

# DBQ Practice

*AP-Style Document-Based Questions Designed to Help  
Students Prepare for the European History Examination*

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## **DBQ #2**

### **19th and 20th Century Socialism**

## EUROPEAN HISTORY SECTION II

(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)

**Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents. (Some of the documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.)

This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents. Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
- Uses a majority of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many appropriate ways as possible. **Does not simply summarize the documents individually.**
- Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' points of view.

You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

1. Analyze the role of socialism in nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century society by addressing how various thinkers approached the issues of labor, production, and property.

**Historical Background:** In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Europe witnessed the emergence of political and economic doctrines that responded to the Industrial Revolution and the rise of a proletarian working class. Adam Smith's *laissez-faire* economic system, published in 1776, supported an unregulated capitalist system in which labor, production, and property were guided by the law of supply and demand; later economic and political thinkers challenged Smith's notions, especially with regard to the social effects of capitalism on society. As the nineteenth century wore on, many organizations and individuals advanced socialist ideas and programs concerned with the future of class relations and production in society.

All sources below can be found online at <http://www.socialstudies.com/dbqlinks.html>.

### Document 1

Source: Robert Owen, *Essays on the Principle of the Formation of the Human Character, and the Application of the Principle to Practice*, 1813–16

Train any population rationally, and they will be rational. Furnish honest and useful employments to those so trained, and such employments they will greatly prefer to

dishonest or injurious occupations. It is beyond all calculation the interest of every government to provide that training and that employment; and to provide both is easily practicable.

The first, as before stated, is to be obtained by a national system for the formation of character; the second, by governments preparing a reserve of employment for the surplus working classes, when the general demand for labour throughout the country is not equal to the full occupation of the whole: that employment [is] to be on useful national objects from which the public may derive advantage equal to the expense which those works may require.

## Document 2

Source: Painting of the Peterloo Massacre, 16 August 1819  
The banner reads, "REFORM."



## Document 3

Source: Charles Fourier, *Theory of Social Organization*, 1820

The present system of Commerce was the growth of circumstance and accident. Never did such a system better deserve condemnation as being vicious and corrupt. What is the power to intervene to repress this fraud? Government. To elevate Nature Humanity must create and organize a perfect system of industry, discover and perfect the physical sciences, and establish on a peaceful and industrial basis an order of Society that will direct its labors to the work of terrestrial cultivation and improvement. To elevate itself Humanity must create the Fine Arts, discover the Sciences and establish an order which will lead to social harmony. Under a true organization of Commerce, property would be abolished, the Mercantile classes become agents for trade of industrial goods and

Commerce would then be the servant of Society.

#### **Document 4**

Source: *The People's Petition*, submitted by the Chartists to the London Parliament, 1838

We tell your Honourable House that the capital of the master must no longer be deprived of its due reward; that the laws which make food dear, and those which by making money scarce, make labour cheap, must be abolished; that taxation must be made to fall on property, not on industry; that the good of the many, as it is the only legitimate end, so must it be the sole study of the Government.

#### **Document 5**

Source: *Pamphlet: In Defense of Laissez-Faire*, c. 1840

Thus, in our attempts to improve, by legislation, the condition of the poor, we have not only multiplied the number, but reduced them to a state of degradation before unknown. By our poor laws and our charities, we have pauperized, and almost ruined the country.

In our commerce and manufactures also, the effects of legislation have been equally mischievous. By our well meant, but injudicious attempt to foster and protect, we have constantly been driving capital from productive into unproductive channels, encouraging the smuggler, checking our commerce, and stunting our manufactures; and our efforts to procure to the operatives a fair remuneration for their labour, has always ended in a reduction of their wages, or in depriving them altogether of employment.

#### **Document 6**

Source: Louis Blanc, *The Organisation of Labour*, 1840

For the first years after the workshops are established, the government ought to regulate the scale of employment. After the first year it is no longer necessary, the laborers would then have time enough to truly estimate their respective work, and, all being equally interested as we will soon see, the success of the association would eventually depend on the elective principle....

