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Ludwig von Mises: Liberty and its Antithesis Study Guide

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LUDWIG VON MISES: LIBERTY AND ITS ANTITHESIS

STUDY GUIDE, 2007

Steven Alan Samson

<http://mises.org/efandi/ch35.asp>

Study Questions

1. What has muddled the treatment of the problem of freedom and bondage? [cf. Nicholas Berdyaev's Slavery and Freedom] What is the context to which the problem refers? By what two methods may social cooperation be achieved? What is the basis of Western civilization? Where do the designs of Communists, Socialists, and all their allies aim?
2. What was the great merit of Friedrich von Hayek's The Road to Serfdom? What is the human angle of economic control? [Back during the First World War, the Cardinal Principles of Secondary Education espoused the superiority of "human rights" (*i.e.*, socialism) over "property rights"]. Where does Hayek go wrong in The Constitution of Liberty? What is the real tendency of the Welfare State espoused by the German *Socialpolitik*, the American New Deal, and British Fabian Socialism? What did Karl Marx predict about such "economically insufficient and untenable" measures? Marx later abandoned "gradualism" for what?
3. Apart from outright nationalization of productive resources, what is the second method for the full realization of socialism? Why is the planning scheme more popular in the industrial countries of the West?

Review

social cooperation	libertarian vs. authoritarian systems
basis of Western civilization	Friedrich von Hayek Welfare State
methods for realizing socialism	