

## **College Unbound!: The MRC's Liberty Learning Program**

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*



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#### **Series 1: Marxism-Collectivism**

#### **Episode 06: The Last Five Planks of The Communist Manifesto**

#### **Teaching Text**

It's time to see the second half of The Communist Manifesto's ten planks, and try to tell ourselves, "It couldn't happen here..."

Plank Six: "Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the state."

This is "Cancel Culture" and academic censorship maximized in the hands of bureaucrats and politicians. And, if your neighbors think this doesn't happen in the U.S., ask them to think again. Communication: The federal government claims control over all radio waves, television broadcasts, phone calls, and cable-driven computer interaction, via its creation, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). And here's some key background...

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Starting in the 1920s, numerous US politicians began arguing that since radio waves went over state borders, and since the radio spectrum was a so-called "limited resource," those two factors necessitated and allowed the feds to seize the radio spectrum and doll out temporary permission slips, i.e. "licenses," for people to use them.

This was, of course, a complete misreading of the original intent of the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, (Article One, Section Eight), which, as James Madison said, was written to provide an avenue to resolve state trade disputes, not to grant politicians power over anything traveling over state borders. Additionally, at any given time, there are only a certain number of usable trees on Earth. That doesn't mean the feds can seize all the forests and control what goes into printed books.

Regardless, after World War One, Congress seized the radio spectrum, and subsequently created the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), which issued radio "licenses" based on political glad-handing, and delayed the legal debut of television by five years. Once TV was allowed, the FRC was renamed the Federal Communications Commission in the 1940s, and continued to use "licensing power" to shut down political dissent.

And the FCC still is a nexus point for party politics as a collectivist tool to kill dissent... That's for the transmission of ideas. What about the transportation of people across the U.S.? Surely, THAT'S not hugely collectivized, right?

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Actually, it is. Let’s look at air travel...

Starting in the 1920s, the United States Postal Service (USPS) began using a series of “Lighted Air Routes” for its transcontinental Air Mail “service”. It set up lighted towers and created huge arrows in the ground (some of which can still be seen in the desert Southwest) to allow its hired pilots to use visual flight rules (there was no RADAR in wide use at the time) to fly. The USPS also got Congress to BAN private carriers from using these routes. Once the feds started regulating the air ROUTES, FDR pushed for, and Congress in 1946 began, offering cash handouts to municipalities and states for airport construction. In fact, the entire confused, delay-filled, and illogical air travel system we have today is not a product of market forces, but of political forces. And now, we cannot board a plane without seeing our rights breached and the Fourth Amendment crushed. Marx would be delighted.

On the ground, the federal government uses its unconstitutional handouts of so-called “highway funds” to threaten states, making them conform to mandates such as Title Nine of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and making them bow to mandates such as the Fourth Amendment-attacking “REAL ID,” as well.

Then, there’s AMTRAK, the federally-created train system that — like all government rail systems in history — has never, ever, run in the black. Yet the feds continue to make us pay for it so we can subsidize those few who ride it and those businesses positioned near the stations.

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Now, let's understand Plank Seven: “Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State; the bringing into cultivation of waste-lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan.”

As we mentioned in Part Three of our series, if the state “owns” factories and takes control of the soil, consumers can't show their valuation of products and land use or collect the information needed to make proper decisions.

In most cases, the US government doesn't take direct ownership of industries, but controls huge facets of their operations via regulations, bailouts, and threats of antitrust suits, thus taking the decision-making out of the hands of the real owners, and putting it in political hands.

And this top-down system exposes the lesson of “Spheres of Control.” The larger the sphere of control, the less knowledgeable the deciders will be, the less connected to local information they will be, the more people who will be harmed by bad decisions, and the lower the chance of being able to escape the affected area.

The history of collectivism running factories, industry, and agriculture has reflected this problem, and produced, not goods and crops, but mass starvation — horrors we'll study soon...

