

A Curated Beginner Leftist List

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1 Introduction

This is a thorough beginner leftist material list that tries to offer a combination of topics, lengths, and media about leftism and marxian economics. People's learning styles are very different. Some learn better with videos, or with podcasts, with audiobooks, with short articles, with long books, with dry academic theory, lectures, etc etc. This guide's intended use is not to read, watch or listen to all of this, but rather to try and pick the topics and medium that is more engaging and start with those. If you are looking for more material of a specific topic, I would head over to an online community and ask there. As a cousin of mine said "There is no royal road to science, and only those who do not dread the fatiguing climb of its steep paths have a chance of gaining its luminous summits." So beware! Eventually theory **will** be dry and arduous, but the end result is worth it!

2 Videos

2.1 Imperialism

2.1.1 Michael Parenti: Globalization, the "New" Imperialism

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnhY0vPvNEQ>

2.1.2 Michael Hudson: Resisting Empire

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xluStDQp9yE>

2.1.3 The Face of Imperialism-Michael Parenti- part 1

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKhRE61VE0E>

2.1.4 History is Marching

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-S-CwVJxxug>

2.2 Marxist Economic Theory and Beyond:

2.2.1 Marxism 101: How Capitalism is Killing Itself with Dr. Richard Wolff

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P97r9Ci5Kg>

2.2.2 Crisis and Openings: Introduction to Marxism - Richard D Wolff

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9Whccunka4>

2.2.3 Anti-Capitalist Chronicles: How Capitalism Works

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGmEUR3gDew>

2.2.4 Left Out: Michael Hudson on Junk Economics

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6y35a0_fpU

2.2.5 Empire and Economics: The Long History of Debt-Cancelation from Antiquity to Today

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4DkZ3CWF0k>

2.2.6 Dr. Michael Hudson: Economic Lessons for 2020

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nluLNA30e8k>

2.2.7 Kapitalism 101 Labor Theory of Value video series (and accompanying text)

- <https://kapitalism101.wordpress.com/2010/04/28/law-of-value-introduction/>

2.2.8 UMass Econ 305 Marxism lectures

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-w12bkm9g8o&list=PL8B2364D7C0D31D63>
- Reading list for the lectures can be found here: https://web.archive.org/web/20150319041344/http://courses.umass.edu/econ305b/Econ305ReadingList_for_VideoLectures.pdf

2.2.9 Anwar M. Shaikh - Capitalism: Competition, Conflict and Crises, Parts 1 & 2

- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB1uqxcesk6B1juh_wnKoxftZCcqA1go
- The accompanying book is called Capitalism: Competition, Conflict and Crises by Anwar Shaikh and can be found on libgen

2.3 Leftist Critique of Culture

2.3.1 What are societies of control?

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_i8_WuyqAY

2.3.2 Hauntology, Lost Futures and 80s Nostalgia

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSvUqhZcbVg>

2.3.3 Capitalism, Cultural Disintegration, and BuzzFeed

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9srhgHzUFd4>

2.3.4 The Emoji Movie, Adorno and the Culture Industry

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-m_7G31yh4

2.3.5 Capitalist Realism, Mental Illness and Societies of Control

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPeBEcsmWTY>

2.3.6 A Dying Culture

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jLbq9Vw0K8>

2.4 Intermediate Materials

2.4.1 Going beyond money - Paul Cockshott

- <https://youtu.be/cI01-5zhwdA>
- <https://youtu.be/kT14b0w6mpk> (This video is also good)

2.4.2 Democracy or oligarchy (Parts 1&2)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHN0foV4Ntk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxSPirB9ePA>

2.4.3 Leadership and democracy

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=981vNhNfse4>

2.4.4 Practical adaption to climate change

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lepMdZuZiHo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8hnAB4304g>

2.4.5 Modern communist principles

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zgkwn0DtS6g>

2.4.6 Socialist Strategy (Parts 1-4)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p23gG51T0hU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tovsC3-Vdk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-oRmcYR5cM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1bGkgpYVao>

2.4.7 Dr. Gregory B Sadler

This is an exception from the theme of the list because his YouTube channel is mostly about philosophy in general. It's a really good channel to learn about a variety of philosophers.

- Core concepts in Philosophy playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4gv10xpKKIjwnfPgqLkLJ7cHXAqDHfBA>
- Half hour Hegel playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgnp5Dy-v88&list=PL4gv10xpKKIgR40y0t31isknkVH2Kweq2>

3 Podcasts

3.0.1 Marx Madness Podcasts (They have an excellent series on reading Capital Vol. 1)

- <https://castbox.fm/channel/id1471176>

3.0.2 History of Philosophy without any Gaps

Another exception to the theme of this list. This isn't about socialism at all, but it is a very good podcast about philosophy. If you ever encounter a philosopher in your study you want to read up on, you might find it here.

