

# Socialism in Idaho schools

## Introduction

The Idaho Freedom Foundation compiled these quotes from curricula in an Idaho Curricular Materials Regional Center. Read for yourself: Some Idaho textbooks distort—whether by omission or one-sided narratives—basic economic principles and social issues.

## Material excerpts

“The positive effects of the New Deal programs could be seen immediately in the 1930s. **These programs saved the lives of millions of Americans who were penniless, starving, and homeless.** ... The Roosevelt administration was the first to claim responsibility for the economic well-being of the country as a whole. **This attitude ... give[s] Americans a sense of security and a quality of life that is constantly improving.**”

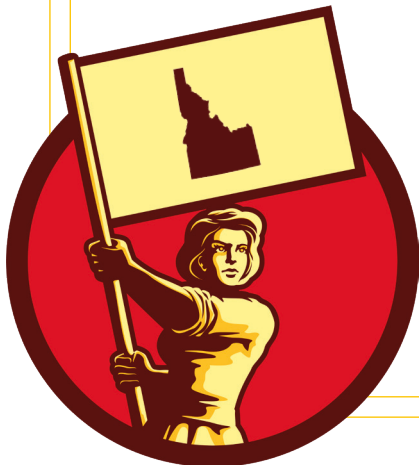
*Snapshots in History: The New Deal, Rebuilding America. By Stephanie Fitzgerald.*

“Socialist nations today are generally democratic. Unlike pure socialism, which seeks to eliminate capitalism, these socialist democracies use state regulation and social services to **ease any economic injustices caused by capitalism.**”

*HMH Social Studies: United States Government, 2018, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.*

“Though the New Deal did not end the depression, **it did help restore the American economy. It created the foundation for sustained and stable growth.** According to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Kennedy, “the unparalleled economic vitality of the post-1940 decades was attributable to many factors. But the [economic expansion]... owed much to the New Deal.”

*United States History, Pearson Publishing Company, 2016*





■ Dr. New Deal, of course, was Franklin D. Roosevelt. The sick patient was the economy of the United States. Almost everyone thought it was dying and would have to be replaced. But not FDR. He was a man of action. Besides that, he was a pragmatist. ... **Here are some words to describe FDR: Forceful, Dynamic, Resourceful, Optimistic, Outgoing, Sensitive, Energetic, Vivacious, Enthusiastic, Likable, Tireless. ...** ■

■ Roosevelt's ideas really were a 'New Deal'... He probably saved American capitalism, but he changed some of its habits. ... **The New Deal made the government an active participant in citizens' lives.** Yet most of the ideas of the New Deal were not really new. They were the old Progressive ideas in a new package. They had already been tried in Europe. **America was behind the times when it came to social welfare.** ■

■ **Communism is an economic system, and as such it is not evil.** It just doesn't seem to work efficiently. When combined with a harsh political system, as it was in Soviet Russia, it was evil. ■

*A History of US: War, Peace, and All that Jazz,  
by Joy Hakim. Adopted in 2002.*

■ A troubling aspect of 21st-century social issues is the growing income gap between America's rich and poor. ... Economists and politicians have listed various causes of the widening income gap.

- **Tax policies have changed in recent decades to favor the rich.**
- The decline of labor unions has led to lower incomes and less political influence for blue-collar workers [...]
- Corporate CEOs receive huge salaries that are hundreds of times larger than their lowest-paid employees' salaries. Competition among businesses keeps those salaries high. ■

*HMH Social Studies, American History: Reconstruction to the Present, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2018*

*Note: IFF researchers used boldface on some text for illustrative purposes only. Text is not in boldface in original materials.*

