

# The Economic Theory of Socialism

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Oskar Lange  
ed M. Taylor

ited and with an introduction by Benjamin E. Lippincott

**On the Economic Theory of ~~socialism~~**

Oskar Lange has lectured at the University of Cracow, the University of California, and the University of Chicago, and is the author of books in Polish, German, and English on problems of economic theory. He is now Professor of Economics at the University of Warsaw.

Fred M. Taylor, a distinguished American economist, was professor at the University of Michigan from 1904 until his death in 1932, and the author of PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS and other volumes. The paper reprinted here was his presidential address to the American Economic Association.

Benjamin E. Lippincott is professor of political science at the University of Minnesota, and author of VICTORIAN CRITICS OF DEMOCRACY.

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**Oskar Lange  
Fred M. Taylor**

edited by Benjamin E. Lippincott



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## PREFACE

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**T**HIS volume is the second in a series on the problem of government control of the economic order. In the first volume of the series it was pointed out that the political scientist cannot hope to deal intelligently with the problem of control—and it is his problem ultimately—unless he first acquaints himself with the nature of what is to be controlled. The political scientist is interested in two main types of control: control of a capitalist and control of a socialist economy. This volume is concerned with the latter. A later volume will deal with the former.

We have included in this volume papers by Fred M. Taylor and Oskar Lange. These economists have dealt with a socialist economy on the ground of economic theory and its possibility in practice. Preceding these essays is an introduction of some length. Its purpose is not only to provide something of a background for the technical economic essays, but also to sketch the main argument of the essays for the reader who is not a specialist in economics. The introduction has a further purpose: to point out briefly the significance of the economic essays for the problem of government control of the economic order.

ON THE ECONOMIC THEORY OF SOCIALISM

I wish to thank the editors of the *American Economic Review* and the *Review of Economic Studies* for their kind permission to reprint papers from their journals.

BENJAMIN E. LIPPINCOTT

University of Minnesota  
February, 1938

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