

Sociology 130G

T 5:00pm-7:50pm

April 9, 2018

### Reading Reflection #1

In this week's reading, "Socialism...seriously?" shows the relationship and differences between socialism and capitalism. Opinion polls show that Americans prefer socialism than capitalism. In the first part of the book Katch explains that socialism is worth exploring for 2 reasons: the agreement of a system that provides human necessities (ie. food, shelter, culture) is better than a system that requires an extreme exploitation of resources in which majority work for little pay. Katch mentions a part where he discusses that the opponents of socialism accept that this is a desirable goal but believe it is unachievable and untainable. But what about countries such as Switzerland, Norway, and Denmark in which they have a socialist society and are achieving this "unachievable goal". Many of their programs are engrained and have become a part of their culture so much so that they don't notice that they are making a difference for themselves and their society and government. The later sections describing capitalism and socialism are respectively explained and well covered but it feels like it is overlapped rather than discussed in two different topics. The most interesting part of the book was the end where he addressed the main question "will socialism be boring". As expected, no because capitalism involves a lot of mindless influences for most people where socialism is an organically created society created by the people. My least favorite part of the book and where I found it a bit confusing is where Katch describes a "fairly crappy day under socialism", which just seemed unnecessary as I felt that it didn't add to either argument.