

“Corporate Communism” and How Conservatives Use Doublethink to Uphold Capitalism

By Postliterate

Source: <https://medium.com/@postliterate/corporate-communism-and-how-the-right-uses-doublethink-to-uphold-capitalism-96ecd427fe43>



A current talking point among American Conservatives is a phenomenon which they call “corporate communism”. The term, possibly first used by far-right politician Marjorie Taylor Greene → <https://www.newsweek.com/marjorie-taylor-greene-says-fighting-corporate-communism-brings-gop-factions-together-1580902>, purports that the pitfalls of corporate America is due to the actions of those who own the corporations. These owners are alleged to have far-left tendencies, tendencies which cause them to oppress those which they might have control over. Therefore, because these owners are alleged communists, the corporations they run are also presumed to be communist, acting as the justification for any problems these corporations might cause.

Here is a post by Turing Point UK which called Facebook and its owner, Mark Zuckerberg, socialist:



To any more left-wing readers, these statements about “corporate communism” seem contradictory, almost nonsensical. How can a private corporation be communist? And why is Facebook an example of socialism? The truth is that these notions require a certain understanding of the terms “socialist” and “communist” in order to be properly understood.

Socialism, communism, and Marxism in the minds of conservatives, has little to do with the distribution of wealth or the organization of workplaces and more to do with notions of poverty and totalitarianism. Coming out of the McCarthy era and the continued history of the red scare, conservative understanding of these terms have become far removed from their actual definition. While in the past it might have been thought that “socialism/communism never works, it always leads to poverty and totalitarianism”, recently these notions have morphed into “socialism/communism is poverty and totalitarianism”. In fact, it has reached such a point that today these terms can be used interchangeably to refer to *any* government action deemed negative, *any* overreach of power whatsoever, *any* notions of poverty or wealth inequality, or even *anything* you personally don’t like! Socialism, communism, and Marxism have come to represent not what their actual definitions state, but simply everything that might be bad in the world.

It is not surprising, then, that COVID lockdowns have been called communist → https://www.reddit.com/r/SocialismsCapitalism/comments/ppgwg/r/communism_is_when_lockdowns/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3, that infrastructure bills have been called Marxist → <https://notthebee.com/article/aoc-doesnt-think-bidens-2-trillion-infrastructure-plan-is-marxist-enough-calls-for-ten-trillion-dollars-instead>, that climate action has been called both communist and socialist → https://www.reddit.com/r/TheRightCantMeme/comments/q4khes/climate_change_socialism_and_communism_and_furries/, that capitalist sell-outs have been called “a perfect picture of socialism” → https://www.reddit.com/r/insanepeoplefacebook/comments/pvduem/i_guess_that_aoc_isnt_allowed_to_be_dressed_in/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3, that “drag queen story hour” has been called Marxist → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Z2Mq65iCUE>, that corporate censorship has been called communist → https://www.reddit.com/r/SocialismsCapitalism/comments/q4a0ik/regarding_the_news_that_google_wont_be_allowing/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3, and many, many more.

Even worse is that this broken understanding of socialism, communism, and Marxism has become so ingrained in the minds of conservatives that it is being used to divert attention away from real world problems. Homelessness under capitalism → https://www.reddit.com/r/SocialismsCapitalism/comments/q41bp1/its_just_sad_at_this_point/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 can be overshadowed by “communism bad”, hunger and poverty under capitalism → https://www.reddit.com/r/SocialismsCapitalism/comments/pze2v3/communism_long_bread_lines/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 can be overshadowed by “communism bad”, capitalist exploitation of poverty → https://www.reddit.com/r/okbuddycapitalist/comments/pj5w7p/vuvuzela/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 can be overshadowed by “socialism bad”, food shortages under capitalism → https://www.reddit.com/r/ShitLiberalsSay/comments/p2uj8q/socialism_is_when_capitalism_fails/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 can be overshadowed by “socialist countries bad”, extreme wealth inequality → https://www.reddit.com/r/TheRightCantMeme/comments/oqbs7a/because_thats_not_hap

pening_now/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 can be overshadowed by “socialism bad”, anti-capitalist media can be rebranded as anti-communist media → https://www.reddit.com/r/TheRightCantMeme/comments/p5cpjj/this_mf_took_an_anticapitalist_comic_and_just_put/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3, capitalist exploitation of workers → https://www.reddit.com/r/SocialismIsCapitalism/comments/otkiu4/ran_into_one_on_youtube/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 is being called “communist”, and it has even reached a point where real-world functioning socialism → https://www.reddit.com/r/Anarchism/comments/pxxofr/i_dont_want_to_be_a_downer_but_how_the_hell_can/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3 can be overshadowed by “socialism bad”.

While it would be extremely contrived to reference the novel 1984, considering how much it has been wielded at leftists without much thought, it is time it should be used against rightists for once.

What is going on here is a sort of *doublethink*. It is abundantly clear that corporations like Facebook are capitalist. Facebook is privately owned, and it is doubtful its workers own a part of the company. This applies to most, if not all, major corporations. It is simply irrelevant whether or not the owners of these companies are communists or not, because their companies are privately owned, and they can do with them as they please. By definition, these corporations and the system they are allowed to function under is *capitalist*. Therefore, by challenging this reality with anti-corporation rhetoric, conservatives are actually challenging the very nature of capitalism itself. As these corporations begin to greatly dissatisfy people, many conservatives are beginning to resent corporations’ ability to oppress people so freely.

However, conservatives do not want to admit this. They have been the most fervent promoters of the capitalist system, and yet are the most fervent advocates against corporate censorship and abuse of power. At least subconsciously, they don’t want to admit they are fueling the very system that oppresses them. So, they divert the attention. The problem is not the system, but rather “corporate communism”. The problem is not capitalism,

it is the individual “Marxist corporations”. And even while they appear utterly ridiculous proclaiming that a private company is somehow “socialism”, they have to admit it is the problem of individuals and not capitalism itself simply to avoid facing their own contradictions.

Furthermore, while more failings of capitalism become known, the only rebuttal conservatives have anymore is that in socialist or communist countries, things must be worse. Their association of socialism and communism with “everything that is bad” has run so deep that even in the face of real capitalist failings, they still will resort to the reminders that “well, in Venezuela, you know...” Conservatives both suffer the pain of capitalism and at the same time proclaim it is actually somehow the fault of socialism/communism/Marxism. This is truly *doublethink*.

