

### 1: Diary of a Heartland Radical: MAY DAY BRINGS THOUGHTS OF SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVES

*The Heartland Institute was founded more than 30 years ago to counter America's march to the Left, by developing and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems. We believe, as Ronald Reagan did, that more government is not the solution to America's problems, because government is the problem.*

Share on Twitter Indiana Socialist Fellowship: I recently composed a leaflet on behalf of the Fellowship on the basics of socialism, which was adopted unanimously. The two leading socialist organizations in it are the Socialist Party and Democratic Socialist of America DSA , although the Fellowship is open to socialists of all persuasions. The test of that leaflet is given below. What do others think of it? Bush, stay on your ranch! You blew it, and your policies, punditries and nostrums have obviously failedâ€”so accept your demise to deserved oblivion, and tell Milton Friedman, Ayn Rand and Alan Greenspan to do the same! So welcome back, Karl Marx! S socialists of the 20th Century: You were right after all, and now more and more people know and recognize it! Yes, even though socialism as a significant political force is nonexistent in the U. Furthermore, we socialists are more than just theorists and dreamers about a better society, a better world. Socialism for us socialists is a practical as well as a theoretical question. We are there in the fight today to achieve healthcare for all; to build a full-employment economy; to end corporate domination of our lives and workplaces; to demand equitable redistribution of wealth and a truly progressive tax system that makes the rich pay their full share; to achieve a world without nuclear weapons and without ecological devastation. We were there in the struggle to end the Vietnam War, and we are there today in resistance to present and expanded wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; in opposing sanctions against Cuba and saber-rattling against Venezuela; and in opposition to the U. In these and other struggles, we socialists emerge as thoroughgoing democratsâ€”advocating and achieving meaningful, participatory democracy not just in the political realm, but in the social, and most important, in the economic realms as well. We socialists are there, actively, wherever the people are. Yes, achieving meaningful, progressive reforms short of socialism are fully supported by us. So we socialists are much like other non-socialists liberals and progressives, except for one crucial difference: The economy and the society exist for the well-being of all of us; they must act for the benefit of all of us. They cannot be allowed to enrich the few at the expense of the rest of us, they cannot be allowed to lord it over the rest of us just because their power to do so is vested in small minorities with power and money. That, in a nutshell, is what we socialists are about, that is what we mean by socialismâ€”the socialization social ownership, control and regulation of that property which produces the goods and services necessary to our lives. Such property is too crucial to our well-being to be allowed to be operated by private persons and lest we forget, corporations are considered legal persons strictly for financial gainâ€”i. Whether it be granting healthcare to all, guaranteeing all workers a Living Wage, or not dying needlessly in Afghanistan or Iraq. Socialism, then, benefits all of us, not just the few. It is the direct expression of meaningful participatory democracy for all.

