



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on February 3, 2014

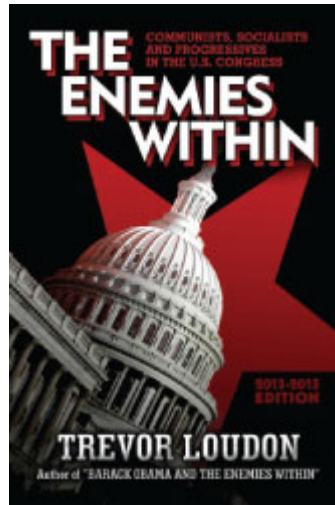
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## Congress' Unsavory Cohorts

***The Enemies Within: Communists, Socialists and Progressives in the U.S. Congress***, by Trevor Loudon, Las Vegas, Nevada: Pacific Freedom Foundation, 2013, 688 pages, paperback.

On April 11, 2012, Representative Allen West (R-Fla.) was asked by a man at a town hall meeting in Palm City, Florida, "What percentage of the American legislature do you think are card carrying Marxists or International Socialists?" West emphatically responded, "There's about 78 to 81 members of the Democrat Party that are members of the Communist Party." When pressed for names, West replied, "It's called the Congressional Progressive Caucus."



As one could imagine and may recall, leftist forces promulgated by the media took considerable derision to the congressman's initial remarks, labeling him an "extremist" and accusing him of McCarthyism. The Left's witch-hunt and constant smearing ultimately left West without a job, losing in that year's election to Democratic opponent Patrick Murphy in a highly contested and tight race. Media pandemonium aside, a thorough investigation into Congressman West's stunning accusations remained lacking, until now.

## Communists and Congress

In his recently published book *The Enemies Within: Communists, Socialists and Progressives in the U.S. Congress*, world-renowned anti-communist, author, and blogger Trevor Loudon has taken on the monumental task of not only naming names, but going even further in exposing the vast web of communist, socialist, and far-left progressive influence and penetration in Congress. Looking at various outside Marxist organizations, inside congressional caucuses, and biographical sketches on a select number of individual congressmen, Loudon's new 688-page book reads like a who's who of the radical Marxist Left in Congress. In some ways similar to and reminiscent of Francis X. Gannon's *Biographical Dictionary of the Left*, published in 1973, but in the style of his previous book, *Barack Obama and the Enemies Within*, Loudon identifies who the players are, the groups they are associated with, and how they wield influence, including how they penetrated labor unions and the Democratic Party. Loudon reveals the connections between those in Congress who sponsor socialist-inspired legislation and the various Marxist or Marxist-led organizations who guide them.

Among the groups Loudon exposes are the Communist Party USA, Committees of Correspondence, Communist Workers Party/Asian Americans for Equality, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), Campaign for America's Future, Progressive Democrats of America, 21st Century Democrats, World Peace Council,



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Socialist International, and Council for a Livable World.

Regarding the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and its infiltration of the Democratic Party, Loudon quotes from a report prepared by members of the Young Communist League USA (YCLUSA, youth affiliate of the CPUSA) for the Communist Party's 29th National Convention in 2010. In the report, several YCLUSA members wrote:

Currently, the conditions rarely if ever allow us to run open Communists for office. When members do run for office, it is within the auspices of the Democratic Party. Otherwise, we find ourselves supporting progressive (and in some instances not-so-progressive) Democratic candidates. Despite how much many of us would love to run comrades for office as Communists, we all agree that this is how we currently have to function in this political climate.

