

**Title:** The Socialist Dilemma: A Study of the Birth of Modern Socialism and its Impact on Allied-Soviet Relations During and After World War II

**Program of Study:** Interdisciplinary

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**Category:** Textual or Investigative

**Abstract:** This paper examines the origins of modern socialism, and its impact on Allied-Soviet relations during and after World War II. During and after World War I, some countries turned to socialism in order to help them recover and begin to make sense of the problem of economic inequality. In particular, Germany and Russia turned to different forms of socialism. Since both of these nations fought against each other during World War II, this created a dilemma for the Allied Powers, whose prior agreements left them allies of Joseph Stalin and the Russians. At a time when world peace was strongly desired, the dictators' burning ambitions during World War II led people to wonder how to respond. Some turned to appeasement despite the dangers of socialism as a power-hungry form of government. This ultimately led to the Cold War that followed shortly thereafter. This paper explores the rise of socialism from its modern beginnings during the events leading up to the French Revolution down to the World Wars, and the Allies' approach in dealing with socialist states. It shows that socialism was, from its very beginnings, bent on dominating every aspect of life in a given nation, and then the world. By the time World War II broke out, the U.S.S.R. demonstrated a continuation of the pattern socialist states had followed since the French Revolution, yet Franklin Roosevelt and others believed Joseph Stalin would cooperate with them enough to ensure world peace.