



This Stage of Democratic Socialism

October 15, 2026

A nearly 1200-word [article](#) at *The Epoch Times* exploring linkages between the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and what DSA members call “Chinese socialism” reminds me of two concepts:

- “Useful idiot”; and
- What happens to socialism after communism fails.

The article is more exploratory than incendiary. Only a few DSA activists have taken part in the party’s China Working Group, visited China, or signed a public statement in support of the “continued survival of Chinese socialism.”

These “democratic socialists” qualify as “useful idiots” because they do not seem to realize that “Chinese socialism” — called “socialism with Chinese characteristics” by the Chinese themselves — is not democratic. The

government is run by the Communist Party, a single entity, no competition allowed.

Why would people who insist on calling themselves “democratic” support this?

Because, as with all democratic socialists, at some point one is required to choose between the two ways of doing government. If you call yourself “socialist,” you’ve committed yourself, and you will have to choose tyranny at some point, or give up the socialist idea.

Democratic socialists in America are certainly *useful* to the Chinazis. And they *are* idiots. Thus the old term for moon-eyed westerners supporting Asian anti-democratic regimes carries on, still applicable after all these years.

But remember that China is not run as a centrally planned economy. It’s run like a [fascist](#) state, with party members working within businesses, only occasionally taking full control and ousting (even executing) owners and entrepreneurs and “uncooperative” managers . . . when the State requires. Just as did the National Socialist Party during Germany’s “Third Reich” period. As Peter Drucker [sagely noticed](#), “Fascism is the stage reached after communism has proved an illusion.”

Democratic socialists may think they are not fascists, but fascism is indeed what they are pushing in America . . . and applauding when seen in China.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.