

**No such thing as Capitalism or Socialism:
All societies have always been and continue to be caste systems**

John Asimakopoulos¹

Using the analytical tools of social science and statistical data while historicizing, I document that all societies in every epoch have been and continue to be caste systems legitimized by various ideologies. There is no such thing as capitalism (or socialism)—only a caste system hidden behind capitalist ideology. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2023 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

KEYWORDS: Stratification, Class, Caste, Capitalism, Political Theory, Inequality, History, Income, Wealth, Distribution, Statistics, Data.

SOCIAL ORDER

Social inequality is a condition in which members of a society have different amounts of wealth, prestige, or power. When this is based on categories of people in a hierarchy, it becomes stratification. Stratification is a trait of society. Not based on individual abilities, it carries over from generation to generation, perpetuating inequality. It is universal, although it may vary from one to another society, and it includes beliefs about why the system is legitimate. The foundation of caste systems is social segmentation of society based on ascription rather than achievement.²

Many think that the United States and other spectacular postmodern societies are not caste systems because of technological development and

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² An ascribed status is a trait that one is born with, such as gender, or a social position that one is born into, such as caste, without regard for that person's unique characteristics or talents. An achieved status is a social position attained by a person through his or her own efforts (e.g., becoming a doctor). Vertical mobility in caste systems is limited.