

<p>Democracy... the American Perspective</p> <p>The best system because people make the decisions, not government... capitalism and free enterprise create social classes, but freedom allows upward mobility... the persistent economic growth and increased opportunity was proof.</p>	<p>Democracy... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>American democracy is hypocrisy ... True democracy only exists when the economic system rewards everyone equally... the persistent poverty in the U.S. was proof.</p>
<p>Equality... the American Perspective</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality of opportunity is necessary 2. Equality of condition is not necessary 3. Equality before law is necessary <p>If a government guarantees equality of condition, then the work ethic is undermined, productivity wanes, and a welfare state dominated by dependent people results. Although the U.S. had battled with race and gender issues, the continued improvements of opportunity and civil rights and economic growth was proof.</p>	<p>Equality... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>Equality of condition was necessary for a healthy society. Material wealth must be balanced; otherwise some will have an unfair advantage in opportunity. The government is responsible for providing employment, health care, and basic necessities in order to prevent a social class system.</p> <p>The continued unfairness and poverty in the U.S. was proof.</p> <p><i>This dream of equality was never reached in the USSR. The party leaders lived in luxury while the masses lived in poverty.</i></p>
<p>Capitalism ... the American Perspective</p> <p>Hard work and initiative provide opportunity for Americans to better themselves. Private property and ownership are essential for competition and profit motive to move the economy in the right direction. Supply and Demand are better forces than government control. There are losers and winners, but losers can become winners. The decisions made along the way lead to society becoming a better place with higher standards of living, longer life expectancy, etc.... which was proof.</p>	<p>Capitalism... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>Capitalism is evil. It emphasizes competition which breeds selfishness and undermines cooperation and community. Poverty and oppression around the world at the hands of those who grew wealthy and power hungry was proof.</p> <p>Soviets hoped workers around the world would unite and overthrow the capitalists who would bring about a socialist utopia where love, compassion, teamwork, cooperation, and equality would be achieved... and would provide the evidence that capitalism is the root of evil.</p>
<p>Individualism... the American Perspective</p> <p>Basic human nature is individualistic, competitive, and acquisitive. Competition pushes society forward. An individual makes choices best on what he or she sees as best... and those choices are moved by natural incentives and lead to improved life.</p>	<p>Individualism... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>Individualism produces winners and losers... creating a society filled with inequality and exploitation where the winners take advantage of the losers.</p>
<p>Collectivism... the American Perspective</p> <p>Collectivism violates human nature. Competition is natural, cooperation is not. This dooms it to failure along with removing individual rights to property ownership.</p>	<p>Collectivism... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>Cooperation and caring are the finest human attributes, and society should be based on these rather than competition. Property must be shared by all members of society.</p>
<p>Socialism... the American Perspective</p> <p>An emphasis on government control of the factors of production threatens basic rights and inhibits individual desire and ability to achieve betterment of society.</p>	<p>Socialism... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>Government ownership provides the means by which the wealth of a society will be evenly distributed to all people. Public ownership is the only way to prevent the evil abuses of capitalism.</p>
<p>Totalitarianism... the American Perspective</p> <p>Totalitarianism is dictatorship. Dictators threaten basic rights. A healthy society relies on freedom... such as freedom to express views, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, etc.</p>	<p>Totalitarianism... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>Totalitarianism will transform society from unequal to equal. Protecting the interests of the masses over the interests of a few selfish people required the government to exert power and quiet dissent. Freedom of speech was harmful.</p> <p>Soviet dissidents under Stalin were starved, killed, or sent to harsh labor camps. Stalin killed far more people than Hitler did.</p>
<p>Freedom... the American Perspective</p> <p>Freedom is the core of a happy and productive society. Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" ... the wars fought for freedom since... all speak to this basic principle. People yearn to be frère.</p>	<p>Freedom... the Soviet Perspective</p> <p>People are only free when they have a fair share of the wealth that allows them to live beyond basic needs. Redistribution of wealth is essential to true freedom.</p>