

Socialism and Internationalism

DSA Reading Group Fall 2025

Summary: The Socialism and Internationalism Reading Group will begin the last week of September 2025 and be based in NYC. This is the first semester of the reading group. We'll be reading Torkil Lauseen's *The Long Transition Towards Socialism and the End of Capitalism* (Iskra Books, 2024).

Goal: The main goals of the semester are 1) situate DSA's socialist project in relation to the long history of socialism; 2) consider the importance of adopting an internationalist perspective for socialism 3) discuss what *internationalism* actually means (is it an ethics? An organizing principle? An ideal? A fully fledged ideology?). In light of the incredible resurgence of Palestinian solidarity in face of the incredible barbarity of genocide, delving into the relationship (sometimes very thorny) between socialism and internationalism is increasingly relevant to contemporary organizing. Especially since it is often *international* events that have torn the left apart historically (from disagreements over the Paris Commune, to the debacle of socialist support for WWI, to contemporary unease over how to relate to the question of Russia or China today from a socialist perspective).

Readings: Lauseen, Torkil. *The Long Transition Towards Socialism and the End of Capitalism*. Iskra Books, 2024. (Freely downloadable at: <https://www.iskrabooks.org/the-long-transition>)

Other readings may be added throughout the semester according to the interests of the reading group.

Structure: I will facilitate the administrative elements of the group. My contact information is: dbenson@posteo.net, 612-991-6370

Timeline and Location:

Online: Mondays, 7pm. Standard meet.

In-Person: Saturday, 4pm. Occasional meet. Location: Common Good Harlem, 2801 Frederick Douglass Blvd, New York, NY 10039, United States (other locations possible according to group logistics).

Calendar:

Week 1: Methods and Concepts

MEET: Monday, Sep. 29, 7pm (online)

Readings: Intro/Chapter 1

Week 2: The Capitalist World System, Inequality, and Violence

MEET: Saturday, Oct. 11, 4pm (in-person) Location: Common Good Harlem, 2801 Frederick Douglass Blvd, New York, NY 10039, United States (other locations possible according to the group logistics).

Readings: Chapters 2-3

Week 3: European Socialism and Internationalism

MEET: Monday, Oct. 20, 7pm (online)

Reading: Chapters 4-7

Week 4: The Russian Experiment

MEET: Monday, Oct. 27, 7pm (online)

Reading: Chapters 8-12

Week 5: The Chinese Experiment

MEET: Monday, Oct. Nov. 3, 7pm (online)

Reading: Chapters 13-15

Week 6: Neoliberalism and Socialism

MEET: Monday, Nov. 10, 7pm (online)

Reading: Chapters 16-18

Week 7: Transitional States and International Socialism Today

MEET: Monday, Nov. 17, 7pm (online)

Reading: Chapters 19-20 and Conclusion

Week 8: Conclusion

MEET: Saturday, Nov. 22, 4pm (in-person) Location: Common Good Harlem, 2801 Frederick Douglass Blvd, New York, NY 10039, United States (other locations possible according to the group logistics).