

Democratic Socialism Surges in America

by Jake Johnson via terri - CommonDreams *Saturday, Jun 30 2018, 12:03am*

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Mutual aid and cooperation are the keys to survival for ALL social species

Since Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's stunning primary [win](#) over Rep. Joe Crowley (D-N.Y.) on Tuesday, interest in democratic socialism—the label Ocasio-Cortez unabashedly uses to describe her platform and political outlook—has surged exponentially, prompting corporate [TV networks](#) to feature segments on the term and driving a record-breaking [membership boost](#) for the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).

In an interview on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" Thursday night, Ocasio-Cortez—who is one of DSA's 42,000 members—was given a chance to explain the core principles of democratic socialism to an audience of millions.

"I believe that in a modern, moral, and wealthy society, no person in America should be too poor to live," Ocasio-Cortez told Colbert, who claimed that democratic socialism is "not an easy term for a lot of Americans."

"So what that means is healthcare as a human right," Ocasio-Cortez explained. "It means that every child, no matter where you are born, should have access to a college or trade school education if they so choose it. And, you know, I think that no person should be homeless if we can have public structures and public policies to allow for people to have homes and food and lead a dignified life in the United States."

While democratic socialism may not be an "easy term" for Republicans and [corporate Democrats](#), a large percentage of Americans appear to have no problem with the label.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)—who has self-identified as a democratic socialist for decades—is by far the most popular politician in the country, and polls have shown that Democratic voters [prefer](#) socialism over capitalism.

In an attempted takedown of Ocasio-Cortez's ambitious progressive agenda, Fox News host Sean Hannity inadvertently demonstrated why many Americans view democratic socialism favorably, particularly during a time of staggering inequality, soaring healthcare costs, environmental degradation, and [falling wages](#).

"Many are hailing Cortez as a rising star on the political landscape, but in reality, her views, her policy positions are actually downright scary... Look very carefully," Hannity ominously warned in a Wednesday night segment. "This is the future, this is the modern Democratic Party."

The camera then proceeded to show a list of widely [popular proposals](#) like Medicare for All as well as basic, humane principles like "Women's Rights" and "Support Seniors."

As Vice [summarized](#), "Sean Hannity accidentally made a great argument for socialism."

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