The Birth of Socialism

Planned systems

Communism
High degree of government control
High level of social services

Socialism

Capitalism
Low degree of government control
Low level of social services

Free market systems
The WHY?

- French thinkers were disturbed by the selfishness and competition that characterized an emerging industrial and liberal society.
The WHAT?

• Socialists believed that society works best with cooperation, which can be achieved through 3 key ideas:
  – Gov’t planning
  – Greater economic equality among the population
  – State control or regulation of property

• Most importantly, people are generally good and capable of attaining progress
French Utopian Socialism

• Saint-Simon
  – Allow the “doers” to lead us into the Age of Industry

• Charles Fourier
  – Designed cooperative model communities that called for the liberation of women

• Louis Blanc
  – *Organization of Work*
  – The government should establish the right to work by creating state workshops

• Pierre Joseph Proudhon
  – *What is property?*
  – Property is theft!
• Coupled with the experience of French urban workers, socialism became a political force in France, especially in the 1830s and 1840s
The Birth of Marxian Socialism

• 1848 – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish the *Communist Manifesto*
  – Marx believed the French, who appealed to the middle class to help the poor, were naïve (hence the name)
  – History has always been characterized by class struggle
    • Proletariat vs Bourgeoisie
The Theory of Historical Evolution

• Based on Hegel’s idea of change over time (dialectic), Marx argued that this change was economically motivated
  – Just as the bourgeoisie had destroyed feudalism, the proletariat would destroy industrial capitalism!
The Dictatorship of the Proletariat

• According to Marx, the victory of the working classes will eventually evolve into a communist society
  – No government
  – No social classes
  – No private property
• Theoretically, it’s perfect social equality!