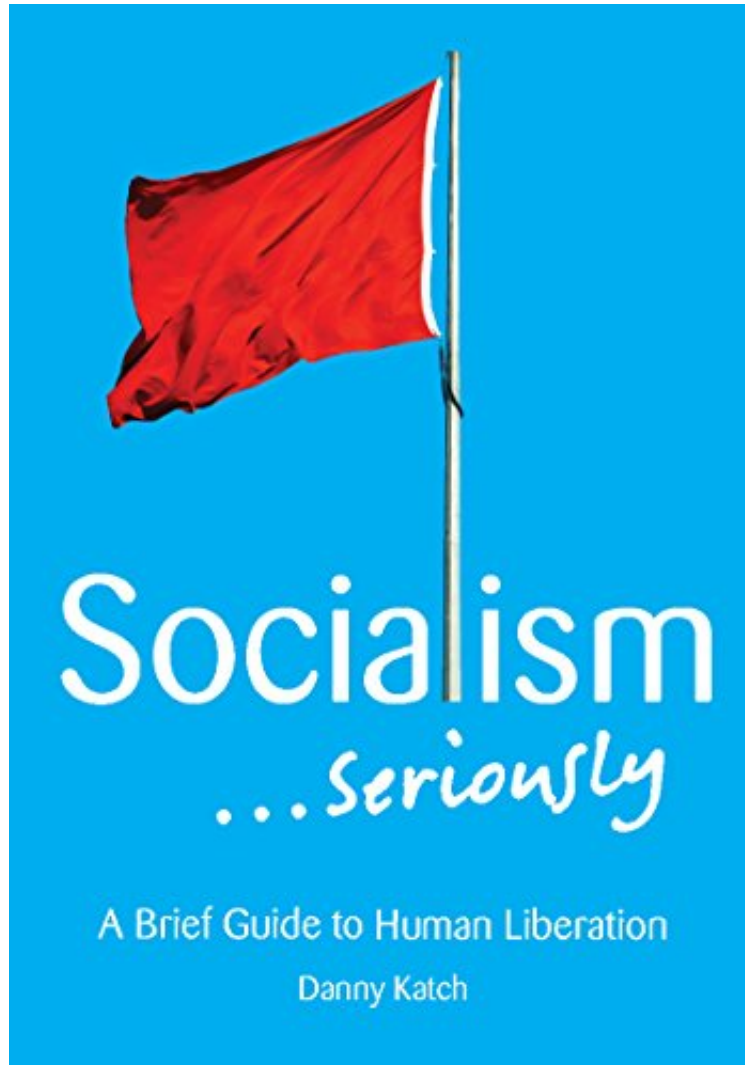


Socialism . . . Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation

Danny Katch

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Danny Katch : Socialism . . . Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Socialism . . . Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation:

30 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Socialism... Seriously... Is Seriously Good.By A. ContrerasAre you tired of the same old dry and fact-filled 200 pager about why the system sucks and why socialism is the only solution? Danny Katch's "Socialism... Seriously: A Brief Guide to Human Liberation" is the antidote.Don't get me wrong. I've read a number of great books making the case for socialism (Maass's "The Case for Socialism", Callinicos's "Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx" and stuff by Hal Draper) as the alternative to a system built off of profit expropriated from working people's labor. But Danny Katch's book really captures the humility and the