### 2: In The Tank (ep) â€“ Socialism is Evil | The Freedom Pub

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

Humans go to war for oil. Workers die drilling and refining it. People die from pollution when oil is processed or burned. Oil may eventually contribute to the extinction of humanity through runaway climate change. The small city of Whiting, Indiana, is the site of the largest oil refinery in the Midwest. The strike issues mostly revolve around health and safety--not only for the workers inside the plant, but for the Whiting residents whose modest homes extend nearly to the plant gates. Residents are concerned about toxic substances released into the air and water as well as the possibility of catastrophic explosions. WOCC has a clear policy of labor solidarity, seeking to unite working-class people around its social-justice agenda. But more than the tradition of union solidarity unites these two groups of workers. Both labor in different sectors of a vast global petro-empire, the oil workers most obviously because they refine the oil extracted from the planet. But the highly profitable fast-food corporations are an important part of the agribusiness industry that depends heavily on oil, not only to fuel farm equipment, food processing and transport, but to manufacture its pesticides and fertilizers. Both refinery workers and fast-food workers work in industries that are critical to human civilization--energy and food. But because of the way these industries are organized today, they are hazardous to human health and destructive to the environment. The owners of these industries also ruthlessly exploit their own workers and resist all attempts to improve working conditions. Alongside the economic devastation, it left behind toxic pollution that still causes a multitude of health problems from asthma to cancer. The workers put their lives on the line because a lot of things can go wrong in a refinery. A bad explosion and fire at the BP facility would be disastrous. The workers maintain six picket lines around the clock, and this winter has been especially brutal in the lower Great Lakes. The wood is destined for the burn barrels strikers use to fend off the bitter chill that blows from Lake Michigan. Besides the usual business offices one finds in any union HQ, Local has an open space for meetings and, when we were there, shelves stocked with food for the striking workers. They treated us to a fried chicken lunch, and we reciprocated by donating our box lunches to their pantry. After lunch, striker Ebony Parker called us together to give us our picket line instructions. Strikes are battles in the ongoing class war, and Parker, as a coordinator of the picketing operations, had the quiet confident demeanor of one used to command. She made it clear that picket lines will not be coming down until the company delivers a fair contract proposal, saying, "If you all can get help that message out, please do. We are going to be on the line and we want to make sure you are not in the street. We want a peaceful picketing line. As we rode in our rented bus to the picket assignment, Parker gave us a quick tour of what we were seeing, pointing out the fire department and the main portion of the facility, what she called "the heart and soul of the refinery. See where the steam is coming out? We had a leak last week. It was put down for repairs. It was a pretty bad leak. She also mentioned two flares since the strike started. According to news reports, one of those flares sent smoke and flame to feet in the air, terrifying local residents who feared both the toxic smoke and the possibility of a massive explosion. USW District Director Matt Milsap said that this demonstrated why operating the refinery with management and undertrained contract employees is a bad idea: The flames are coming out higher and more often. The flare-ups are getting worse and more often. They have two or three security guards there even though our picketlines have been peaceful. The picket area featured two small sheds for shelter, a huge inflated Scabby the Rat, and an artfully constructed "rat trap" to "catch" scabs and rats. While there are a number of scabs non-union contractors, so far there have been no rats union workers who cross the picket line. There was also a burn barrel to help ward off the degree temperature. This was a "warm day" by comparison. It has dropped below zero several times during the course of the strike. The striking workers had a diverse selection of picket signs to choose from, and we joined their picket. We struck up conversations and got to know one another. I asked Joe Porter, a metals mechanic about his job at the refinery: We are a multi-craft trade. We tear equipment apart, fix it and put it together piece by piece. We do a lot of

