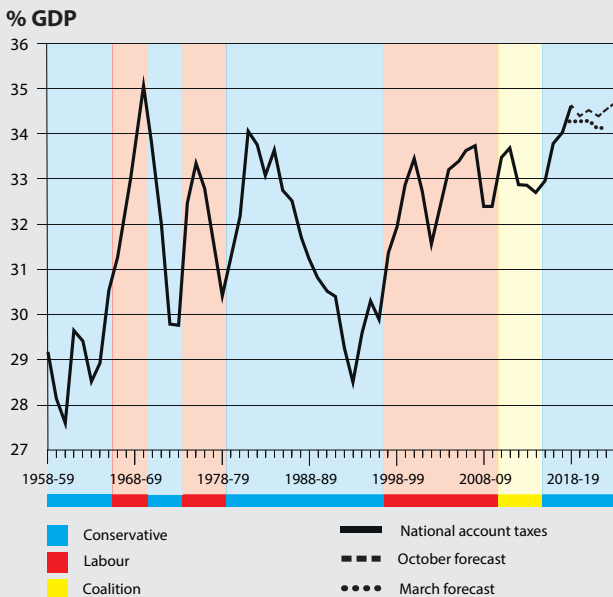


**The average  
inflation rate  
in 1975 was  
24.2%.**

**(It's only 2.3% today)**

SOURCE: NATIONAL ARCHIVES, ONS

**But even today, the Conservative government takes more of our money than any government has for nearly 50 years.**



SOURCE: TAXPAYERS' ALLIANCE

The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-angle photograph of numerous stacks of British banknotes. The stacks are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some stacks in the foreground being taller than others. The banknotes are of various denominations, including £10, £20, and £50. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the paper and the colors of the notes. A semi-transparent red rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing white text.

**Labour's plans for  
nationalisations  
wouldn't 'pay for  
themselves'.**

**They'd cost  
taxpayers between  
£176 billion and  
£306 billion.**

SOURCE: CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES



# Freedom in the world

Ranking of the condition of political rights and civil liberties around the world.

100 is most free, 1 is least free.

Country	Freedom	Score
Sweden	Free	100/100
Australia	Free	98/100
Japan	Free	96/100
Estonia	Free	94/100
UK	Free	93/100
USA	Free	86/100
Argentina	Free	84/100
South Africa	Free	79/100
Kenya	Partly free	48/100
Vietnam	Not free	20/100
Venezuela	Not free	19/100
Cuba	Not free	14/100
Laos	Not free	14/100
China	Not free	11/100
Saudia Arabia	Not free	7/100
North Korea	Not free	3/100

SOURCE: FREEDOM HOUSE

# Economic freedom ranking

Ranking of 180 countries measuring the degree of economic freedom.

1 is most free, 180 is least free.

Country	Rank	Score
Australia	5	80.9
UK	7	78.9
USA	12	76.8
Estonia	15	76.6
Sweden	19	75.2
Japan	30	72.1
Saudia Arabia	91	60.7
China	100	58.4
South Africa	102	58.3
Laos	110	57.4
Vietnam	128	55.3
Kenya	130	55.1
Argentina	148	52.2
Cuba	178	27.8
Venezuela	179	25.9
North Korea	180	5.9

SOURCE: HERITAGE FOUNDATION

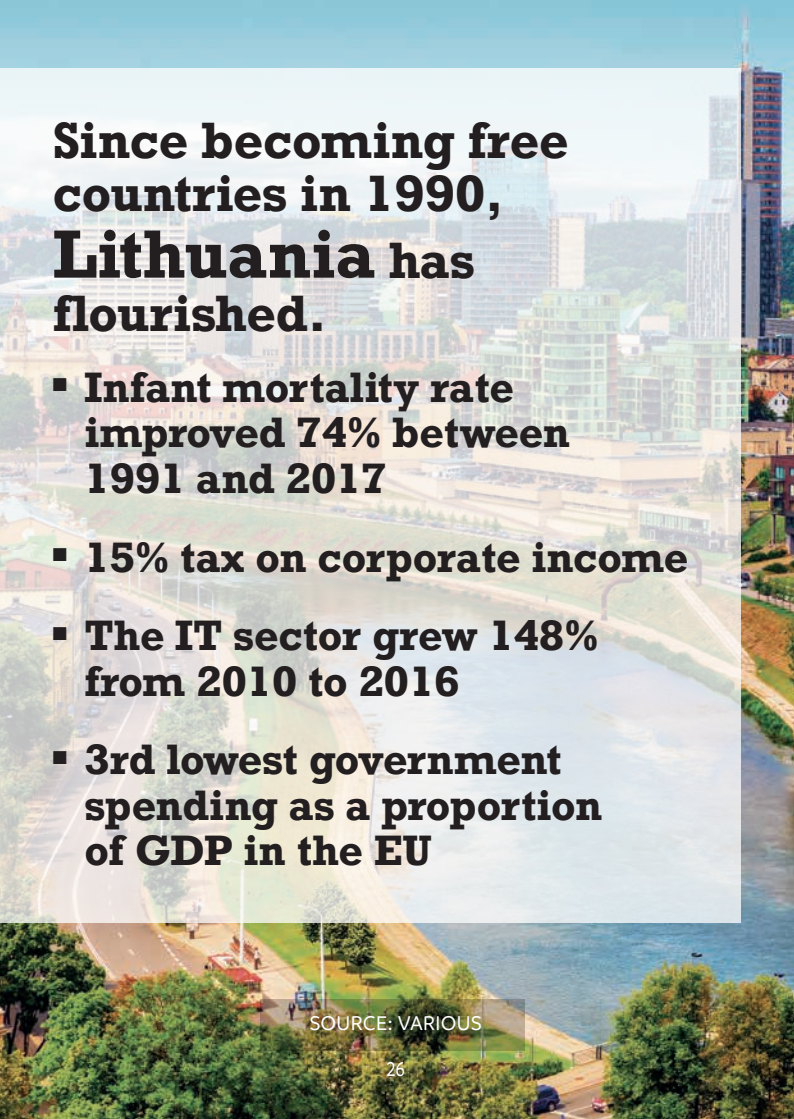
# World press freedom index

Ranking of 180 countries according to the level of freedom available to journalists.

1 is most free, 180 is least free.

Country	Rank
Sweden	2
Estonia	12
Australia	19
South Africa	28
UK	40
USA	45
Argentina	52
Japan	67
Kenya	96
Venezuela	143
Saudia Arabia	169
Laos	170
Cuba	172
Vietnam	175
China	176
North Korea	180

SOURCE: REPORTERS SANS FRONTIÈRES

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vilnius, Lithuania, showing a river, green spaces, and modern buildings. The image is used as a background for the text.

# Since becoming free countries in 1990, Lithuania has flourished.

- **Infant mortality rate improved 74% between 1991 and 2017**
- **15% tax on corporate income**
- **The IT sector grew 148% from 2010 to 2016**
- **3rd lowest government spending as a proportion of GDP in the EU**

SOURCE: VARIOUS



# **And Estonia has embraced technology, innovation and free markets.**

- **3rd best public wifi  
in the world**
- **99% of its government  
is digitally available**
- **20% flat tax on income**
- **5% growth in 2017**

SOURCE: VARIOUS

# Countries where socialism has worked

For further details and full list of sources, please visit  
**[www.taxpayersalliance.com/socialism-factbook](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/socialism-factbook)**

You can sign up to support the TPA's Stand Against  
Socialism campaign by visiting  
**[www.taxpayersalliance.com/sas](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/sas)**

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