seriousness of what it's like to engage in the struggle to change the world. Perhaps the most notable contribution he makes is his injection of humor. Humor is so much a part of the conversations about the failures of capitalism. I mean Jon Stewart rocked his criticism of society via humor for decades. When I chat with friends, you can't help but complain about inhumane work schedules, racist double standards, or the bizarre state of healthcare coverage in the US without injecting some humor to ease the pain but also highlight the absurd and hilarious contradictions that capitalism produces to continue to run. I mostly read the book on my subway commute to work and I could not help to laugh out loud. Every footnote was either super helpful or just plain hilarious. Or both. Katch's book is an easy read. It's the book you want to share with people who are curious about socialism or aren't into texts filled with academic phrases and complex terminology. It gets to the point in such a fantastic way, with interesting analogies that you'll want to definitely take note of for the next political conversation you find yourself in. He deconstructs famous portions of Marx's writings, like the beginning of the Communist Manifesto, explains what he meant, and makes the case for its absolute relevance today. Check out Phil Gasper's annotated version of the Communist Manifesto if you decide you want more insight into the context behind what Marx was writing. Katch spends the first half of the book deconstructing capitalism and also how politics work under capitalism. Super useful and invaluable stuff here. The section of the book on Socialism begins with an account of a fictional day in the year 2051 after workers have taken power and run society. This particular day is an account of a BAD day under socialism. But in imagining a bad day under socialism, Katch is able to show the immense possibilities for what good days could be like. There's this misconception that socialism will be this society free of conflict, and in this account of a bad day under socialism, you get a glimpse of how the problems have shifted from how much freedom we have and the struggle to fight for liberation (like we struggle for now) but what to do with the freedom and democratic decision-making dilemmas that arise when people are working together to solve and meet the world's needs instead of competing to make a profit at others' expense. This exercise in thought alone is worth the price of the book. The only criticism I have is that I wish there was some coverage of how anarchists fit into the picture. But it's really a minor issue for me. This book is about making a convincing argument that this society isn't built for human need AND that the capacity to run it humanely, democratically, and in the interests of the majority of people is in fact completely possible and worth fighting for... but you have to organize and fight for it. Buy the book. Read it and then give it to someone or encourage them to buy it. Danny Katch is a fantastic writer and he's written a book that could serve as the basis for getting people excited, organized, and confident about joining the life-long commitment to seeing workers' power in action. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. The Perfect Intro to Revolution By Allen Arthur I can't think of any other book about dismantling the horrors of capitalism that a) I read nonstop for three days and b) I laughed all the way through outside of Danny Katch's book. Mr. Katch outlines the tenets of Revolutionary Marxist politics, lays out the vision of a new world, and suitably obliterates capitalist exploitation in all its forms. If you think, "My, the world sure is being ravaged by capitalist destruction, racism, xenophobia, and greed," but don't know where to start, trust me: THIS IS IT. It's enough to make a Stalinist smile! (Not really, but it is fantastic.) 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Seriously is just the kind of book that will explain what the eff is actually going on in this messed-up world without making over-

By Luisa Gallego I'm a sensitive gal. I still cry when Dobby dies every time I read that book (You KNOW which one, and if you don't, I don't need you in my life). I start with this because Socialism... Seriously is just the kind of book that will explain what the eff is actually going on in this messed-up world without making overly weepy people like me suicidal. Funny and full of hope, this book is a must for those questioning an economic system that puts profits over the lives of people.

Opinion polls show that many people in the U.S. prefer socialism to capitalism. But after being declared dead and buried for decades, socialism has come to mean little more than something vaguely less cruel and stupid than what we have now. That's not exactly going to inspire millions to storm the barricades. Danny Katch brings together the two great Marxist traditions of Karl and Groucho to provide an entertaining and insightful introduction to what the socialist tradition has to say about democracy, economics and the potential of human beings to be something more than being bomb-dropping, planet-destroying racist fools.

"Danny Katch has done the impossible: he makes socialism sexy. Socialism... Seriously is eye-opening, inspiring, and funny. Warning to all Democrats, Republicans, and libertarians: this book might turn you into a closet socialist."—Judah Friedlander, *World Champion* "The most hilarious book about socialism since Karl Marx and his brother Harpo wrote their joke book."—Hari Kondabolu "I've been waiting for someone to write this book—a lighthearted, easy read that packs an intro course on socialism into a short volume. With jokes anthem made me laugh out loud, and a lot of heart. Socialism is for lovers. indeed."—Sarah Jaffe, host, *Dissent Magazine's "Belabored"* podcast "The funniest, smartest, and most dangerous political writer you never heard of is Danny Katch."—Dave Zirin, sports editor, *The Nation* "Danny Katch brings the socialist vision to life — Socialism, Seriously is incredibly readable."—Bhaskar Sunkara, editor, *Jacobin* "Danny Katch has better comic bomb sights than Jon Stewart: his outrageous, passionate sarcasm always falls exactly on target. The Democratic Party, as we used to say in the day, is

the killing joke.”—Mike Davis, author, *In Praise of Barbarians*“If the Communist Manifesto and America’s Funniest Home Videos had a baby, it would be Danny Katch’s new book. It’s a hilarious and fun way to think about what’s wrong with our world, how it could be different, and how we might get there. Keep an extra copy of *Socialism, Seriously* in your bag and hand it to the next person who asks you what socialism is all about; as long as that person is not your boss... seriously.”—Brian Jones, educator and socialist activist“If socialism is such a great idea, why don’t we have it yet? This book explains why with plain language, humor and common sense. If enough people read this book, it might spark the revolution.”—Howie Hawkins, 2014 Green Party candidate for governor of New York