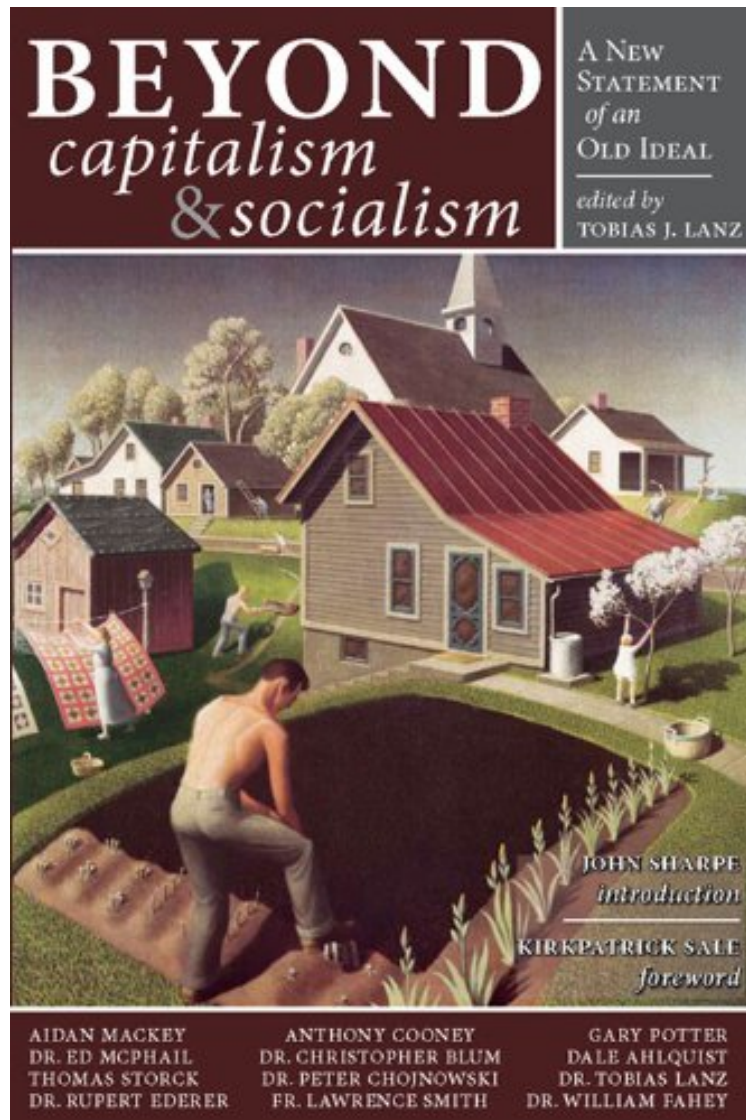


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Beyond Capitalism Socialism: A New Statement of an Old Ideal

Tobias J. Lanz, John Sharpe, Kirkpatrick Sale
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Tobias J. Lanz, John Sharpe, Kirkpatrick Sale : Beyond Capitalism Socialism: A New Statement of an Old Ideal before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Capitalism Socialism: A New Statement of an Old Ideal:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Mixed Bag of Goods By Michael Tozer As one might rightly expect with a book composed of a group of essays by different authors, there is substantial variance of quality within the pages of this still important and interesting book. The introductory material by Tobias Lanz, Kirkpatrick Sale, and John Sharpe is really quite excellent. The following essays by Mackey, Cooney, Potter, and Ahlquist are also first rate. And there is much more of great value. But Ederer's essay on Heinrich Pesch is pretty much useless and out of

place. And Fahey's absurd little rendering "For the Life of This Pig" is as incongruent in a book about distributist economics as its silly title might suggest. All told, there is much of value here to the person who sincerely desires to gain added perspective on the Distributist movement. By passing over Ederer and Fahey, the reader will receive a decent introduction to the overall theory. But all of this is really much better presented by Mr. Hilaire Belloc in his magnificent trilogy: "The Servile State", "Economics for Helen", and "An Essay on the Restoration of Property". God bless.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Learned a lot

By ARI learned a lot from this book about concepts and ideas I'd never before considered. One such idea is subsidiarity, the teaching that a task is most properly performed by the most basic social unit by which it is able to be accomplished successfully. (E. g. the federal government should not take over what can be done by the states. States should not take over what can be done by municipalities. Municipalities should not take over what can be done by families. In religion, too, the church should not take over what could best be done by families.) Also, I'm not generally a political or economic thinker, but theological. And this book showed me how to take biblical truth about our human identity and condition (e. g. both individual and communal, made in the image of God the Trinity, who is both one and three in loving communion; producers/creators in the image of God our Creator; etc.) and apply it to the evaluation of economic systems, asking how each system does or does not promote or enable humanity to achieve its fullest potential, which for Christians is always defined most fully by the Image of God in which we are made. Several essays also discuss the history and breadth of the Distributist movement. I found all of the essays to be both insightful and engaging. I don't know how "practical" or doable distributism is in our world today. But at the very least, I was encouraged to see that some people still think deeply about our identity in the Image of God and how that plays out (or not) in the systems around us. At this point I am hoping to do more reading on Catholic social teaching to see how this plays out in other areas of life, as well.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Revolution Will Not Be Footnoted

By Kevin M. Derby "Beyond Capitalism and Socialism" is an interesting attempt to present a call to arms for the modern world to embrace distributism but it is not, alas, a successful one. The introduction essays by editor Tobias Lanz, publisher John Sharpe and Kilpatrick Sale are excellent. Sharpe offers an excellent overview of the subject and ties distributism to the southern conservative movement, even linking this work with the classic 1930 Agrarian manifesto "I'll Take My Stand." There are some solid essays included in the work and some weaker ones. As I read the book, I kept thinking back to Sharpe's comparing the book to "I'll Take My Stand" and it is one that does not hold. The writers of "Beyond Socialism and Capitalism" believe that Western society is falling apart quickly and that distributist ideas offer the best hope at salvaging our culture--and bring us closer to salvation. Fair enough. I happen to agree with them. So what must be done? The answer is apparently review the dark days after Chesterton and Belloc passed away and ponder the fate of distributist magazines. Essays on the decline of "Triumph" magazine and a host of British magazines favorable to the cause open the work. Then back to the past for a look at Chesterton from Dale Ahlquist, a look at Rene de La Tour de Pin, a sketch of the thought of Father Vincent McNabb, a study of Heinrich Pesch. The book ends with some strong essays thankfully that state out why distributism would work. The book is supposed to be a call of arms but it ends up as an odd mix of essays. It comes off as a bunch of lectures presented from a conference. Students and scholars will appreciate the book but I suspect the work fails in its goal to rally the public to embrace distributism. I have no idea on how to launch a call to change course of human history, culture and society but I suspect tracing the rise and fall of magazines is not one of the better ways to do it. I think the general reader should take a look at "Distributist Perspectives" which Sharpe also published to get a better introduction to the matter.

Explaining the socio-economic theory of distributism, this anthology argues that political, economic, and social liberties and freedom are penalized under both socialism and capitalism. With distributism and other "third way" alternatives to capitalism the human person, the family, and the community take precedence over bureaucrats and barons. Society exists for man, not the other way around.

"A book to which I'll be turning again and again." —James G. Hanink, professor, department of philosophy, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles