

## 1: Project MUSE - The Governmental Habit Redux

*In the lively and accessible style of the earlier book, The Governmental Habit Redux contends that modern American government is basically an enormous version of American colonial regimes. Changes in scale have transformed what was once an acceptable pattern into a conglomeration of inefficient and wasteful bureaucracies.*

Lipset, a former president of the American Political Science Association and the American Sociological Association, has dealt with this issue for much of his long professional career, beginning with *Agrarian Socialism*: University of California Press. From the present book, we learn a great deal about socialist party activity from to , but almost nothing about socialist party organization and movements after . Moreover, the authors devote little attention to the influence of socialist public policy both before and after this sixty-year period. The question might be put: What difference does it make that socialist parties in the United States failed by the middle of the twentieth century if socialist policy, state regulation, and state enterprise flourished in the United States both before and after ? Let us review the basics of the book. Lipset and Marks identify three aspects dependent variables of the failure of socialism: Although most analysts would concede the first two points, the latter point is problematical because a reasonable argument and substantial evidence much of it provided by Lipset and Marks themselves indicate that the national Democratic Party adopted a socialist agenda in the s and that socialist ideals influenced many Democrats from the s through to the s. Even today, the left wing of the national Democratic Party, led by Senators Ted Kennedy, Paul Wellstone, and Hillary Clinton, regularly resorts to socialist nostrums such as state regulation, state participation in the economy, and the expansion of the welfare state. Throughout the book, the authors explore the determinants independent variables of the failure of socialism through comparative and historical analysis. They point to four interacting factors: They regard the first factor as the leading influence and the next two as sufficient in causing the absence of entrenched socialist partyism. The last factor they find to have had limited influence. Lipset and Marks provide little evidence, despite its importance for their explanation, regarding the role of individualism and antistatism in undoing socialist and labor parties. Unlike other aspects of their analysis, this one receives no chapter-length comparative consideration. Egalitarianism and statism, however, have actively countervailed against commercial values in U. From colonial times to the turn of the twenty-first century, as Jonathan R. Princeton University Press, , redistributed wealth, state control, and constrained commerce, as opposed to political party developments, have been the real fruits of socialism in America. Another determinant putatively encouraging the decline of socialism is the heterogeneity of the American working class. American workers do not exhibit working-class solidarity or consciousness because they are attracted to the benefits of material prosperity and upward social mobility, and they correctly understand class solidarity to be an impediment to their prosperity and mobility. Lipset and Marks also cite the failure of socialist party leaders to compromise with union leaders to form a viable labor party. This argument and the evidence brought to bear on it are more convincing. Federalism also assisted the dominance of the two-party system, although, as the authors point out, access to elective offices at the state and municipal levels actually helped socialist candidates at the turn of the twentieth century. As noted, Lipset and Marks give short shrift to the socialist policy aspects of the national Democratic Party starting in the s. Moreover, they overlook the Republican appropriation of Keynesian policy nostrums during the s and s: Indeed, socialism is alive and well in America. Consider the consolidation of the welfare state by the Social Security Act; the undermining of free-labor markets by an ongoing series of statutes; the provision of health care for welfare recipients and the elderly through Medicaid and Medicare; the microregulation of business activity through the antitrust laws; the intrusive and costly environmental laws; and the massive spending on health, education, and various forms of welfare. The idea that socialism has failed in America clearly defies empirical observation.

## 2: The Governmental Habit Redux

*The Governmental Habit Redux has 2 ratings and 0 reviews. To the distinguished economic historian Jonathan Hughes,*

*the ambiguous outcomes of attempted de.*

### 3: The Governmental Habit Redux : Jonathan R. T. Hughes :

*The Governmental Habit Redux: Economic Controls from Colonial Times to the Present [Jonathan R.T. Hughes] on [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. To the distinguished economic historian Jonathan Hughes, the ambiguous outcomes of attempted deregulation signal America's urgent need to probe the origins of our vast and chaotic maze of government economic controls.*

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