

Sustaining the Common Good

A Christian Perspective on the Global Economy



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The Pilgrim Press
Cleveland, Ohio

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Sustainability and Community



For more than a century the world has been taught that the great choice is between capitalism and socialism. Now capitalism has won the struggle in terms both of public power and human loyalties. It seems that it is time for rejoicing.

However, during the last quarter of a century, many people have realized that capitalism and socialism have not really been so very different. They are two sects in a larger quasi-religious movement based on commitment to economic growth as the organizing principle of personal and social life and as the basis for dealing with all the important problems of humanity.

Capitalism has sought growth through the reduction of social restrictions on individual initiative. Enormous disparities in wealth and power are accepted as an integral part of the system that most efficiently increases the total amount of goods and services. It has taught that imperial market forces lead to the greatest efficiency in the allocation of resources and thus to the most rapid growth.

Socialism has held that the task of government is to encourage, manage, and direct growth for the sake of the

