Starter #1: Communism vs. Capitalism

**Instructions:**

1. Watch the video and read over the information below carefully.
2. Jot down your answers the following questions on the back of this page.
   * What questions do you still have about communism or capitalism?
   * Why do you think theoretical communism never took hold?
   * Why is Communism considered such a threat to capitalism?
3. Get ready to discuss.

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|  | **Communism** | **Capitalism** |
| **Theoretical** | **Ideological Founder**  Karl Marx – Das Capital | **Ideological Founder**  Adam Smith – Wealth of Nations |
| **Economic, not political theory** | **Economic, not political theory** |
| **How it operates**  From each, according to his ability, to each according to his needs … | **How it operates**  Self interest drives economic decisions |
| **Goal**  Works towards a *classless society* where workers own means of production | **Goal**  Attempts to *generate greater overall wealth* through investment and innovation in markets |
| **Actual, In History** | **Socialism - Founder**  Vladimir Lenin – Russian Revolution | **Capitalism - Origins**  Grew organically out of feudal merchant class |
| **Politics**  One party, dictatorial, suppression of dissent, media to prevent the wealthy from controlling society | **Politics**  Often democratic with values on openness and freedom of speech |
| **Goal**  Encourage communism in other countries as part of a worldwide workers’ revolution | **Goal**  Encourage democracy in other countries to help prevent the rise of Communist governments |