steam weatherization. Almost everything out here has to be heated up at a certain temperature, or it is going to freeze, so we use steam and electrical tracing to keep everything to the proper temperature. Out here frozen pipes could result in something very bad. A refinery is a very complex operation to run and requires a diverse workforce. Joe Porter listed some of them: Porter is deeply concerned about the maintenance at the refinery because of the inadequate number of refinery staff. Workers are forced to work long hours for as much as 30 days straight. The union wants to the company to hire more workers because, as Porter said, choosing his words carefully: Especially when they are fatigued and tired. If we had more people who were rested and fresh, there would be less of a chance of something catastrophic happening. He spoke about how the button on the fryer machine in his store did not work properly, causing a "huge electricity hazard. According to a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health NIOSH , it is the younger more inexperienced workers in fast food who end up in the emergency room because of grease burns from fryers or falls due to slippery floors. The Bureau of Labor Statistics BLS estimates that fast-food workers are twice as likely to be physically attacked than workers at full-service chains. This includes murder and serious assaults. The workers most at risk are those who work the after midnight shifts. Like convenience stores, fast-food restaurants attract robbers looking for quick cash. The fast-food industry has not responded with adequate security. Gamino both repaired and installed equipment at the refinery until his retirement four years ago. Gamino also believes that the biggest issue in the strike is inadequate staffing, which he saw some of before he retired. Gamino elaborated by saying: They are continuing to reduce manpower It almost gives me the feeling that management is trying to work up a case to basically say that you are incapable of doing your job and give them an excuse to bring in contractors. Gamino continued by saying that one of the problems with contractors is that they do not have a vested interest in their jobs. This directly relates to the issues of safety: If you are out here for a career, you are going to take safety seriously. You are going to do whatever you have to do to make sure you and your buddy are safe. But if you are a contractor here, you are here for one job, and you are gone Gamino said that the industry wants to "dictate" safety procedures with no input from the union, meaning that workers would have nothing to say about it. WOCC member Robert Wilson who was on the picket line in solidarity also spoke about the health and safety issues that are really at the center of this strike. Wilson said that the last thing workers need, when they already put so much into their jobs, is to be made disabled or seriously ill because of a poor safety environment. I understand the importance of a safe workplace. There could be hazardous chemicals that could have long-term effects or cause serious injuries. Even when [workers] receive compensation for that, they may never make a full recovery The safer the workplace, the more productive the workers can be. I had the great fortune of meeting Tony Mazzocchi at a fundraising party when he ran for union president in the early s. He lost narrowly but continued to hold other union offices. Tony Mazzocchi was a socialist who believed strongly in social-justice unionism--that through labor solidarity among a very diverse American workforce, major social change is possible. He formed alliances with the environmental movement, and his work was largely responsible for the creation of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. But Mazzocchi knew that simply having a government agency for health and safety was inadequate. He wanted strong union committees with real decision-making power in workplaces so that workers could become the eyes and ears for health and safety, not just for their own facilities, but for the communities around them and the nation as a whole. But the solidarity shown between oil workers and fast-food workers on a cold Wednesday afternoon--two very different types of workers--shows that that the social-justice vision of Tony Mazzocchi, though not yet realized, is still very much alive.

### 3: Socialist Summit in the Heartland – Midwest Socialist

*TOPEKA, Kansas – Two luminaries in the democratic socialist movement – one its national leader, the other its new star – are descending on solidly Republican Kansas on Friday, taking their*

Loathing maybe too mild a description. Hate is the word average Americans use to refer to the loathing of Trump by the Democrats, the news media, and their fellow travelers. Americans are experiencing a rebirth of American financial strength, patriotism, prosperity, and self-worth. Average Americans may not accept all what President Trump tweets or what he says, but his economic recovery is working. Average Americans see this. His policies mean more than his words or those of his critics. Average Americans are a silent majority – the heartland. Trump won the heartland because average Americans felt Obama and Hillary did not care for them or America. Now, it appears the heartland contains some blue states. During the last week of July, a millennial in St. This self-hatred is taught in schools, look in the Minnesota public schools. They have no idea what Socialism means. They have no idea where Cuba is, nor where Venezuela is and what is happening there. Chicago – killings, San Francisco – a human wasteland in the streets, and Seattle – homelessness. Senator from Washington state. The Seattle limousine radicals are beginning to feel like the French Aristos. Obama corrupted even the FBI. On August 21, , at business conference in Indiana, attendees from financial interests around America and some 15 foreign nations exchanged thoughts and ideas. Their infrastructure spending is too costly and weighing down other aspects of the economy. Add the military expenditures – a mighty tidy sum – and soon the world has a serious financial mess on its hands. This is true of soybeans. About 25 percent of U. A Mexican standoff – pardon the pun. China is more dangerous than Russia. I am still a God-fearing woman. Now, I am an independent voter. I am voting for Republicans. I want civility, no street violence, and I want my religious freedom. Now it is about people – the American heartland. November – The Winter of the National Discontent. June – a Summer of growing national economy. Walsh was associate general counsel with the U. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service from to Posts by James Walsh.

