

WWP Lesson Plan — Democratic Socialism vs. Revolutionary Socialism

This template was created to help those planning and teaching Party classes to make those interactive, interesting and consistent so that they can be reproduced in the future.

<p>* Teacher preparations</p>	<p>*Consider accessibility and accommodation needs.</p> <p>Provide several copies for reading aloud of The ‘Socialist Manifesto’ and the rise of social democracy. www.workers.org/2019/09/43591/</p> <p>Send above link to participants in advance, and ask them to read, bringing questions to the class.</p> <p>Assign any of the following to volunteers beforehand, for them to give short reports during the class:</p> <p>The strength of women: Venezuelan commune members confront the blockade (Marco Teruggi) https://www.workers.org/2019/07/43051/</p> <p>Seeking truth about Venezuela’s food production https://www.workers.org/2019/07/42971/</p> <p>Venezuela today—Part 2: People power resists U.S. threats https://www.workers.org/2019/04/41795/</p>
<p>* Essential understandings</p>	<p>Democratic Socialists propose building socialism through parliamentary procedures, seeing a multiparty U.S. Congress striving toward democratic socialism. This perspective denies the reality of the power of the capitalist state including police and military force. It ignores the control by the corporations and ruling billionaires of the state apparatus as well as the impact of bourgeois control over education, the media, and religious and cultural institutions. It ignores divisions within the working class that are cultivated by the ruling class---racism, women hating, prejudice against LGBTQ2+ people and people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Overview of class</p>	<p>Take turns reading “The ‘Socialist Manifesto’ and the rise of social democracy” out loud as a group. Stop after each section to answer questions and discuss. Then use the same process to read: Venezuela today: Consolidating people power to face U.S. threats https://www.workers.org/2019/04/41763/</p> <p>If time permits, have participants report back on the articles pre-assigned above.</p>

Motivating question	Ask the group to quickly name ways that they think Workers World Party may differ from social democrats like DSA (Democratic Socialists of America) in our methods for achieving socialism. Have one person write the phrases down as people list them, and then return to each item for discussion.
Readings, materials, links	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “The ‘Socialist Manifesto’ and the rise of social democracy” (Scott Williams) www.workers.org/2019/09/43591/ 2. “Venezuela today: consolidating people power to face U.S. threats” (Sara Flounders) www.workers.org/2019/04/41763/ 3. “The strength of women: Venezuelan commune members confront the blockade” (Marco Teruggi) www.workers.org/2019/07/43051/ 4. “Seeking truth about Venezuela’s food production” (John Catalinotto) www.workers.org/2019/07/42971/ 5. “Venezuela Today-part 2: People power resists U.S. threats” (Sara Flounders) www.workers.org/2019/04/41795/
Methods of learning	<p>Reading/reading out loud together main articles</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Short participant-led reports on additional articles</p>
Discussion questions	<p>Questions/discussion points are found within the articles. You can use article subheads as question points.</p> <p>If time permits: After reading or hearing reports on the Venezuela articles, discuss how the example of Venezuela supports the Marxist-Leninist theory that revolutionary socialism is necessary to achieve socialism.</p>
Organizing	Have participants think about any lessons that the Black Lives Matter movement might offer on how a mass movement within the U.S. confronts state power. Would a revolutionary socialist movement need these and/or different methods?
Skill building	Have participants write slogans and chants for a coalition rally supporting Bolivarian Venezuela.
Reflection	<p>Save some time at the end for participants to answer questions about the class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will you remember/be useful for you? 2. What would you change, spend less time on, or make less confusing?