

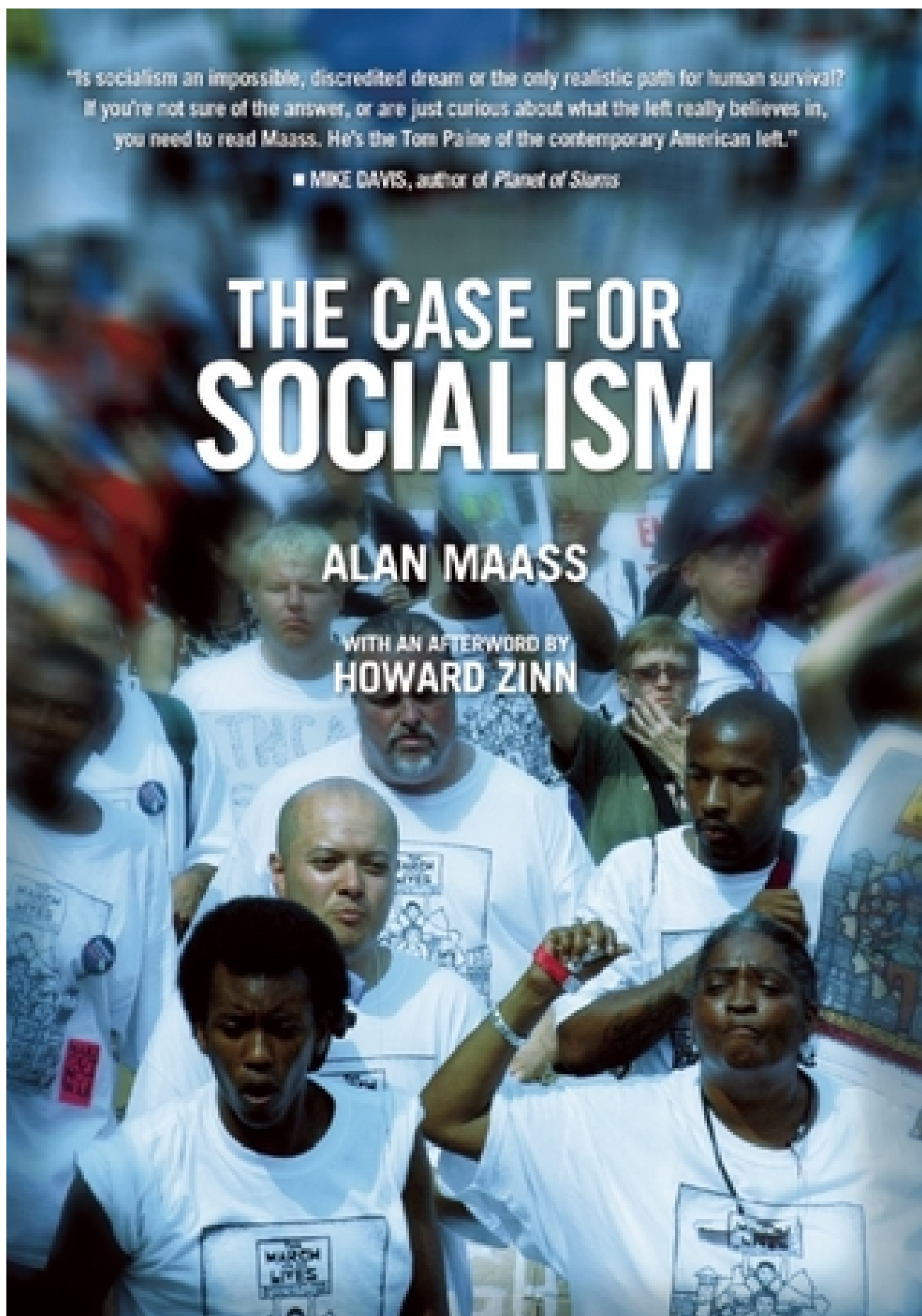
"Is socialism an impossible, discredited dream or the only realistic path for human survival?  
If you're not sure of the answer, or are just curious about what the left really believes in,  
you need to read Maass. He's the Tom Paine of the contemporary American left."

■ MIKE DAVIS, author of *Planet of Slaves*

# THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM

ALAN MAASS

WITH AN AFTERWORD BY  
HOWARD ZINN



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## The Case for Socialism (Updated Edition)

Alan Maass

Is socialism an impossible, discredited dream The Case for Socialism (Updated Edition) or the single practical course for human survival? in case you are uncertain of the answer, or are only inquisitive about what the Left rather believes in, you want to learn Maass. he is the Tom Paine of the modern American left."--Mike Davis, writer of "Planet of Slums" "This is a vivid, fluent and infrequent e-book approximately socialism for these bored with tracts and excited about new prospects."--John Pilger, writer of "Freedom subsequent Time" transforming into numbers of individuals are disgusted by way of the The Case for Socialism (Updated Edition) catastrophe of poverty, war, oppression, and environmental destruction brought on by worldwide capitalism. yet is there an alternative? writer Alan Maass argues that socialism--a democratically The Case for Socialism (Updated Edition) deliberate financial system in keeping with workers' control--is rational, necessary, and possible. With an afterword via Howard Zinn. Alan Maass is the editor of the web site SocialistWorker.org.