### 4: The Creeping Cancer of Socialism Must Be Stopped | The Freedom Pub

*Socialism from Republicans to Republicans in Red States is fine. Socialism from the Federal Government to people in need without regard to race, creed, or color is Evil. 2 replies 20 retweets likes.*

In an election year defined by energized Democratic voters seeking to send President Donald Trump a message, Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez are betting they can stoke the liberal march in places where the left rarely competes. Some liberal voters are welcoming the spotlight. The trip is unusual on several fronts. For one, Trump won Kansas in by 20 percentage points, making it seemingly inhospitable for Democrats, much less democratic socialists. Moreover, Sanders is a year-old Jewish senator from Vermont, while Ocasio-Cortez is a year-old Latina from the Bronx who is poised to become the youngest member of Congress. The district, represented by four-term Republican Rep. Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton narrowly carried the district in . While organizers were forced to change venues for the Wichita event because of high demand for the Friday afternoon rally, the race in the 3rd District is considered more competitive. Still, Republicans are skeptical. He said Democrats tend to be split between liberals and moderates, with some union members and supporters holding conservative views on social issues. They must pick up at least 23 Republican-held seats to claim the House majority, and they are focusing on 25 districts where Clinton won, or Trump won narrowly. Leading candidates in the Democratic primary for governor have said their party must rebuild its brand in rural, heavily GOP areas. And despite surging energy among leftist Democrats in the Trump era, it was unclear if there were enough votes in the 3rd District for a liberal Democrat to win. In , Clinton narrowly won in this urban and suburban district whose neighborhoods are out of keeping with the agriculturally rich prairies that make up much of that state. And before Yoder first won in , it had been held for 12 years by centrist Democrat Dennis Moore, who relied on moderate Republicans during his tenure. Yet Sanders and his brand of liberalism have proved popular. But registered Republicans in the 3rd District outnumber their Democratic counterparts by more than 50,, while unaffiliated voters also edge Democrats. Republicans outnumber Democrats by 2-to-1 in the 4th District. Liberals argue that they are not just convincing moderate Democrats or disaffected Republicans but also engaging new primary voters, as Ocasio-Cortez did in New York this summer and as Sanders did in his insurgent presidential campaign. A race for Kansas Democrats to watch lies just miles kilometers north on Interstate . Democrat Kara Eastman won the May primary against moderate former Rep. She faces first-term Republican Rep. Don Bacon in this Republican-leaning district, where Trump won narrowly in but Obama won in

### 5: Democratic Socialism Hits the Heartland | Portside

*Socialism as "Real Freedom" During the heyday of communism in the 20th century, socialist governments in the Soviet bloc often formally called their systems "People's Republics." For instance, South Korea is the "Republic of Korea."*

