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DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Mr. Goldberg states that, “Social Justice means anything its champions want it to mean,” and that, “‘...social justice’ is code for good things no one needs to argue for – and no one dare be against,” indeed, that, “if you believe truth and justice are concepts independent of the agenda of the forces of progress as defined by the left, you are an enemy of social justice;” that “Anyone who disagrees is an enemy of what is good and right.” What does Mr. Goldberg mean? Do you think the term ‘social justice’ is simply a catch-all phrase for a broad interpretation of progressive liberal ideology? Why or why not?
- In the video we learn that, “According to the doctrine of Social Justice, the haves always have too much, the have nots, never have enough,” and that “Hayek understood that beneath the political opportunism and intellectual laziness of the term “social justice” was a pernicious philosophical claim, namely that freedom must be sacrificed in order to redistribute income.” What does this mean? What are some examples of freedom being sacrificed to redistribute income? What is a minimum-wage worker at Walmart really calling for when calling for ‘social justice?’
- Mr. Goldberg furnishes us with yet another interpretation of the term: “Compassion – or social justice – is when government takes your money and gives it to someone else. Greed is when you want to keep it.” What does this mean? Do you think that businesses and individuals who wish to keep the money that they earn necessarily greedy? Why or why not? Many wealthy businesses and individuals give to charity and engage in other humanitarian endeavors- would you consider them greedy and uncompassionate? Why or why not?
- Towards the end of the video, Mr. Goldberg contends that, “The invocation of social justice always works from the assumption that the right people – the anointed few – can simply impose fairness, prosperity and any other good thing you can think of. And the only institution capable of imposing social justice is the state,” that, “The self-declared champions of social justice believe the state must remedy and can remedy all perceived wrongs.” What does this mean? Why can’t non-progressive liberals be capable of doing ‘good’ as well? Isn’t this notion that only far-left legislators can ‘fix’ the ‘wrongs’ of society through passing laws confirmation of the exclusivity and intolerance of the far-left? Why or why not? Do you think that far-left ‘do-gooders’ legislating limits on freedom makes American society better? Why or why not? What are some examples to support your answer?
- We learn that, “The underlying point of social justice, then, amounts to a sweeping indictment of a free society. It suggests that any perceived unfairness, or sorrow, or economic want must be addressed by yet another government effort to remedy that unfairness, that sorrow, or that economic want. All we need to do is invoke the abracadabra phrase “social justice” and we’re on our way.” Do you think that ‘social justice’ and a free society can be reconciled? Why or why not? Who decides what is ‘fair’ or ‘unfair?’ Who should decide?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Minimum Wage

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “\$15 Minimum Wage May Be Coming to New York,” then answer the questions that follow.

- How do you think that this law fits into the left’s vision of ‘social justice?’ How do you think that liberals would characterize anyone who opposed this law?
- In the article, the governor stated, “If you work full time, you shouldn’t have to live in poverty...” Does this support Mr. Goldberg’s point about the ‘doctrine of social justice?’ Why or why not? Vice President Biden stated, “Raising the minimum wage to \$15 dollars an hour will add fairness to our economy...” What do you think he means by ‘fairness to our economy?’ Should the V.P. be the arbiter of ‘fairness?’ Why or why not?
- Whenever a minimum wage is increased by law, how is wealth redistributed? Whose wealth is redistributed? Do you think that minimum wage laws make society freer or limit freedom (since it can’t be both)? Explain your answer.



QUIZ

WHAT IS SOCIAL JUSTICE?

1. Social Justice means:

- a. Justice for those who cannot speak up for themselves.
- b. Justice for the oppressed.
- c. Justice for the poor.
- d. Anything its champions want it to mean.

2. Economist Friedrich Hayek wanted people to stop using the term “social justice” because:

- a. Ultimately, it was a philosophical claim that freedom must be sacrificed in order to redistribute income.
- b. It was too vague.
- c. It didn't have to do with economics.
- d. They weren't using it correctly.

3. Ultimately, “social justice” is about:

- a. Government control.
- b. Socialism creeping into America.
- c. The state amassing ever-increasing power in order to do “good things”.
- d. Both A and B.

4. Whenever a person or organization calls for more social justice, they are calling on the state to:

- a. Do something that almost always involves redistributing income or power or both.
- b. Do the right thing.
- c. Be more involved in its citizens' lives.
- d. Be more compassionate.

5. The self-declared champions of social justice believe:

- a. Money will help those who are underprivileged.
- b. They can help repair the world, one step at a time.
- c. The government is the enemy.
- d. The state must remedy and can remedy all perceived wrongs.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/09/minimum-wage-new-york-15-cuomo/404758/>

\$15 Minimum Wage May Be Coming to New York

Governor Andrew Cuomo has backed a proposal for \$15 minimum wage in New York state.



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden appears with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on the stage on Sept 10, 2015. Brendan McDermid / Reuters

- [Bourree Lam](#)
- Sep 10, 2015
- [Business](#)

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Thursday [called for a statewide minimum wage of \\$15](#). His announcement marks the first time that any state is attempting to set the minimum wage at this rate—while the city of Seattle passed an ordinance for \$15 minimum wage by 2021, the District of Columbia currently leads the way with a statewide minimum wage of \$10.50.

The minimum wage increase would be phased in for all employees by 2018 in New York City, and 2021 statewide. It starts now for fast-food workers, however:

Wage order designating \$15/hour for fast food workers is signed today by Acting Labor Commissioner Musolino. pic.twitter.com/Dap76RpUYD

— Andrew Cuomo (@NYGovCuomo) [September 10, 2015](#)

“If you work full time, you shouldn’t have to live in poverty—plain and simple,” [said Cuomo at a rally at Javits Center](#). He was joined by Vice President Joe Biden. “Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour will add fairness to our economy and bring dignity and respect to 2.2 million people, many of whom have been forced to live in poverty for too long.”

While labor groups support Cuomo’s campaign, the restaurant industry has been hostile. In May, the National Restaurant Association’s president [described](#) the wage increase as “an assault on an industry that has delivered nearly 800,000 jobs to the state of New York.”

Cuomo has mentioned that Republicans in New York’s state legislature in Albany [aren’t fans](#) of his \$15 minimum wage proposals. In May, he [created a wage board](#) so he could act without approval by the state’s legislature. The increase proposed on Thursday may simply require the approval of the wage board and the labor commissioner.

"If Governor Cuomo succeeds in raising the minimum wage to \$15 statewide, it will be one for the history books," says Bill Lipton, the New York state director for the Working Families Party.

Other supporters have highlighted the vast impact the new wage policy would have: “Up to 3 million New Yorkers—37 percent of the workforce—could benefit. They span every demographic: half are over age 35, 58 percent live outside New York City, most are women, and half are black, Latino or Asian-American,” said Paul Sonn, the general counsel of the National Employment Law Project.