

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*



**[College Unbound!: The MRC's Liberty Learning Program](#)**

**Series 1: Marxism-Collectivism**

**Episode 11: Don't Let Anyone Tell You "Real Communism" or "Real Socialism"**

**Haven't Been Tried Before (Even in America)**

**Teaching Text**

Throughout our series, we've been able to explore the people and ideas behind some of the most egregious crimes in human history. Mass arrests, property theft, extortion, separation of families, kidnapping, rape, arson, human experimentation, eugenics, slavery, mass incarceration, international aggression, spying, indoctrination, famine, and mass murder—all are the hallmarks of collectivism in action. Yet, still, many politicians and utopian commentators recklessly claim, "true socialism hasn't been tried!"

It has, and if our overview in this series has not provided enough examples, let's explore one more, ***from American shores and American history.***

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

If anyone says, "American socialism has never been tried," let's tell that person, "Indeed, it has, in the earliest days of American history. And if the people who tried it had not changed their ways, there might be no America as we know it, and no such thing as **Thanksgiving.**"

From this online learning series to you, for each Thanksgiving, we can remember the lessons the special holiday shows us, and we can hear the warnings of past and present.

First, Thanksgiving...

The celebration has great significance in our battle to respect individual autonomy, free will, and free markets.

Thanksgiving wasn't what many government school teachers claim.

It wasn't established because the Pilgrims wanted to "thank" the natives for help.

Sure, the Pilgrims ended up getting along with some of the natives, and got tips from them, but that wasn't why the early settlers started Thanksgiving. In fact, it takes very little time to find out why the Pilgrims created the holiday. Governor William Bradford told us in his own words. The Pilgrims started Thanksgiving because they were thankful

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

*“Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy”*

to God for helping them turn away from collectivism—the system that almost wiped them out—and to embrace private property and free enterprise.

Not many people learn this in government-run schools. In fact, a teacher, with whom I worked, once tried to push the ignorant canard that “real communism” has never been tried, and another teacher held firmly to her self-made fantasy that “it was the weather” that saved the Pilgrims.

It wasn’t “the weather,” and, as we have seen in this learning series, communism has been tried, over and over, always leading to disaster.

In fact, even before Marx wrote his “Communist Manifesto,” and prior to Rousseau writing his “Social Contract” and “Discourse on Inequality,” the collectivist scheme had been tried by the governing body of Pilgrims in 1620, and it led to starvation, death, misery, anger, and the near destruction of Plymouth Plantation.

Here’s the story.

From the 16th through the 17th Centuries, England was in turmoil. The Protestant Reformation and creation of the Anglican Church had seen a profound split by the United Kingdom from Roman Catholicism, and many battles occurred between Catholics and Protestants for control.

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

Within that struggle, there were other sectarian conflicts. The Puritans were Calvinists, who didn't think the Protestant Anglican Church was "pure enough," and so some "Puritans" fled the strife in England to live in the free-market, free-religion nation of Holland, which had recently won its independence from Spain.

For over ten years, the Pilgrims enjoyed the fruits of Holland's free trade system. They had ample opportunities to work and prosper, but many of them did not like the fact that their children were becoming, in their eyes, "too Dutch" and straying away from the strict Calvinist lifestyle. They decided to resettle in America.

Here comes the bonus lesson in economics we can learn from the voyage. It's that taxation of the so-called "wealthy," however politicians define that, destroys leverage capital, and wipes out investment in possibly important ventures.

It wasn't as if these British Pilgrims simply could shell out enough cash to hire two ships and buy provisions to sail west.

Instead—thanks to the fact that they were in the bustling laissez faire nation of Holland—they were able to secure investors. Indeed, the only reason Plymouth Plantation was established was because a group of Dutch "capitalists" had enough expendable surplus to see the Pilgrim effort as a worthy investment and sponsor the trip, asking, in exchange, for portions of the furs and valuables the Pilgrims could send back.

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

*“Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy”*

Sadly, the Pilgrims ran into trouble *of their own making*. Not only was the second ship, Speedwell, unseaworthy and left behind, the Pilgrims originally planned to sail to Virginia, but missed their target.

Worst of all, they established a political-economic system of command-and-control collectivism, whereby no one was allowed to own and control his own property.

This is where the big lesson was learned. This is where Thanksgiving has its roots.

In fact, despite help from natives, the communist system Governor William Bradford oversaw led to terrible internal conflict, resentment, sloth, and poor harvests.

