

democratic communism (Rohitash Chandra [Fiji Hindī, रोहिताश चन्द्र, Rohitāśa Candra as pronounced in this [MP3 audio file](#)]): Chandra contrasts democratic communism with “dictatorial communism.” Fiji Hindī (Fiji Hindī, फिजी बात, Phijī Bāta) is the Hindī dialect spoken by the descendants of indentured laborers who migrated from India to Fiji.

“The world has experience the negative effects of dictatorial communism due to the implementation of the original idea of communism given by Karl Marx where dictatorship is used to enforce it. This certainly does not work since we cannot rely on a single person or group do enforce the transformation of the society where resources are shared.

“An alternative implementation would be democratic communism. A legal system such as a constitution can be used to implement the changes needed for the future where humanity reaches the peak and wealth and knowledge is shared. This does not mean that the market cannot be free and only the government should run the market. The government can compete with the free market and substantial amount of tax can be used to distribute the wealth with the underprivileged. A free education system can then help the masses get over poverty line. This would be a socialist system and that

true democratic communism can also be achieved. A caste-less and classless society is the feature of the highest state of humanism.

“Just because communism has not worked in the past does not mean that it will never work in the future. The world is entering a different age of information and education. With time, education will be freely accessible through online learning and after few centuries the world’s collective level of education will rise. Socialism and communism ‘the ability to share what you have earned with others,’ will then be more practical and systems of governance will change. I don’t think that there has ever been a democratic communism implementation in a developed country where infrastructure and education has been in its peak. Howsoever, the communism philosophy marks the peak of humanity and humanity should not lose hope on it.

“The idea of democratic communism would be to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor and have a caste-less society. The type of education will have direct effect on poverty. When the skill set is given to the poor, then they will have the means to get proper jobs. Those who are lazy and ignorant – a special programme can be used to address them. It does not mean that one can be lazy and enjoy the benefits of the hardworking in the communist state. The goal is not to have a ‘wealthy’ society where

the wealth is handled by the elite one percent, but distributed over the whole of the society and education is a form of wealth. The wealth of humane and moral fibre is the most important in a future society.

“If you have 10 kg rice that you are not using (which may later rot and be thrown away), and there is a village next to your house dying without food, then in a capitalist system – it is legal for you to retain to the 10 kg rice. In a communist system, that rice will be legally shared with those who need it. That is humanity.

“Open Source Software is a successful implementation of the idea of communism in practice. Open source software such as Linux is very reliable and powerful that most of the world internet servers use it. Android devices use Linux as their operating system and most of the top research labs in the world run simulations of their scientific experiments on Linux. Everyone is free to contribute to Linux and no one owns it, we are all free to use it and extend. That is part of the philosophy of communism.

Rohitash Chandra. *Being at Home: Poetry, Philosophy and Expressions, 2008-2012*. Suva, Fiji: SFF Press imprint of Software Foundation Fiji. 2014. Creative Commons. Kindle edition.