

"The Rise of Socialism in the USA" articles began in our SRWF Newsletter, November 2021, with a two-part set on "The Rise of Socialism in Education," laying the foundation and sharing the effects of the little known Fabian Society, which came to our shores from England at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was a covert group that wanted to infiltrate education, politics, the arts and other parts of society with socialistic ideas, known as "creeping socialism." By stealth and influence, a small group of people seeded socialistic clubs, first at the University of Wisconsin and then at the University of California, Berkeley, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They expanded to many more campuses with zealots like author Jack London and began to grow in affecting the minds of idealistic youths, who later propagated these ideas as people of influence in education, politics, and the arts in our nation. John Dewey, the founder of the American public school system, was an example of an individual converted to socialism who brought some of these ideas to education.

In 2022, "The Rise of Socialism in Politics" series began in last January's newsletter with discussing the birth of the Socialist Party in the late 1800's in the USA and exploring how this party flowered between 1900-1920 under the colorful leadership of Eugene Debs. He ran against Theodore Roosevelt in the election of 1912 and gained 6% of the vote, a remarkable feat for a third party candidate who represented the Socialist Party. Another increase in socialism occurred with the creation of the Federal Reserve during the term of President Woodrow Wilson, who was greatly influenced by Fabian Edward Mandell. The height of socialism in politics, however, occurred after the Great Depression during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who created many laws and departments that brought the greatest governmental control in our history. He too was influenced by Fabian socialistic ideas since childhood in his family home and later as a young adult.

There are articles in this series on politics in seven newsletters—January, March, April, May, June, October, and December of 2022, if you want to catch up. This current series is tracing the rise and fall of socialist and communist ideas during the reigns of different presidents since Roosevelt with the intention of arriving at our present times to better understand how we got to be where we are today.

President Eisenhower was the subject of the eighth installment in this series in January 2023's newsletter. Our youngest president, John F Kennedy (1961-63), a war hero like Eisenhower, succeeded him by winning the 1960 election against Richard Nixon by a small margin. Raised in a home filled with political ambition and activity, John was the second-born son of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. His father was prominent in Massachusetts Irish Catholic politics. FDR appointed Joseph as ambassador to England at the brink of WW II. During that time John applied to enter the London School of Economics, an English Fabian institution, as a family friend of Professor Laski, a Marxist. Because of illness and the family's return to the States, John never attended classes. Later, his father was a close friend of McCarthy, a senator known for anti-Communism. John had a variety of influences that formed him in his family home. (To be continued in Article X in the next newsletter...)