Loudon's book is replete with examples of CPUSA involvement in the Democratic Party. In Washington State, Loudon writes, "Communist Party members Tim Wheeler, Joyce Wheeler and Honeybee Wheeler, openly work inside the Clallam County Democrat Party." In Missouri, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) received words of praise from the CPUSA's newspaper *People's Weekly World* during her 2006 senatorial campaign. That campaign was coordinated in St. Louis city and county by former State Representative John L. Bowman, who is a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, which was originally created as a CPUSA front. Bowman has enjoyed the support of the CPUSA through *People's Weekly World*, and he previously attended a Communist Party award breakfast hosted by *People's Weekly World*, where he was recognized for his work in the legislature. A favorite of left-leaning libertarians is also investigated in the book. "Former Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich," Loudon writes, "enjoyed Communist Party support his entire career." The CPUSA backed Kucinich's presidential campaign in 2004 and even made a video by Communist Party member Bruce Bostik endorsing him. Loudon also quotes from a July 2007 report to the CPUSA's National Committee, in which Communist Party Chairman Sam Webb urged those in the party to "have a positive attitude toward the candidacy of Congressman Dennis Kucinich," describing him as "a leading voice of the broad people's coalition." Webb continued, "The more he [Kucinich] speaks to audiences of the core forces, the better positioned the movement will be to win in 2008 and to fight the good fight in 2009." CPUSA member and former chairman of the Ohio Communist Party Rick Nagin worked as Labor Coordinator for Kucinich's 2004 presidential campaign in the Democratic primaries. In return, Kucinich endorsed Nagin in 2009, when Nagin ran unsuccessfully (as a Democrat) for Cleveland City Council.

One of the most insidious Marxist organizations Loudon covers is the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), which is the largest socialist organization in the United States and the primary U.S. affiliate of the Socialist International. The DSA itself is an offshoot of the Communist Party. Loudon elaborates how the DSA was formed in 1982 when the Democratic Socialist Organization Committee and The New American Movement, the latter formed by members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Communist Party USA, merged. "Today's DSA cooperates with CPUSA, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, Freedom Road Socialist organization and other communist groups," Loudon writes. "Its deceptive name helps make them the most effective and dangerous Marxist organization now operating in the U.S."



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In 1995, following a coordinated plan to oust anti-communist Lane Kirkland as president of the AFL-CIO, DSA member John Sweeney took over the organization, removing its anti-communist membership clause and elevating various DSAers to power. The AFL-CIO's power and prestige among labor unions and its close relationship with the Democratic Party has made the AFL-CIO one of the main conduits of DSA and communist influence over the Democratic Party, of both its party platform and the candidates it nominates for office.

In 1991, both the DSA and the Institute for Policy Studies, which Loudon covers in detail, were instrumental in helping Vermont's openly socialist Independent Representative (now Senator) Bernie Sanders establish the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC). The CPC has since grown in membership to over 70 U.S. representatives and one U.S. senator (Sanders).

## **Biographical Bit**

The second half of Loudon's book is devoted to biographical expositions of the CPC congressmen, as well as a few others. Loudon documents how many CPC members "continue to be linked to DSA and/or the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), IPS or other radical organizations."

At the outset, one's impression of the book may be that it solely focuses on "Communists, Socialists, and Progressives in the U.S. Congress," as reads the subtitle of the book. However, upon reading the first half of the book, one quickly sees that while exposing such leftists in Congress is the main focus of the book, it is not all that the book covers, as Loudon goes on to expose the vast interconnecting network of communist, socialist, and other radical progressive organizations outside Congress.

The only criticism of the book is that unlike Gannon's *Biographical Dictionary of the Left*, Loudon's *Enemies Within* does not mention the Council on Foreign Relations or discuss the internationalist agenda of the leftists in Congress. In other words, it does not make the connection between the pinstripes and Reds. The book, although well researched and thoroughly cited, provides only a narrow focus on the overtly or open communist, Marxist-Leninist, and socialist connections in Congress, which are primarily found within the Democratic Party roster. Nevertheless, Loudon's book performs a valuable service in demonstrating without any doubt that communism did not die or fade away after the Berlin Wall fell at the purported "end of the Cold War." Loudon, unlike so many authors, reveals that communism is not dead; in fact, it's alive and perhaps more active than ever before within the halls of



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Congress, in the very heart of our constitutional republic — subverting it from within.

After the dust settles, *The Enemies Within* will leave any open-minded person convinced that the problems we face in Congress are much larger than ever realized. One cannot pore over this 688-page book, with the overwhelming evidence presented in it, and honestly say, “Communism is dead” or scoff at the remarks made by Congressman Allen West. Trevor Loudon authoritatively makes and closes the case that communist and socialist penetration is indeed on the rise.



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