In addition, the permanent war economy would occasion the perpetuation of racism and patriarchy in public and private life. As the years passed corporate rates of profit began to decline as a result of rising competition among capitalist states, over-production and under-consumption, an increasing fiscal crisis of the capitalist state, and rising prices of core natural resources particularly oil. With a growing crisis, global corporate and finance capital shifted from investments in production of goods and services to financial speculation. Thus capitalist investment steadily shifted to financialization, or the investment in paper-stocks, bonds, private equity and hedge funds and other forms of speculative investment. Multinational corporations which continued to produce goods and services sought to overcome declining profit rates. This, they concluded, could only be achieved by reducing the costs of labor. To overcome the demand for higher real wages, health and other benefits, and worker rights, manufacturing facilities were moved from core capitalist states to poor countries where lower wages were paid. Thus, in wealthier countries millions of relatively high paying jobs were lost while production of goods increasingly moved to sweatshops in poor countries. Wealthy capitalist states experienced deindustrialization. Finally, assisted by technological advances, from computers to new forms of shipping, financial speculation and deindustrialization fueled the full flowering of globalization, or the radically increased patterns of cross border interactions-economic, political, and cultural. Globalization began to transform the world into one integrated global political economy. In short, we may speak of a four-fold set of parallel political and economic developments that have occurred since the end of World War II, in which the United States has played a leading role: A rich and vital set of images of a socialist future comes down to us from the utopians, anarchists, and Marxists, the martyrs of the first May Day, and the variety of experiments with socialism attempted in Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. Extracting from the multiple reasons why individuals and movements chose socialism one reason stands out; that is, that capitalism historically is and has been a cruel and inhumane system, a system borne and fueled by slavery, genocide, super exploitation of workers, tactics of division based on race and gender, and an almost total disregard for the natural environment that sustains life. Building a permanent war economy, financialization, deindustrialization, and globalization are merely extensions of the cruel and heartless pursuit of profit which has been the fundamental driving force of the capitalist mode of production. Drawing on the history and the images of a better future coupled with the brutality of the capitalist era, we might conceive of a 21st century socialist future that has four main dimensions. First, we need to create institutions that are created and staffed by the working classes and serve the interests of the working classes. Second, our vision of socialism is a society in which the working classes fully participate in the institutions that shape their lives and in the creation of the policies that these institutions develop to serve the needs of all the people. Third, socialism also implies the creation of public policies that sustain life. Socialism in this sense is about good jobs, incomes that provide for human needs, access to health care for all, adequate housing and transportation, a livable environment, and an end to discrimination and war. Fourth, socialism is also about the creation of institutions and policies that maximize human potential. Today we remain terribly far from any of these dimensions of socialism. But paradoxically, humankind at this point in time has the technological tools to build a mass movement to create a socialist future. We can communicate instantaneously with peoples all over the world. We can access information about the world that challenges the narrow ruling class media frames about the human condition. We have in the face of brutal war, environmental devastation, enduring racism, super exploitation of workers everywhere mass movements of workers, women, people of color, indigenous people, and youth who are demanding changes. Increasingly public discourse is based upon the realization that our future will bring either extinction or survival. Socialism, although it is not labeled as such, represents human survival. Where do we who believe that socialism offers the best hope for survival stand at this critical juncture? Many of us are older. Some of us have remained mired in old formulas about change.

Nevertheless we can make a contribution to building a socialist future. In fact we have a critical role to play. We must articulate systematic understandings of the global political economy and where it came from: We need to articulate what impacts these processes have had on class, race, gender, and the environment. In other words, we need to convince activists that almost all things wrong with the world are connected and are intimately tied to the development of capitalism as the dominant mode of production. We need to take our place in political struggles that demand an expanded role for workers in political institutions. We need to insist that the working classes participate in all political decisions. We need to work on campaigns that could sustain life: Our contribution can include making connections between the variety of single issues, insisting that participants in mass movements take cognizance of and work on the other single issues that constitute the mosaic of problems that require transformation. We must remember that in the end the basic policies that sustain life require building socialism. Most struggles, such as those to achieve living wages or a single payer health care system for example, plant the seeds for building a broader socialist society. We can incorporate our socialist vision in our debates about single issues: We need to rearticulate our belief that human beings have a vast potential for good, for creativity, and given a just society, we all could move away from classism, racism, and sexism. We could pursue our talents and interests in the context of a sharing and cooperative society. By working for institutional incorporation empowerment and life-sustaining and enhancing policies we will be planting the seeds for a socialist society. We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old.

### 6: The November Surprise From the Heartland | [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*TOPEKA, Kansas* "Two luminaries in the democratic socialist movement" one its national leader, the other its new star "are descending on solidly Republican Kansas on Friday, taking their emboldened liberal message to an unlikely testing ground before next month's congressional primaries.

### 7: Indiana Socialist Fellowship: Stirrings in the Heartland

*Midwest Socialist exists to show how activists and politicians from DSA and the broader socialist movement are working to create a more equitable, more democratic society for all people.*

### 8: Ocasio-Cortez's Socialism Can Work in the Midwest

*Socialism in the Heartland is a collection of eight essays which weave unusually common threads as they challenge traditional views marking the decline of socialism.*

### 9: Solidarity in the heartland | [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*The Reds Are Coming & They're Young, Female, & Determined To Win America's Heartland. Can socialism flourish in the Midwest? In the battleground state of Minnesota, activists are testing their.*

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