

# All Those *–isms*

by Ken Casper

A recent man-on-the-street interviewer asked people: “What is Socialism?” Nobody had a satisfactory answer. A few had no answer at all. Of particularly troubling significance is that many of the respondents were college students. Yet these same snowflakes proudly advocate socialism over capitalism, supported Bernie Sanders, voted for Hillary Clinton—if they voted at all—and are proudly anti-Trump.

So, I conducted my own informal, unscientific survey. I asked friends and acquaintances, all of whom are at least high school graduates, about other *isms*: Fascism, Communism, Marxism, Totalitarianism, Progressivism, Leninism, Naziism . . . There’s a whole world of *isms* out there. We hear or read about at least one or two of them every day, but apparently few of us understand what the terms really mean.

My goal in this and the articles that follow is to clear up some of the mystery. The better we understand the political and moral philosophies around us, the better prepared we will be to draw accurate conclusions and make wise decisions. I hope what follows will provoke thought on your part and a lot of questions about **all these –isms**

Keep in mind that every political system has one overriding goal: power. Money is merely its tool. Remember too that virtually no system of government has been fully or purely implemented for several reasons; some simply don’t work but the underlying concepts, like equality and social justice, are appealing; some because they have been hijacked by hostile forces, and others because they have been corrupted by time.

Let’s start with **Socialism and Capitalism**.