Every member of the social workshops would have the right to use, according to his discretion, the profits of his labor; but it would not be long before the evident economy and the incontestable excellence of this communal life would call forth other voluntary associations among the workmen according to their needs and pleasure.

Capitalists can also be taken into the association and would draw interest on their invested money, which would be guaranteed by the budget; but in the profits they would participate only if they were laborers at the same time.

### Document 7

Source: Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*

In political economy and its terminology, we have shown that the laborer sinks to the level of a commodity and indeed becomes the most miserable commodity possible, that the misery of the laborer stands in an inverse relationship to the power and size of his production, that the natural result of competition is the accumulation of capital in a few hands, which is the most frightening type of monopoly, that finally the difference between the ground-renter and the capitalist as well as the difference between the farmer-renter and the factory laborer disappears and the entire society must fall into two classes: those with property and those propertyless souls who labor.

### Document 8

Source: Benjamin Disraeli, *Utilitarian Follies*, 1862

But the eternal principle of human nature must always hold good. A privileged class is always an aristocracy, whether it consists of five thousand or fifty thousand, a band of nobles or a favored sect; therefore the power of government should be entrusted to all; therefore the only true and useful government is a representative polity, founded on universal suffrage.

### Document 9

Source: *The Internationale*, the song of both Marxist and non-Marxist socialist parties after the Paris Commune of 1871

We peasants, artisans and others,  
 Enrolled amongst the sons of toil  
 Let's claim the earth henceforth for brothers  
 Drive the indolent from the soil.  
 On our flesh for too long has fed the raven  
 We've too long been the vultures prey.  
 But now farewell to spirit craven  
 The dawn brings in a brighter day.

#### CHORUS

No saviour from on high delivers  
 No trust we have in prince or peer  
 Our own right hand the chains must shiver  
 Chains of hatred, greed and fear.  
 Ere the thieves will out with their booty  
 And to all give a happier lot.  
 Each at his forge must do his duty

And strike the iron while its hot.

### **Document 10**

Source: *The Gotha Program, 1875*, the doctrine of a revolutionary political party created in France after the revolution of 1848

The emancipation of labor must be the work of the laboring class itself, opposed to which all other classes are reactionary groups.

### **Document 11**

Source: Edouard Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism*, 1909

In all advanced countries we see the privileges of the capitalist bourgeoisie yielding step by step to democratic organizations. Under the influence of this, and driven by the movement of the working classes which is daily becoming stronger, a social reaction has set in against the exploiting tendencies of capital, a counteraction which, although it still proceeds timidly and feebly, yet does exist and is always drawing more departments of economic life under its influence. Factory legislation, the democratizing of local government, and the extension of its area of work, the freeing of trade unions and systems of cooperative trading from legal restrictions, the consideration of standard conditions of labour in the work undertaken by public authorities—all these characterize this phase of the evolution.

But the more the political organizations of modern nations are democratized the more the needs and opportunities of great political catastrophes are diminished . . . But is the conquest of political power by the proletariat simply to be by a political catastrophe? Is it to be the appropriation and utilization of the power of the State by the proletariat exclusively against the whole non-proletarian world?

**Document 12**

Source: Rosa Luxemburg, "The War and the Workers," 1916

One thing is certain. The world war is a turning point. It is foolish and mad to imagine that we need only survive the war, like a rabbit waiting out the storm under a bush, in order to fall happily back into the old routine once it is over. The world war has altered the conditions of our struggle and, most of all, it has changed us. Not that the basic law of capitalist development, the life-and-death war between capital and labor, will experience any amelioration . . . The violence of the conflicts in the bosom of society, the enormousness of the tasks that tower up before the socialist proletariat--these make everything that has transpired in the history of the workers' movement seem a pleasant idyll.