

A POCKET DICTIONARY FOR  
THE REVOLUTION



words and phrases  
used by the

**RADICAL LEFT**

and what they mean in  
normal terms

If you prefer videos scan this QR code. Just open the camera app on your phone and point it at the square. Each definition has a time stamp for where it's explained in the video.

Tik tok creators: @bread\_tok,  
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## ABOLITION - 2:34

n. the action or an act of abolishing a system to replace it with a better one.

*Ex. the call to abolish the police is not to end laws, but the current system of enforcing them.*



## ACAB - 8:20

acronym of "All Cops Are Bastards", also read 1312

*This does not mean all cops are bad individuals but that all cops, due to the nature of their job, must enforce an unjust system.*

<https://youtu.be/kUbYT9FR700>



## ACTIVISM - 0:00

n. actions taken to bring about change

*There are two forms of activism, direct and indirect action.*

- *Indirect action is asking those in power to create change. ex. sign waving, petitions, lobbying. It only works if reason to believe those in power will listen.*
- *Direct action is using the power you yourself possess to create change ex. most volunteer work, mutual aid, sit ins, strikes, occupations, protests, riots.*

ACAB is the arguably the most mainstream but misunderstood leftist term. But to understand why it means the whole justice system, you have to start at the beginning

## ANARCHY - 1:18



n. the idea of voluntary organization without hierarchy/authority.

*Everyone has equal freedom and say, yes, there can be laws but if broken, those individuals are held accountable by the group, not a state.*



## ANTIFA - 15:29



n. short for antifascist or antifascism. An antifascist is anyone who is not pro fascism.

*According to the FBI, antifa is an ideology (like feminism), not an organization.*

<https://youtu.be/S1vcWCMc0CY>

## AUTHORITARIANISM

n. idea of enforcement of obedience at the expense of freedom, opposite of libertarianism or anarchy

## BOURGEOISIE - 0:56, 3:55

n. the capitalist (capital/means of production owning) class, upper class, 1%, billionaires *basically, anyone who could have only amassed their wealth by taking the surplus value of others labor. They hoard the majority of wealth.*

## CAPITALISM - 2:16, 19:28

n. the socioeconomic system where the means of production (capital) are privately owned instead of by the people, whose labor powers it



## COLONIZATION

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tu32CCA\\_Ig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tu32CCA_Ig)

n. The act of stealing and settling indigenous people's land via genocide, and the subsequent erasure of those peoples history, culture, and rights. *To be called a colonizer doesn't imply you are literally a descendent of colonizers, but that you may be holding a colonial or xenophobic mindset.*

## COMMODITY PRODUCTION - 15:13

n. under capitalism: commodities have use-value and exchange-value but they are produced for the purpose of exchange, or profit.  
Under socialism: commodities produced solely to satisfy human wants and needs instead of for profit; the idea of abolishing commodity production

## COMMODITY - 15:13

n. Good or service exchanged in a market.  
*only counts if bought + sold*

Don't be fooled by the title, this book that teaches so much about government, economics, and politics in easy, unbiased terms! Easy, amazing read!

## COMMUNISM - 2:16, 5:55



n. a political/economic system of a stateless, classless society where property and resources are publicly not privately owned and distributed equitably.

*Is a type of socialism with two main styles:  
Anarcho communism and Marxist communism.*



<https://b-ok.cc/book/5975346/933e1a>

## DECOLONIZE

Combating the effects of colonization by honoring the culture that survives, and resisting further colonization and colonial mentalities

## DEFUND - 2:34

v. reallocating funds/resources from one agency to another that can better perform the service, or aim of the service, vital step of abolition

## EAT THE RICH - 7:49

phrase. shortened from "When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they'll eat the rich"  
*Refers to the fact that the continued exploitation of the working class, the thing that makes the rich money, is unsustainable and will inevitably lead to their own downfall*



<https://youtu.be/jD-PbF3ywGo>

## EXCHANGE V. USE VALUE

n. what you give versus what you get from a purchase

*ex. A sandwich's use value is the nutrients. the exchange value is the money paid for it. This is more than the use value, because you also pay for time/labor to create it. The more labor, the more value. The worker makes far more money than they're paid, bc profit it is stolen as 'surplus' simply bc someone richer had the money to buy up the means of production, and could afford to 'take the risk'*

## ETHICAL CONSUMPTION - 22:28

n. also 'consumer activism' The idea of convincing market practices to become more ethical by only buying products from ethical businesses.  
*While being conscious of the businesses you buy from is good, this is a near impossible feat and ineffective means of change, few can afford to practice*



<https://tinyurl.com/y2z249c9>



## FASCISM - 6:37

n. A far right ideology based on authoritarian nationalism and tradition. *ex. Nazis. There are 14 common characteristics of fascism:*

this  
youtube  
channel  
is  
amazing  
btw!



