

## **Historian: Young people like Sanders because they have no memory of socialism**

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Bernie Sanders no doubt commands support from millennials, but that support is based on ignorance.

Millennials fail to understand socialism because they never experienced it, according to Zachary Jonathan Jacobson, a Cold War historian, in a column for THV11.

Sanders has won the demographic in all but a handful of states, with some wins garnering over 80 percent support. Last month's McClatchy-Marist poll also showed a national lead with young people. But Hillary Clinton commands the support of older voters, and they're the ones who actually vote.

Jacobson acknowledges that young voters may be "put off by" Hillary and "prefer Sanders' call for 'revolution' over Hillary Clinton's more pragmatic incrementalism." He also notes that "most hypotheses credit their enthusiasm for sweeping moral goals such as transparency, fairness and justice." CNN in January noted that "Sanders is a grandpa who gets them."

The voting pattern is a "generational split" when it comes to "socialism, communism and the Cold War that framed American foreign policy from 1945 to 1991."

Sanders stands by his self-described term as a democratic socialist, even though Jacobson points out the label would previously disqualify candidates.

"For a vast number of Americans old enough to have lived through the Cold War era, referring to oneself as a socialist elicits reactions that range from dangerous suspicion to laughable condescension," he writes.

The socialist system is different on economic grounds. Emily Ekins of the Cato Institute suggested in March that millennials prefer socialism because they don't quite understand it, and with job experience comes preference for capitalism.

Jacobson also points to human rights concerns, including "the stories of the Gulag's slave labor, arrests without trial, political purges, the disappearance of writers, artists and political dissidents." When the top problems for this demographic include inequality and greed, one would think these concerns would dissuade them from socialism.

With the blind support for socialism and Sanders comes a failure to understand the past.

“All this the millennials missed. And now, for them, socialism is a doctrine modified by an adjective and associated with the progressive parties of Western Europe. Their impressions fall far short of the miseries of the Warsaw Pact,” Jacobson notes.

Millennials didn’t just miss socialism — they don’t know what it is. CNN was hard-pressed in February to find Sanders supporters who could even define the term.

Jacobson closes with a warning, referring to millennials as “untroubled by the spectacle of the command-down state, seemingly unaware of the feeble returns of a true socialist economy” and as a “millennial guard [which] sounds more and more unbound from reality.”