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Plank Eight: “Equal liability of all to labour. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.”

Even cavemen understood that people had different abilities and interests, yet Marx would make everyone somehow “equal” in their labor... And Marxists claim to oppose “exploitation”. Yet they avoid the reality that enslavement by the state is “exploitative,” to say the least.

How is this reflected in America?

Easy. The U.S. income tax is state-run enslavement. Period. Then, there are agencies such as federal “Americorps,” and the illegitimate use of federal troops or cash to provide so-called “disaster relief,” which inform us that America already has employed hundreds of thousands unconstitutionally as “armies” for government-run industry and agriculture. In this way, the U.S. is similar to both WWII-era Germany and Italy, where Hitler and Mussolini admired Marx and utilized this collectivist “corps” tactic — and we’ll discuss fascist collectivism soon, seeing just how much Hitler and Mussolini admired Marx.

Nine. “Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country, by a more equitable distribution of the population over the country.”

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Who decides? Various "central plans" have been introduced and executed in Marxist nation-states and many Western politicians have implemented their own. From Hitler's ghettoization, to Jackson, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao's forced relocation crimes, to the often overlooked, but pernicious, practices of zoning, farm subsidies, corporate "regulatory capture," or the various planks of the United Nations' Agenda 21 (and Agenda 2030), the world has seen repeated attempts by politicians to reshape maps, carve out special privileges for favored groups, and "make the world" live a certain way.

The result? In America, a nation with no connection to the feudal class system that Marx supposedly despised, collectivism has created a new class: the political class. If you're connected to government and play its game, you're elite, just like the politicians.

Plank Ten: "Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labour in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production, &c., &c."

Nothing is "free." People are forced to pay for what any government provides. In the case of America, it is indirect enslavement of citizens through income, sales, and property taxes, all done while claiming children have a "right" to education. But, no one has a right "to" anything. We have Natural Rights to be free from the commands, theft, and threats of others. Collectivists would never dare openly enslave teachers, because that would make the mandatory servitude too obvious, and, of course, there would be no incentive for teachers to teach when thrust into classrooms. But collectivists will force

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others to pay taxes to fund the teachers' salaries, and deride anyone as “hating children” if taxpayers would like to keep their money and they think that using force doesn't allow for the price system to function or for competition to achieve beneficial results.

Regardless, since the late 1800s, the U.S. has seen Marxist-collectivists lobby for and secure this Manifesto plank of government-run schooling. To the detriment of education, economics, choice, and free will, they've left tens of millions of children ill-served and illiterate — perfect targets for government welfarism and control — even as government taxation of the productive to shell out for schooling on every level grows and grows. And Marx is said to have opposed the exploitation of children, but he wanted children removed from the home and put into government school-work camps. He despised traditional families and the teaching of belief in God, and, as is clear in Plank Ten, he wanted to replace child labor in “capitalist” factories with child labor through a mandatory schooling system.

Children in the Marxist system would be sent to government-run schools then made to work in state-owned factories — but, one assumes, since they were working for the “proletariat government,” Marx thought this form of enslavement was downright peachy... This lack of morality and ethics is horrifying, yet contemporary Marxists still push for land-grabs, taxation, regulation, business seizures, and child propaganda centers called schools where kids are forced to do “volunteer service” — all, we're supposed to believe, to make people somehow “free,” and the world “more equitable.”

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In reality, collectivism is enslavement, and only lets the underlings share equally in misery.

Hey! It's your moment to review and take the quiz below! And join us next time, to investigate the roots of Marxist thought going back to France! Yep! It's our chance to dissect the collectivist label "socialism," and look at one of its major proponents, Mr. French Revolution himself, Jean Jacques Rousseau!

Until then, take the quiz below and challenge yourself to see what you've learned as part of the MRC's *College Unbound!* Liberty Learning Program!

Quiz 06: <https://forms.gle/qCggxu7hkcAL4kq16>