3.0.3 Leftist podcasts

There's a lot of leftist podcasts that cover recent events. These tend to come and go, so I won't link to any in particular.

4 Reading

4.1 Short

4.1.1 The soul of man under socialism - Oscar Wilde

- <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/wilde-oscar/soul-man/>

4.1.2 Why socialism - Albert Einstein

- <https://monthlyreview.org/2009/05/01/why-socialism/>

4.1.3 WTF is neoliberalism

- http://www.dsausa.org/wtf_is_neoliberalism_dl

4.1.4 Capitalism: An introduction

- <https://libcom.org/library/capitalism-introduction> (check out the sidebar for more introductions)

4.2 Long

4.2.1 Conquest of Bread - Pyotr Kropotkin

This book is included because it is recommended by a lot of people. It is a polemic that is easy to read whose arguments still carry to our post-scarcity present reality.

4.2.2 Critique of the Gotha program - Karl Marx

- <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1875/gotha/index.htm>

4.2.3 Wage Labor and Capital - Karl Marx

- <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/index.htm>

- 4.2.4 **Debt: The first 5,000 years - David Graeber (not marxist, but still good)**
- 4.2.5 **Debunking Economics - Steve Keen (not marxist, but still good)**
- 4.2.6 **23 things they don't tell you about capitalism - Ha-Joon Chang (not marxist, but still good)**
- 4.2.7 **The divide: A brief guide to global inequality and it's solutions (not marxist, but still good)**
- 4.2.8 **This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate - Naomi Klein (not marxist, but still good, apparently there's also a documentary)**
- 4.2.9 **Towards a New Socialism - Paul Cockshott**

Cybernetic socialism! Read this if you have a chance.

- http://ricardo.ecn.wfu.edu/~cottrell/socialism_book/
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBfIU1_z0-P_R9keEGdDHQ (Also check out his youtube channel)

4.2.10 Capital Vol 1 - Karl Marx

This is a big undertaking, but it is also very valuable and will grant you with abilities to deconstruct liberal fantasies and spot liberal ideology from a mile away. Perhaps an exaggeration, but it is indeed very valuable and will put a lot of pieces in place. Since it's a big undertaking, some people opt for using a companion. It is recommended to stick with at most one companion, as reading more than one companion will probably be overwhelming. As a warning, the first few chapters are a little hard to understand. After that, it gets much easier. The hardest part of reading this book is the length and the first chapter.

- Reading Capital by David Harvey
- David Harvey's Reading Capital lectures on YouTube
- Understanding Capital by Duncan F. Foley
- Marx's Capital: An Illustrated Introduction
- Marx Madness podcast <https://castbox.fm/channel/id1471176>

- Labor theory of value series (in text and video form): <https://kapitalism101.wordpress.com/2010/04/28/law-of-value-introduction/>

5 Identity politics

Since this is an important topic for a lot of people and today's liberal left, this sections points to disproportionate amount of material on the topic. It is a mix between short articles and videos.

5.1 Racial politics (mostly Black Panther stuff)

5.1.1 It's A Class Struggle Goddammit! - Fred Hampton (Fred Hampton was a member of the Black Panther Party who was assassinated by the FBI)

5.1.2 Power Anywhere Where There's People - Fred Hampton

5.1.3 The Panthers and the Patriots By Michael McCanne Edit

An article about the black Panthers work with the Young Patriots a group of SDS guys who reached out to white working class people in Appalachia and the Deep South

- <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/05/black-panthers-young-patriots-fred-hampton>

5.1.4 Footage of the Patriots and Panthers working together to build class consciousness

- <https://youtu.be/RPTwD00sh-E>

5.1.5 Fred Hampton's famous: "We're not going to fight capitalism with black capitalism we're going to fight it with socialism" speech

- <https://youtu.be/fJSqZrVjDds>

5.1.6 Paul Robeson (Check out his Wikipage)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y-xfqP6FOE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmFjjaFNHko>

5.2 Identity politics as such

5.2.1 Exiting the vampire castle - Mark Fisher

- <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/opendemocracyuk/exiting-vampire-castle/>

5.2.2 Essentialism and the problem of identity politics - Lawrence Jarach

- <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/lawrence-jarach-essentialism-and-the-prob>

5.2.3 Against Identity Politics by Lupus Dragonowl

- <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/lupus-dragonowl-against-identity-politics>

5.2.4 White purity by Asad Heider Edit

+<https://www.viewpointmag.com/2017/01/06/white-purity/>

5.2.5 Adolph Reed: Identity Politics Is Neoliberalism Edit

- <https://bennorton.com/adolph-reed-identity-politics-is-neoliberalism/>

5.2.6 Identity Crisis by Salar Mohandesi Edit

- <https://www.viewpointmag.com/2017/03/16/identity-crisis/>

5.2.7 Michael Parenti

- <https://youtu.be/n79kRP5RB2M>
- <https://youtu.be/ZkttzU86CFE>

5.3 Intersectionality

Intersectionality, in summary, is a left liberal theory about the system of oppressions and how they can overlap. For example, it's different being gay and black, than those things separately. It is sometimes misconstrued as meaning solidarity.

