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# Pro-socialism prof blames capitalism for world wars, slavery



**Nikita Vladimirov**  
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on Jan 17, 2018 at 12:40 PM EDT

- After a conservative journalist challenged a CNN tweet labeling socialism as "cool," a Columbia University School of Social Work lecturer responded by blaming capitalism for both world wars, slavery, and genocide.
- When another user challenged him by asserting that Nazism was "a movement of the left," Anthony Zenkus retorted that "Hitler was a capitalist."



**Prof Zenkus**

@anthonyzenkus

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Odd how you forget the millions who died under [#capitalism](#). The two world wars, centuries of slavery and the genocide of native americans. Bet they didn't think that was cool either.

**Elisha** @ElishaKrauss

news organization wrongly stating MLK was a socialist. millions who died under socialism would prob disagree with @CNN's statement it's "cool" [twitter.com/CNN/status/952...](https://twitter.com/CNN/status/952...)

Image via [Twitter: @anthonyzenkus](#)

**A** Columbia University School of Social Work lecturer recently came to the defense of socialism by blaming capitalism for both world wars and “centuries of slavery.”

Professor Anthony Zenkus, who frequently lectures on income inequality and poverty, made his anti-capitalist remarks in response to a conservative journalist who had condemned CNN for **tweeting** that Martin Luther King “was a socialist before it was cool.”

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“[N]ews organization [is] wrongly stating MLK was a socialist,” **Elisha Krauss tweeted** in response to the news network. “Millions who died under socialism would prob disagree with @CNN's statement [that socialism is] ‘cool.’”

Zenkus, however, appeared to disagree with Krauss, **according to tweets**

**compiled by Twitchy**, accusing capitalism of everything from slavery to genocide of Native Americans.

“Anthony Zenkus isn't a historian, so what he says about history only reflects the distorted, Marxizing history generally adopted by unthinking reflex among progressives.”

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“Odd how you forget the millions who died under #capitalism,” he **tweeted**. “The two world wars, centuries of slavery and the genocide of native americans. Bet they didn't think that was cool either.”



**Prof Zenkus**  
@anthonyzenkus

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**Elisha** @ElishaKrauss  
news organization wrongly stating MLK was a socialist. millions who died under socialism would prob disagree with @CNN's statement it's "cool"  
[twitter.com/CNN/status/952...](https://twitter.com/CNN/status/952...)

In reply to another Twitter user who called Nazism “a movement of the left,” Zenkus **retorted** that “Hitler was a capitalist,” and urged his interlocutor to use “the Google machine” to verify the assertion.



**Nathan Wurtzel**  
@NathanWurtzel

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i suppose we could have just let the Nazis do their thing...

but let "prof" zenkus be a lesson to any of you who think Nazism is anything other than a movement of the left.

[twitter.com/anthonyzenkus/ ...](https://twitter.com/anthonyzenkus/)



**Prof Zenkus**  
@anthonyzenkus

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Hitler was a capitalist. Good friends with Henry Ford. Please, use the Google machine. It's there for all of us.

**Nathan Wurtzel** @NathanWurtzel  
i suppose we could have just let the Nazis do their thing...  
  
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David Randall, a director of research at the National Association of Scholars, criticized the professor's remarks about capitalism, arguing that while "you're not going to get good history from a tweet," the lecturer's claims "aren't the best you could do at that length."

"Anthony Zenkus isn't a historian, so what he says about history only reflects the distorted, Marxizing history generally adopted by unthinking reflex among progressives," Randall wrote in an email to *Campus Reform*. "His tweet is most important for revealing how important it is that history get taught right."

**[RELATED: Students mad that econ profs promote 'capitalist ideologies']**

"If you're taught to accept distorted, Marxizing history uncritically," Randall continued, "you're liable to advocate uncritically for Marxizing policy in the present—and not even realize that other, more accurate history exists, which casts grave doubt on the desirability of Marxizing policy."

Zenkus did not immediately respond to *Campus Reform's* request for comment.

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## NIKITA VLADIMIROV

**Correspondents Editor**

Nikita Vladimirov is a Correspondents Editor for Campus Reform. Prior to joining Campus Reform, he wrote for The Hill, where he extensively covered the latest political developments in U.S. and around the world. A 2016 national finalist for the Society of Professional Journalists' "Mark of Excellence Award," Nikita now resides in Washington D.C. and contributes to the Washington Examiner. His work has appeared on the front pages of The Drudge Report and The Hill, and has been featured by leading media

organizations including Fox News, MSN, Real Clear Defense and many others.

More By Nikita Vladimirov