<https://youtu.be/NZwuiolLiPU?t=140>

## INTERSECTIONALITY - 13:09

n. the idea aspects like race or class combine to create unique experiences *ex. When women got the right to vote, black women still couldn't because of their race. Both traits affected their lives differently.*



the political compass test can help you figure out where you fall. But remember, it's okay to change as you learn. That's the whole point of life!

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/test/en>

## LEFTIST V. LIBERAL - 14:12

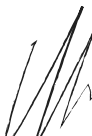
n. leftist for reinvention, anti capitalism, anti imperialist; liberals for reform, pro capitalism, pro imperialist

## IMPERIALISM - 26:48

n. if colonialism is taking physical control of another nation, imperialism is taking political or economic control of a nation. *The US is imperialist bc has funded terrorists, overthrown democratic elections, and maintains 'territories'*

## INDIVIDUALIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITY - 22:28

n. the ideology that it's primarily the individual's responsibility, not groups with power (like governments or corporations) to solve the systemic issues those groups caused. *Ex. The idea of recycling, carpooling, buying green as a means to stop climate change, when 100 companies and their unsustainable practices are responsible for 70% of pollution*



## MARKET SOCIALISM - 23:27

n. contrary to name, is not socialism. Functions just like capitalism but businesses are collectively owned by workers. Private property and for profit motives still exist.

## MEANS OF PRODUCTION - 1:48, 3:54

n. also known as private property, property owned for the purposes of making money, not personal use. *Ex. shares, investments, factories, land or houses specifically for rent*

## MUTUAL AID - 0:00

n. voluntary exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. *Mutual aid projects are a form of political participation in which people take responsibility for caring for one another and changing political conditions. Distinct from charity, as it's designed to help others and change the system that disadvantages them.*

## OLIGARCHY - 17:33

n. a small group of people having control of a country, organization, or institution

*ex. due to the electoral college and dark money, the US is an oligarchy*



<https://youtu.be/jD-PbF3ywGo>

## POLICE STATE - 27:52

n. a totalitarian state controlled by a political police force that secretly tracks citizens' activities. *Read: The New Jim Crow*

## PERSONAL V. PRIVATE PROPERTY - 1:48

n. property owned for your personal use, versus for the purpose of profit/means of production. *Your house, iPhone, land is personal; rented land/housing, mines, factories, are private.*

## PRAXIS - 20:24

n. putting ideas or theory into action *"Theory's cool, but theory with no practice ain't shit" - Fred Hampton, Black Panther*

## PROFIT MOTIVE - 16:32

n. when the motive for economics is only for profit/gain, as opposed to desires, or meeting societal needs

*ex. there is a profit motive for filling jails, denying health coverage, war (profitable for rich), and preying on low income kids for military recruits*

## PROLETARIAT - 21:25

n. Anyone who has to work to survive, the working class. Has not inherited or amassed enough wealth to live stably otherwise.

*Arose from how the poor were seen as only good for reproduction (procreation)*

## PRISON/MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX- 10:11, 11:07

n. the shared interest of the government and private businesses to exploit the threat of poverty facing the proletariat. *ex. join military for healthcare*

## RIGHTS - 26:10

n. The idea of what freedoms or things all people should be guaranteed. *Because it is a social construct, there is variation between what different societies and eras consider rights*

## SOCIAL CONSTRUCT - 4:55

n. Anything that has meaning because a social group agrees it does.

*Ex. language, money, gender, race*

## SOCIAL DEMOCRACY - 25:15

n. also not socialism. social policies but capitalist economy, citizens and corporations taxed and regulated to ensure high wages and quality of life for all. Often imperialistic  
*Ex. Nordic countries*



**SOCIALISM** - 2:16,  
5:55, 25:15



n. the political economic theory where workers own the means of production so the value of their labor cannot be stolen (private property becomes public) in a post-commodity society. *Symbolized by red and roses.*

**SYSTEMIC** - 24:26

n. When an idea is backed up the system (laws, policies, and practices), not just the individuals that believe them. *ex. systemic racism*



[https://youtu.be/qbU4c  
pnMuh4](https://youtu.be/qbU4c pnMuh4)



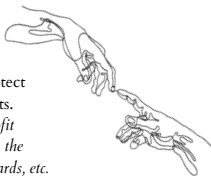
**THEORY** - 28:54

n. Broad term for the books and works that analyze political and economic theory. Way cooler than it sounds, might change the way you think about the world

**UNION** - 3:54



n. An organization of workers formed to protect each other and advance the member's interests. *Responsible for ending some exploitations of profit driven capitalism ex. Ending child labor, creating the weekend, overtime, safe working condition standards, etc.*



**WORKING WITHIN THE SYSTEM** - 29:50

n. also harm reduction the idea that regardless of the corruption of the system, many people have no choice but to try and survive under it making mutual aid, volunteering, voting, etc. vital to create change

check out  
your local  
DSA  
chapter!



<https://www.dsausa.org/>

**SURPLUS VALUE** - 3:54

n. the 'profit' left over after a capitalist sells a commodity, and pays for the materials and labor used to create it. *Stolen wages*