5.3.1 I am a woman and a human: a Marxist feminist critique of intersectionality theory - Eve Mitchell

- <https://libcom.org/library/i-am-woman-human-marxist-feminist-critique-intersectio>

5.3.2 The Communist Case Against Intersectionality by sev_k

- Intersectional “leftism” is not authentic leftism. It is a bourgeois ideology that must be rejected.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vnLzfRqPS8>

5.3.3 Class is More Intersectional than Intersectionality

- <https://imperiumadinfinitum.wordpress.com/2016/11/11/class-is-more-intersectional/>

5.3.4 Marxism vs. Intersectionality by Jessica Cassell

- <https://www.marxist.com/marxism-vs-intersectionality.htm>

5.3.5 Intersectionality: A Marxist Critique by Barbara Foley

- <https://multiracialunity.org/2018/09/26/intersectionality-a-marxist-critique/>

5.4 Privilege Politics

5.4.1 Privilege politics is reformism

- <http://libcom.org/library/privilege-politics-reformism>

5.4.2 The poverty of privilege politics

- <http://libcom.org/library/poverty-privilege-politics>

5.4.3 Behind the epidemic police killings in America: Class, poverty and race

- <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/12/20/kill-d20.html>

5.5 Unclassified

5.5.1 The Unique and It's Property - Max Stirner

If you do read this (it's a fun read), read "Saint Max" found in The German Ideology too.

6 Theology and leftism

There is a lot missing from this list. There is a lot on this subject but the author of this list is not familiar and would rather not guess. Search engines and leftist forums are your friend.

6.1 Christian/Catholic

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people." Acts 2:44-47

6.1.1 On Social Justice - St. Basil the Great (Book)

6.1.2 The Class Struggle and Christian Love by Herbert McCabe (Essay)

6.1.3 Löwy Michael - Marxism and Liberation Theology (Book)

6.1.4 The Scandal of Redemption by St Oscar Romero (Book)

6.1.5 Work and Labour by John Hughes (Essay)

6.1.6 Christ and Politics by Herbert McCabe

6.1.7 We Communists of the Old School by Eugene McCarragher (Essay)

6.1.8 Church and Revolution by Thomas Bokenkotter (Book)

6.1.9 The Enchantments of Mammon: How Capitalism Became the Religion of Modernity by Eugene McCarragher (Book. Argues with an analogy that capitalism is a religion.)

6.1.10 For more, ask in the reddit community /r/radicalchristianity

6.2 Islam

The Islamic socialist world is very diverse and has a rich history. The author has very little knowledge about the subject and would do the reader a disservice to list anything in this section. Having said that:

6.2.1 The wikipedia article on the subject.

Beware that many Muslim states are enemies of the World Police, and Socialist states are enemies of the World Police. Muslim socialist states are all enemies of the World Police. Wikipedia is used as a tool for manufacturing consensus. Keep your eyes peeled. Check the References of the Wikipedia page too.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_socialism
- Archived, just in case: https://web.archive.org/web/20200220225537/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_socialism

6.3 Buddhism

"I still think of myself as half-Marxist, half-Buddhist." - Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet. The 14th Dalai Lama's strength is not really Marxism, but it's fun quote.

6.3.1 A Blueprint for Buddhist Revolution, The Radical Buddhism of Seno'o Girō (1889–1961) and the Youth League for Revitalizing Buddhism by James Mark Shields

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20131119194506/http://nirc.nanzan-u.ac.jp/nfile/4207>

6.3.2 The not so active *r/BuddhistSocialism* community

6.3.3 Dharmic Socialism

- <http://www.liberationpark.org/bpf/dsocial.htm>
- Archive: <https://web.archive.org/web/20190824011610/http://www.liberationpark.org/bpf/dsocial.htm>

6.3.4 Marxist Buddhism blog

- <http://marxistbuddhism.blogspot.com/>
- Archive: <https://web.archive.org/web/20200107055641/http://marxistbuddhism.blogspot.com/>

6.3.5 Anarcho-Buddhist Collective blog

- <https://anarchobuddhistcollective.wordpress.com/>
- Archive: <https://web.archive.org/web/20190426075733/https://anarchobuddhistcollective.wordpress.com/>