Starvation resulted for many.

Here is [William Bradford, in his own words](#), describing their attempt to establish the “Platonic Ideal” by prohibiting private property and mandating communal lives—and describing the horrible results:

“The experience that was had in this common course and condition, tried sundry years and that amongst godly and sober men, may well evince the vanity of that conceit of Plato's and other ancients applauded by some of later times; that the taking away of property and bringing in community into a commonwealth would make them happy and flourishing; as if they were wiser than God. For this community (so far as it was) was

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

*“Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy”*

found to breed much confusion and discontent and retard much employment that would have been to their benefit and comfort.”

Bradford goes on to note:

“For the young men, that were most able and fit for labour and service, did repine that they should spend their time and strength to work for other men's wives and children without any recompense. The strong, or man of parts, had no more in division of victuals and clothes than he that was weak and not able to do a quarter the other could; this was thought injustice. The aged and graver men to be ranked and equalized in labours and victuals, clothes, etc., with the meaner and younger sort, thought it some indignity and disrespect unto them.”

For the feminists out there, if Karl Marx’s adoration of “patriarchal relations” isn’t enough to turn you away from socialism, here’s what collectivism-in-action wrought:

“And for men's wives to be commanded to do service for other men, as dressing their meat, washing their clothes, etc., they deemed it a kind of slavery, neither could many husbands well brook it. Upon the point all being to have alike, and all to do alike, they thought themselves in the like condition, and one as good as another; and so, if it did not cut off those relations that God hath set amongst men, yet it did at least much diminish and take off the mutual respects that should be preserved amongst them. And would have been worse if they had been men of another condition. Let none object this

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

*“Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy”*

is men's corruption, and nothing to the course itself. I answer, seeing all men have this corruption in them, God in His wisdom saw another course fitter for them.”

That course was the allowance of private property and trade, which led to vast riches and surplus, happiness, and prosperity. Here is Bradford's explicit testimony:

“So they began to think how they might raise as much corn as they could, and obtain a better crop than they had done, that they might not still thus languish in misery. At length, after much debate of things, the Governor (with the advice of the chiefest amongst them) gave way that they should set corn every man for his own particular, and in that regard trust to themselves; in all other things to go on in the general way as before. And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression.”

Well said.

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

The first Thanksgiving was a celebration of God helping the Pilgrims find a path away from tyranny, oppression, envy, and starvation.

Finding a path away from collectivism.

Thanksgiving came about because of the surplus the free market system allowed the settlers to achieve.

It is about freedom, free will, subjective valuation, division of labor, resource creation, surplus, trade, and freedom of association, all of which are put in peril by the state.

From Plato's tyrannical "Republic"—where private property was verboten and people's lives were controlled by the so-called "Philosopher Kings"—to Thomas Hobbes,' Rousseau's, contemporary leftists', and even many so-called conservatives' errant claim of a magical "social contract," the predators and promoters of the state peddle all kinds of deceptive, feel-good collectivist phrases to hide what they are doing, which is stealing your God-given liberty and individualism.

There is no "Social Contract." A contract is a private agreement between two or more individuals, made voluntarily, and recognizable by others. The state **imposes** its will, it does not ask. It is involuntary, which is why it's a state, and not a business. If you or I entered into a voluntary contract with the state, it would cease being a state and it would

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

be a voluntary business endeavor. The "social contract" fallacy is as dangerous an idea as democracy, and as collectivist, as well.

Some claim that you accept this "contract" because you live here and don't flee.

Which is quite an assumption! It's the rhetoric of the mafia. It is the mindset of the thug who assumes you have someplace to which you CAN flee, and the means to do so. It assumes YOUR reasons for you, simply to make it easier to excuse the predation of their government plans.

To claim, as many contemporary leftists do, that "the social contract was made through democracy"—through "majority rule"—is to employ another collectivist misdirection, hiding the gangland imposition of the will of the big group over a smaller group or an individual.

Aristotle used the term "democracy" to describe the evil of majority rule without a constitution that supposedly would restrain the power of the government—which is one of the major reasons the Founders wrote the U.S. Constitution. But the U.S. Constitution has not held back the cancerous growth of collectivist coercion and theft.

In fact, even constitutions are imposed by majority rule, so, as Christian anarchist philosophers through the ages have noted, the idea that a constitution, which is a

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

*“Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy”*

political imposition and brought about by majority vote, somehow will protect people from majority rule is something of a non-starter.

