

520 851  
504  
V.F.  
**VANGUARD TRACT.**

# **SOCIALISM & INDIVIDUALITY**

(By JOHN M. WORK.)



No. Socialism will not destroy individuality and reduce the people to a dead level.

Capitalism has destroyed individuality and reduced the people to a dead level

Capitalism has reduced the masses of the people to the dead level of poverty.

It has reduced them to the dead level of long hours of labor.

It has reduced them to the dead level of inability to avail themselves of the higher things of life.

Socialism will release them from that dead level.

Socialism will give the whole human race abundant access to the higher things of life.

All Socialists are intense individualists, as you will discover if you mingle with them.

I am an individualist.

I want an opportunity to develop my individuality.

I know that Socialism will give me the time and the means and the opportunity to develop my individuality.

And I also know that Socialism will give to every other man, woman and child the time and the means and the opportunity to develop his or her individuality.

Capitalism stifles individuality.

Socialism will develop it.

Capital reduces men to the dead level of equal ignorance, flatness, dullness, and uninterestingness.

Socialism will develop varied and scintillating individuality and originality that will make it a keen pleasure to mingle with men.

Socialism means a fair deal for everybody.

Socialism means that all men shall have an equal opportunity to develop themselves. Each will naturally develop himself in accordance with his special bent. And all will acquire wide culture and enlightenment. But their special development will make them far more varied and unlike than they are now. They are very much at the same stage of lack of development now. They are on a dead level of lack of development.

Capitalism, by forcing men to spend their entire lives in earning a bare existence, prevents the development of their individuality.

Their individuality is slumbering.

Socialism will awaken it.

There was a time when a certain measure of individuality was a common possession in America, when a man had practically equal chances in the world, and when the highest success then attainable was open to all. It was the intention of the founders of the government that this should always be so. The statement in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal means that they are all entitled to an equal opportunity in the

world. But the men who adopted that document could not foresee the industrial changes which were to cause that purpose to miscarry.

When wealth was somewhat evenly distributed, when the tools of production were simple, and the domain of idle land was ample, all men had approximately equal chances to achieve success in any line of endeavor.

But since that time all has changed.

The wealth of the nation has concentrated into the hands of a few.

We have developed into a nation of masters and slaves.

The masses of the people live a hand-to-mouth existence.

They no longer have even financial individual initiative.

And on account of their poverty and their long hours of labor, they are prevented from developing individuality along higher lines as well. Their financial condition is such that it is impossible for them to reach out into the higher realms of investigation, of culture, and of thought, where the highest individuality and originality may be cultivated and displayed.

Socialism will give everybody the financial power to command the highest opportunities for self improvement. Socialism will take the children out of the factories, stores and mines, and put them in schools, where they can lay a foundation on which to build individuality and originality.

Socialism will also cut down the hours required to provide the necessities and comforts of life to such an extent that even the adult citizen will have more than half his time to avail himself of the higher things of life.

Every man has some incipient individuality and originality.

Socialism will remove the barriers and let it grow.

Socialism will throw wide open the doors of ambition and high achievement.

Socialism will make every man stand on his merits instead of his money.

It will be a glorious thing to live in the Socialist Commonwealth.

Socialism will give men greater individuality than has ever yet existed in this world.

The old, stark, anarchistic, hostile, tyrannical individuality which capitalism promotes is simply enmity toward one's fellow men.

Socialism will develop the true individuality.

The true individuality is the wide culture and special development of the individual, not in opposition to, but in harmony with, the equal rights of others.

This individuality is as much higher in quality than the old capitalistic individuality as the zenith is higher than the equator.

Published by Social Democratic Vanguard, Albert Chambers, Albert Street, Brisbane. Every Socialist should become a Member. Minimum Subscription 2/6 per annum. When read, please pass on.

ALBERT NEWS PRINT. W. 280