

Sebastian G

Prof Garcia

ENG 1101

NOVEMBER 2022

Topic: Communism

Genre: Listicle

Genre Mentor Text Link:

<https://jamesjjackson.com/2018/06/22/6-things-you-believe-about-communism-that-are-not-true-my-first-listicle/>

I chose this listicle because a list is very effective when it comes to the topic that I am discussing. It lists all the things that give more insight into communism and debunks misconceptions about the ideology. An interesting point that I found in this listicle was that communists hate democracy. But instead, it mentions that communists actually want democracy to participate as stated here in this quote.. "What they ignore is that Democracy is the core of all socialist theory. Pretty much every socialist theorist; Marx, DeLeon, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, James Connolly all advocate for increased democratic participation". This shows the revisionist history that we are taught here in the U.S. that they make us believe that communists truly hate the democrats. This Listicle puts things into perspective and that's what I find interesting about it. Places where you can find a listicle are blogs. The whole point of a listicle is one of the most convenient content formats out there. They're simple and entertaining to read. Numbers and bolded entries make scrolling through easy—and you can start reading a listicle at any point, beginning, middle, or end.

Communism has many flaws and making a listicle to address some of the issues that it brings is critical and easier to digest for the reader. This is aimed at the people victims of communism, it can apply to anyone but mostly to Gen Z, year study showed increased favorability of the term 'socialism' (49%) among Gen Z compared to 2019 (40%). Opinions of capitalism declined slightly from 2019 to 2020 among all Americans (58% to 55%), with Gen Z (ages 16-23) slightly up (49% to 52%) and Millennials (ages 24-39) down (50% to 43%). 35% of Millennials and 31% of Gen Z support the gradual elimination of the capitalist system in favor of a more socialist system. I can see this listicle appear on a website that helps shed light on the issues of communism being accessible by a simple search.

THE FLAWS OF COMMUNISM:

1. THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Communism, as a primarily economic system, is much quieter on the issue of individual human rights. In a communist society, the individual's best interests are indistinguishable from the society's best interest. Communist regimes move so quickly into oppression and mass murder, and their ideal was totalitarianism. The injustices of communism were not limited to mass murder alone. As stated in the Washington post's 'lessons for a century of communism, "Even those fortunate enough to survive still were subjected to severe repression, including violations of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, loss of property rights, and the criminalization of ordinary economic activity".

2. CONSUMER NEEDS ARE NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION

Since there is no competition among firms, each is given the same amount of money and each worker is paid the same, with the same expectations of each. Within a communist society, people are expected to act in the interest of the Communist Party and the majority of society. Specifically, the individual is expected to work and act to promote the betterment of the community. Corruption and laziness also affected the computer industry in communist societies. Instead of using computers to produce more efficient and ethical businesses, workers often used software to cause delays or discrepancies to gain personal profit.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OWNS ALL THE BUSINESSES AND PROPERTIES

Without a price mechanism, supply and demand are difficult to balance over time. In a communist system, the central authority dictates that it is difficult to balance perfectly over time the quality of production. Placing strict rules. No matter what field a business specializes in, the same amount of funds will be allocated to each, and each worker will receive the same amount of money. Productions that are not privately owned cannot be exchanged. Therefore, no market prices can emerge. Without market prices, we don't get profits and losses. Without profits and losses, we don't learn whether or not we are using resources wisely or wastefully.

4. POPULATION TENDS TO BE TREATED AS HOMOGENEOUS

This means that common goals or sets of rules will not apply to different segments of the population and community. Communists are expected to surrender their own personal interests when they are in conflict with those of the Communist Party.

5. A RECORD OF MASS MURDER AND OPPRESSION

Communist states killed as many as 100 million people more than all other repressive regimes combined during the same time period. By far the biggest toll arose from communist efforts to collectivize agriculture and eliminate independent property-owning peasants. Mass famines occurred in many other communist regimes, ranging from North Korea to Ethiopia. In each of these cases, communist rulers were well aware that their policies were causing mass death, and in each, they persisted nonetheless. While collectivization was the single biggest killer, communist regimes also engaged in other forms of mass murder on an epic scale. Millions died in slave labor camps, such as the USSR Gulag System and its equivalents elsewhere.

Traits:

- The paragraphs aren't long, They are concise and straight to the point.
- There is no dialogue between others, there is just one person talking.
- The author of the article is James J Jackson, who is a poet.
- My genre was found on a website called "jamesjjackson.com" which is the site of the poet.
- The tone of the genre is to inform and it's serious as it talks about misconceptions about the topic.
- A quote that stuck out to me was "News organizations like CNN or Fox are more concerned with ratings and ad revenue than they are with giving people the full story. As long as media is a for-profit enterprise the owners of said media will limit what the public sees and hears to protect their own interests." This quote is so important because it shows how some news channels which are deemed 'credible' in reality aren't that credible because they like to stick to their narratives and push agendas.

One Page Reflection:

Writing a listicle and choosing this as the genre is because it looks light and digestible – easy for the reader. Items on a list are usually short, so there's an expectation the last post won't have long, complex paragraphs you have to plow through. It *feels* organized. Lists are associated with planning and getting things done. It *attracts* attention via a number in the headline or title. Numbers stand out in a sea of text. The title is usually descriptive, so the reader *knows* what the post is about before they start. There's little risk of disappointment. Research also shows that list posts are shared more often than posts in other formats. In fact, list posts get an average of 218% more shares than “how to” posts and 203% more shares than infographics. If you're trying to increase your social media reach, or if you'd like to increase your chances of going viral, a listicle could be just what you need. The reader can easily scan the page and stop at the points which interest them. Also, since this is a list format, they can be pretty sure they don't need to read the boring bits for the rest of it to make sense. (Sorry to break it to you, but your readers *will* find some boring bits, even in your best-crafted list. The most common way to create a list post is to jot down all your ideas, then put them into some kind of logical order and add a few comments to each point. The step where you put them in order can have surprising value, not just for the post, but also for your own thinking. The list post is designed to stand out, but if everyone does it, does it still stand out? And given the quality of some list posts, there's a chance they might be considered 'lightweight' or even clickbait. There are ways around this – the Backlinko post springs to mind – but they don't tend to include the kind of list posts you can brainstorm in half an hour. All these reasons were why I chose the listicle as the genre to approach this question.