Ancient Ireland had a non-state, non-tax system of voluntary peaceful interaction called [the Brehon Law](#). They understood the difference between society and the state. There was no central government, no central constitution, just traditional market-based justice and mostly peaceful tribal interaction that lasted over 1,000 years. Viking Age Iceland had a similar, religious-based society and justice system called the Godard system that lasted 800 years.

Is it too much to open windows onto these good examples from history, and see that peace and prosperity come through free will and the freedom to worship and speak?

As we think about the stark differences between the evils of Marxism-collectivism and the great peaceful progress of free will and free markets, as we hear contemporary politicians and media pundits of all stripes tell us that “we” must do X, Y or Z, can we not remember that “We” is a pronoun of forced inclusion, being imposed on you, trying to fool you into thinking you must comply?

In fact, victims of collectivism recognized the political use of “we” as so dangerous, a Soviet dissident named Yevgeny Zamyatin wrote a dystopian novel by that name, “WE,” nearly thirty years prior to Orwell writing “1984.” It was a tale criticizing collectivism, a

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

tale that was banned by the Soviet collectivists, and a tale that heavily influenced Orwell and Ayn Rand (for her novella, "Anthem.")

Don't let them close down your liberty. Stand for truth. Please remember, and spread the word. And please remember these comments from people who are very familiar with collectivism, its anti-liberty philosophy, its history, and its tragic consequences. Here is Ernesto Gonzales, an American whose family fled collectivism—an American who sees the danger we face:

"My name is Ernesto Gonzalez, and I have a message for everyone. I arrived from Cuba, on July 5, 1968, after living under communism for, altogether, seven years... We left as a family, just the three of us, my parents and myself, for one major reason: for the oppression, for the lies, for the persecution, for the lack of opportunity, for the police state that exists in a communist society, and the complete lack of freedom for individual expression—everything is about the collective. It's about what they think is best for you, and not you for yourself or for society. They care nothing about people. They care nothing about alternate points of view.

"We escaped a totalitarian system because we were searching for freedom, and we found it in the United States. And I do warn all of you out there who may be considering that socialism or communism is something appealing. It is not. It comes in an attractive package. And an attractive package that is unrealistic is a lie, and is there for you to

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

*“Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy”*

accept it, and once you accept it, the—literally—the unmasking comes out, and you see the full devilish intentions of the originators.”

Please remember those words, and please keep close to your heart the knowledge of millions who have been wiped-out by the advocates of collectivism.

As we discussed previously in *College Unbound!*, collectivism is an intellectual and philosophical grifter. It's advocates will try any avenue of attack, testing various vectors, then integrating what has worked or has set up a next phase of greater government control. Here, in the West, from education, to communication, to travel, to health care, and many of the most minute aspects of life, government interference, subsidies, welfare, and control have been established to block us from making our own free choices and from allowing the market to produce the best products and services in greater abundance.

As technological sophistication and state integration increase, the collectivists will not need to employ the same tactics that tyrants in the Soviet Union, China, Germany, and others employed.

The adversaries of freedom already have created a sweeping collectivist control system. They already have mimicked German and Soviet physical barriers, and they have created regulatory barriers. But now, these barriers are being combined with technology. From banking, to trade, to medicine, to travel.

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

I own a piece of the Berlin Wall. Soviet communists built it between collectivist East Berlin and free West Berlin to stop people from escaping to freedom. In 1989, friends and family separated for decades tore it down, and I was able to acquire a chunk of that terrible barrier.

Today, collectivists are adding many other kinds of walls to their arsenal. But the most formidable walls to our freedom are ignorance of history and a lack of adherence to the Golden Rule.

Together we can celebrate the heritage of freedom we've been granted, from the birth of Christ to the Pilgrims changing their ways, and we can teach others about these principles and history.

We have a chance to stand for ethics and human dignity.

Our forebears handed us this responsibility, so that we may preserve liberty and pass on the principles to our children.

Let's do so...

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

*"Saving Liberty Requires Knowledge of Its Enemy"*

Thank you for reading, for caring, for spreading the word, and for being part of *College Unbound!*. We hope you have found kindred spirits here, and have been happy to enjoy the series.

Please pass on the information to those you love and respect.

Quiz 11: <https://forms.gle/XzkWd8yYqsFFJtbJA>