i am giving this ebook 5 stars no longer simply because I consider the author's research or conclusions, yet since it was once well-written and honest. "Socialism," of course, has turn into a be aware that is analogous to "child-molester" or "terrorist" in our nation's present political discourse, and for comprehensible reasons: socialism/communism is accountable for the deaths of greater than a hundred million people within the final century. To this day, the commercial structures of areas like China and North Korea proceed to unfold oppression and slavery lower than the aegis of deliberate economies. it doesn't matter what socialism started out as, it has, for the main part, led to demise and totalitarianism. There are exceptions, in fact (one thinks of the W. eu nations) yet overall, socialism has been a whole failure. it is intentions could have been noble, however the effects were horrific. With that said, capitalism has its personal problems, and the writer does a radical activity of shinning a really vibrant spot gentle on rattling close to all of them. i discovered myself in contract with a number of of the author's points: the United States has turn into a plutonomy, the US has develop into an empire, and either political events mostly characterize the pursuits of the wealthy; the surroundings can't aid limitless growth, international fiscal structures prefer a really small percent of humanity, etc. As I read, it happened to me that the feedback of either socialism and capitalism is essentially the same: in theory, either structures are wonderful. In practice, however, either platforms are likely to lead to unpleasantness for the only cause that socialists are likely to misunderstand: human nature. Human beings aren't born stable and made undesirable by way of society. The socialist trust that--were every person given enough food, shelter, overall healthiness care and education--society's ills could in some way magically vanish isn't born out by way of both heritage or universal sense. whereas i love the attract what Lincoln referred to as 'the higher angels of our nature,' it really is silly to attempt and construct an economic/social process on what people are demonstrably not: angels. less than capitalism, for all of its warts and scars, people are unfastened to try, and to The Case for Socialism (Updated Edition) fail. lower than socialism, there is not any incentive to be whatever except a drone. Yes, there's higher equality and monetary defense lower than a socialist version (until demographics chew you at the ass, as is occurring in W. Europe), but in a capitalist system, the person The Case for Socialism

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(Updated Edition) is an important piece of the economy, no longer the collective. I detect this can be an American option to view the issue, yet i'm a baby of the recent World, and i feel that the person is sacred. So a combined system, I think, is the simplest of either worlds, yet person who leans extra towards the capitalist facet of the stability beam than the socialist one. i think that our American approach has the best strength to maximise either freedom and security. We did have, for decades, an financial system that for the main half balanced monetary liberty with a social security net. we might tug and pull in a single path or another; we by no means reached an ideal stability (which is maybe impossible), yet for the many years among the Forties and the 1990s, we did beautiful well. Now, i am afraid that what i think is important in a capitalist society--a security net--is being dismantled simply because first, it really is grown too cumbersome, and second...people have forgotten history. the center type in America--once the envy of the world--did no longer come up spontaneously from a few myth unfastened industry (which does not exist). It used to be created through tax and social policies. As we input right into a new interval of company dominance--the 3rd in our nation's history, by way of my reckoning--people should keep in mind why courses like unemployment insurance, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, etc., got here into lifestyles within the first place. now not that those courses are perfect: they aren't. now not that they is not up to date to mirror the realities of the kingdom we discover our selves in initially of the The Case for Socialism (Updated Edition) twenty first century: they should. yet removal them will come at an immense social cost, and should tilt the stability too a ways towards the natural capitalist side. one in every of my favourite sayings is, "Don't tear down a fence earlier than you recognize why it used to be publish to start with." those federal programs--socialist even though they might be--exist for a reason. We forged them apart at our peril. One ultimate thought: two times earlier than in our history--the revolutionary period and the hot Deal Era--things have got too some distance out of balance, and the reaction has been sessions of multiplied government. historical past doesn't supply us a crystal ball to teach us our future, however it can solid a bit mild on our course as we stroll it. we're stepping into a 3rd such time period, I think. colossal business, corporations, the wealthy, the powerful, have an excessive amount of impact in the United States correct now. the general public will to guard the vestiges of the innovative Era, the hot Deal, and the good Society (the nice Society being pretty well a catastrophe) is eroding. hard work unions have misplaced their power. we have now a massive, mostly overlooked underclass. the conventional family members has damaged down thoroughly for an outstanding many people, putting huge, immense stresses on colleges and social provider agencies. there are literally thousands of criminal and unlawful extraterrestrial beings in our state putting an excellent higher burden on our social systems. Our economic climate is creating a painful transition from production to knowledge-worker/service based. America, correct now, is ripe for anything big. within the past, in keeping with sessions of financial inequality, plutonomy, and social change, the govt. has stepped in and...let's say taken steps to ease the pressure. i cannot aid yet imagine that we're firstly of any such interval now. What that may glance like, i will not say, however the socialist are right during this sense: those who find themselves hungry, who're sick, who're poor, and who're ignorant usually are not prone to make strong choices. shall we be in for a few undesirable history, my friends, coming down the pike very, very soon.

## **The Case For Socialism Updated Edition**

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