

Nevertheless, it is necessary to remember that a planned economy is not yet socialism. A planned economy as such may be accompanied by the complete enslavement of the individual. the achievement of socialism requires the solution of some extremely difficult socio-political problems: how is it possible, in view of the far-reaching centralization of political and economic power, to prevent bureaucracy from becoming all-powerful and overwhelming? How can the rights of the individual be protected and therewith a democratic counterweight to the power of bureaucracy be assured?

Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.

During the last years of his life, pondering over the prospects of human civilization, the possibilities of progress in the realm of freedom and humanism, Albert Einstein turned to the idea of socialism. The above abridged article was written at the height of the cold war for the first issue of Monthly Review founded in 1949. It is reprinted here by the Young Communist League, USA.

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