

# GLOBAL SOCIALIST-NORMS IN POST SOVIET ERA

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## ABSTRACT

*After the collapse of Soviet Union in 1990, one of the significant discourses among social scientists was the prediction of new world order. The end of Socialist ideology debate is also getting currency after disintegration of Soviet Union. This paper put forwards the socialist norms as concept, definition and explanations out of unexplained reality of the contemporary world order. This paper explores the post-communist worlds of welfare in the successor states of the former Soviet Union and other similar cases. The Socialist norm of the Soviet system exercised a major influence on the capitalist state across the world. The influence of Socialist policies of Soviet Union is reflected in the public policies of former soviet states and other capitalistic states in contemporary world. Contemporary states are adopting some socialist norms and avoiding rest of the socialist ideology. There is need to think beyond preconceived ideological notions to explain public welfare policies of contemporary states. As states are experimenting socialist norms in their public policy programs. The study attempts to enhance the understanding of Global-Socialist-Norms in the areas of human security. The research paper tries to explain State Welfare Policies and their socialist legacies. The aim is to trace and analyse the influence of the socialist norms on State Public Policies.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Soviet State had set minimum wage rates and salary scales for the welfare of workers. This Socialist norm of the Soviet system exercised a major influence on the capitalist state across the world. Soviet commitment to providing employment to their citizen also influenced the capitalist state. Soviet State owned those institutions that supplied the goods and services to the people. The Soviet authorities provided a range of services through their rationing system. The influence of socialist policies of USSR is reflected in the public policies of former soviet states and other capitalistic states in contemporary world. Contemporary states are adopting some socialist norms and avoiding rest of the socialist ideology. States has adopted Soviet welfare experiment in their public policies as norms not as ideology. The theoretical aim is to trace and analyse the historical evolution and influence of the socialist norm on state policies in post soviet states. This study attempts to enhance the understanding of the evolution of global-socialist-norms in the area of human security. Socialist Norms such as providing employment, food and home evolved in former soviet command economy. This study explores an on-going debate of socialist-norm evolution in post-soviet era.

### **What are Social Norms? Why Do the Norms Matter?**

Norms are a rule that guides behaviour among members of social group. From Sociological point of view first consider important distinctions between the norm, normal, and normative. Normal refers to that which conforms to norms, so while norms are the rules that guide our behavior, normal is the act of abiding them. Normative, however, refers to what we perceive as normal and what we believe should be normal, regardless of what it

actually is. Normative refers to beliefs that are based on norms and values. While we can understand norms simply as rules that tell us what we should do. How do we perceive and learn the social norms. People learn norms through spoken and written directives, but also through observing behaviour those around us. Learning the norms of any given group allows us to function in that social setting.

Norms are product of culture and they only exist if we realize them in our collective memory and behaviour. Norms are things that we take for granted and spend little time thinking about, but they become highly visible and conscious when they are broken. We abide them because we know that they exist, and that we will face sanctions if we break them. Norms allow us to live our lives with an understanding of what we can expect from those around us. Without social norms, society would become chaotic.

### **Norms Definition in Internationals Relations:**

In International Relations Theory, we generally understand norms as a standard for appropriate behavior for actors with a given identity. Norms can be distinguished from ideas, which are individually held beliefs. An institution like sovereignty consists of several interrelated norms and practices. Norms regularize behaviour and they often limit the range of choice and constrain actions. Norms lie behind an actor's preferences and interests. Especially in emerging societies and communities like the global society, the study of norms is a complicated enterprise and the questions of why, how and under what conditions international norms influence the actions of states and other actors is still contested concept.

### **Communism, Socialism and Welfare States: Conceptual Understanding**

Welfare can exist under various political systems such as in authoritarian, democratic welfare state and one party communist. However, communism, socialism and welfare states are different political systems, but they provide welfare to their people by number of welfare policies. Before going into the detail of socialist norms, I have discussed the brief conceptual part of socialism, communism and socialist-norms in the next section.

#### **Socialism:**

Socialism is not purely an economic system. The main purpose of socialism is to redistribute wealth and attain egalitarian society free from oppression. Government collects money from capitalists class by imposing taxes and distribute benefits to economically poor peoples in the form of welfare schemes such employment, food rationing, housing, old age pensions and insurances.

#### **Communist System:**

Communism is both economic and political system. Its main aim is to achieve stateless, classless and egalitarian world. Single party in power rules and do not entertain any opposition parties to establish and question them. Also, existence of independent judiciary is not possible. In communism, all private properties including consumer goods cannot be held by individuals and cannot be used for personal enjoyment and asset is public property. The wealth is distributed to all people of the community based on the needs of the people. Though socialism and communism look good initially, but on party rule makes rigidity and stagnation in the society.

#### **Socialist Norms in Modern Democratic Welfare State:**

While there is a vast literature devoted to understanding the economic, social, and political consequences of the welfare state, little attention has been paid to the fundamental question of socialist-norms. The countries of the former Soviet bloc entered in post communist periods with significant variations in socio-economic policies.

These states are correlated with post-soviet political trajectories. Former-soviet regimes have significant similarities in behavioral patterns and significant differences compared to non-communist countries. The governments of many post-soviet countries adopted welfare policies in education, health care, food security and in housing. Several capitalist states have adopted the concept of central planning by setting integrated economic goals for a definite period of time. Capitalist states accept socialist norms by providing employment, food, housing and health facilities.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

This article explores major welfare reforms and patterns of change in the overall process of economic and political transformation of post-soviet era. The research aim is to explain the behaviour of contemporary states. Capitalist States are adopting and implementing some socialist norms through their public Policies. Former communist states and other capitalist states avoiding extreme capitalist and extreme socialism while making their public policy. Norms of socialist way of life, which have been began in the Russia, are communicated and accepted by the society of states.