

Progressives and socialists often tout the benefits and the “fairness” of their respective philosophies. However, as in the example of “free” health care, nothing is really free. What costs does one pay, in order to be considered one of the masses? Everything has a price and what is this price of social and economic equality for all? It should be no surprise that the cost is equality of liberty.

	Power held by	Ruled by	Protection of Rights
Representative Republic	individual citizens	Laws made by elected representatives	Constitution protects rights of all people
Pure Democracy	population as a whole	The majority	Rights can be overridden by the majority
Socialism	Government	Government	Government

In exchange for guaranteed income, free college, free healthcare, Obamaphones, guaranteed jobs, we must give up that one most precious quality that has made America so unique among nations... Equality of Liberty. The freedom to believe, be and do what you want, as long as it does not negatively impact your fellow man. That freedom for which so many have died on the battlefield, on that raft in the ocean, trudging through foreign lands in the hopes of escaping austere conditions, brutal regimes and even death.

Nothing in life is free, and the cost of having all of your basic needs met by your government is to forgo your freedom to have a say in your own life and become merely a part of the masses.

How much are you willing to give up in pursuit of an illusionary equal slice of the pie?

***“The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.”***

*Margaret Thatcher*

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## EQUALITY IN LIBERTY VS EQUALITY IN RESTRAINT

Little did our Founding Fathers know that their experiment of merging a representative government with democracy would be the birth of a unique and mighty nation. As stated in the Preamble to the US Constitution their goal was to form a more perfect union where liberty and justice were the guiding principles. The Founding Fathers could not have envisioned the changes in mores and attitudes over time and the breadth and depth of expansion in numbers and geography. To the present day, we continue to strive to “form a more perfect union”

From the abolition of slavery, to the expansion of voting rights to African-Americans and women, and the legalization of gay marriage, we continue to ensure that liberty and justice extend to all, in some instances in a more timely manner than others.

As our country has grown, so has the need to expand the responsibilities of the government. Initially departments and commissions addressed economic concerns, and in the 1900s social concerns such as public health and safety were placed under government purview.

And so the government has grown ever more expansive and brought us to this crossroad.

*Preamble to the US Constitution*

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

## THE EXPANSION OF GOVERNMENT

In order to address needs, concerns, criticism and purported abuses, government responsibilities have grown significantly beyond those envisioned at the Constitutional Convention in 1778.

AGENCY	DATE	AGENCY	DATE
Army, Marine Corps, Navy	1775	Social Security	1935
Coast Guard	1780	CDC	1946
Treasury, US Attorney General	1789	Air Force	1947
Interior	1849	Health, Education and Welfare, SBA	1953
Agriculture	1862	HUD, Medicare and Medicaid Services	1965
Justice	1870	Transportation	1967
Post Office	1872	EPA	1970
ATF	1886	OSHA	1971
Interstate Commerce Commission	1887	Energy	1977
Commerce	1903	Education, FEMA	1979
FDA	1906	VA	1989
FBI	1908	DHS	2002
Labor	1913	Space Force	2019

As a Representative Republic all of these Departments, Agencies and Commissions are subject to the US Constitution and their rules and regulations must comply with the mandates of equal justice for all.

Have there been abuses in the past? Yes, as irrespective of how perfect we wish our Union to be, human nature can be woefully imperfect and difficult to control. And now in this third decade of the 21st Century, we are at a crossroads. Government has become an important, but increasingly more intrusive, part of our lives. Where our Founding Fathers sought an Equality of Liberty for all, Americans see an increasing call for an Equality of Result that can only be accomplished by an Equality of Restraint.

*Equality of Liberty—the individual's right to do whatever he chooses with his life and property as long as he does not harm others.*

*Equality of Restraint- Equality of goods, services and social life as determined by some outside source, usually government.*

## THE GOAL OF SOCIALISM/ PROGRESSIVISM.

Socialism and progressivism are sometimes used interchangeably. Progressivism is often merely considered a move forward, generally implying such a move is positive. Oftentimes, the issues important to a progressive have to do with social and economic equality. It is often defined best by the person who identifies himself as a progressive.

Socialism is considered to be the mother of progressivism. Socialism accomplishes its goal of social equality by tightly controlling individuals and businesses. Socialism distributes wealth through programs such as “free” education and “free” healthcare, without acknowledging that there is no such as thing as “free”.

Initially higher taxes are levied on those with higher incomes to provide services at no charge to those who have less. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the definition of “those who have more” often slides further and further down the scale until even those who originally benefitted from such programs, now find themselves on the side of the payee. A good example would be the exorbitant deductibles many middle class Americans experienced under the ACA. Their incomes precluded them from “free” benefits, but was not sufficient for them to benefit from their own insurance plan.

	Capitalism	Socialism
<b>Ownership of Assets</b>	Private	Government or Cooperatives
<b>Income Equality</b>	Free market forces	Income equally distributed according to need as determined by a ruling elite.
<b>Consumer Prices</b>	Determined by Supply and Demand	Set by government
<b>Efficiency and Innovation</b>	Free market competition encourages efficiency and innovation	Government-owned businesses have less incentive for efficiency and innovation and don't respond to consumer needs
<b>Healthcare</b>	Private sector	"free" or government (tax-payer) subsidized
<b>Taxation</b>	Based on individual income	Higher taxes needed to pay for public services