



# ABC CLARION

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## Bernie as a Democratic Socialist

by Audrey Zhou

Bernie Sanders, a 2016 Democratic nominee, has endured much criticism for campaigning as a democratic socialist. The opposition has used the title "Bernie the Communist" to intimidate Bernie's potential voters. Most of these critics are elderly voters who only hear the socialist aspect to this title and are immediately reminded of the Red Scare, which promoted fear against extreme left practices. Socialism and communism are by no means the same thing and while some citizens refuse to acknowledge it, many U.S. policies utilize these socialist values. But what exactly does the term "socialism" truly mean? Socialism is defined as a social system in

which the government owns and controls the means of production, such as factories, and distribution of goods. Socialism is typically divided into two categories: Social democracy and democratic socialism.

Social democracy, which is what most of the liberals in western Europe and North America support, enact policies usually referred to as the welfare state, such as Social Security and Medicare.

Democratic socialists on the other hand are typically seen as more radical and advocate the replacement of capitalism with socialism, aiming to drastically reduce inequality through extreme policy changes. Demo-

cratic socialists support the government taking control of natural resources to help the broader populace rather than allow for private profit.

Although Bernie Sanders calls himself a democratic socialist, the policies which he supports have more social democratic aspects to them than democratic socialist ones. Sanders dreams of replicating success from places such as Scandinavia, a region which is the modern poster child for social democracy. Scandinavian countries are known to be the most progressive, happiest, and equal countries in the entire world. Sanders is not proposing radical policies, but simply what many Europeans have realized is

common sense. Perhaps it is because his platform is similar to policies already in place in Europe that this senator enjoys enormous popularity from those outside of America. However as more and more citizens are exposed to Senator Sanders, more and more realize that his platform is exactly what they always wanted and needed but never knew.

Bernie Sanders's platform includes stances on a variety of different issues. He believes guaranteed housing, universal healthcare, free education, access to transportation, guaranteed employment for those looking for employment, equal pay for equal work, and fighting climate change. The stance that he is most known for, however, is the reduction of economic inequality and preventing the top 1% from hoarding all of the money. His platform appeals to people of various races, ages, and genders

and emphasizes unification of the nation for the good of all. It's no wonder that his popularity is rising exponentially as mass media finally begins to cover his platform.

Sander's platform is hardly radical socialism yet was initially snubbed by the press simply because his self-proclaimed title of democratic socialist seemed to preempt his nomination. Although his rising popularity is now enough to challenge Hillary Clinton for the spot as democratic nominee, even if Bernie does not win the nomination, he has already made an important contribution to this election. The rise of this Vermont senator has shed light on important issues usually avoided by candidates, such as Wall Street bribery and the greed of the top 1%, and has begun to erase the stigma attached to the word "socialist".

## The Revenant Movie Review

by Siyu Hou

*The Revenant*, directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, is an American frontier story that tells the same old tale: an avenging mountain man "trapped" in the primeval West has to summon his survival skills, including eating raw fish, jumping off a cliff, and sleeping inside a dead horse's carcass to battle against nature. However, what makes it deserving of the twelve Academy Award nominations with its nearly 200 minutes of gore is not the depth of its plot, but the cinematic experience created by Iñárritu's spectacular direction. Iñárritu, who collaborates with Emmanuel Lubezki again after last year's *Birdman*, is able to keep the audience engaged throughout the two carnage-filled hours with brilliant and subtle passages of cinematography. It might be a fresh tint of blood tarnishing the pristine snow, the white sizzling foam on Leonardo's mouth, an added shine on a horse's innards against the frigid, white sun, or even his signature long, unbroken takes during the bear attack and Indian escape scene. These inconspicuous details pile up to make the cinematic experience all the more visceral and intense.

*The Revenant's* stunning scen-

ery that captures the brutal, yet beautiful essence of the frontier, the Great Plains in the 1800s, is shot in the untouched lands of Argentina and Canada. It is further enhanced by the coherent sound design and Ryuichi Sakamoto and Alva Noto's score that merges the various subtle sounds of nature to create this sensory marvel.

Under this ethereal, pristine natural setting, however, exists the violent and crude epic of the frontiersman Hugh Glass, played by Leonardo DiCaprio who, in the making of this film, seems to crave for an Oscar almost to a degree of self-harm. Poor Leo seems to have given his all for the little golden Oscar man after missing it for the fourth time in 2013. Besides having to cover his beautiful face with rugged hair and grime, Leonardo had to go through extreme and unaccount-

able measures to fulfill Iñárritu's physically demanding role. The main character, Glass, similarly, also has to endure unimaginable tortures in his quest to avenge the death of his son, during which he spends nearly half of the movie crawling on the ground with a few groans and moans here and there. Iñárritu manages to shower more sentimentalism to Hugh's revenge by adding a deceased Pawnee wife to Glass' vague background history through glimpses of flashbacks.

Overall, *The Revenant*, imbued by the stellar performance of the all-giving Leonardo DiCaprio and the breathtaking imagery created by the brilliant director Alejandro G. Iñárritu, is a powerfully veracious account of the terrifying, forbidding world of the frontier. It is unforgiving, yet unquestionably beautiful.



## Spring Cleaning

by Nicole Cheng

With the days getting longer and the weather getting warmer, we are reminded of what many of us absolutely dread -- spring cleaning. This is the lugubrious process of revamping boring houses, cleaning out the clutter built up over the long winter of hibernation and Netflix, and the scary realization that swimsuit season is quickly approaching. That's right: as soon as the temperature peaks to more than sixty degrees, all of this hits us at once. The messes that we have made of our homes, bodies, and minds have come back to bite us. This is spring cleaning. This is war.

For most people enduring this battle, one of the most difficult things to do is to gain the willpower to get out of bed when they don't absolutely have to. I mean, between sleeping for another two hours and scrubbing the bathroom floor, there is an obvious preference. The question of this millennium is probably, *how do I get the motivation to do anything?* And honestly, there's no answer to this question, because the truth is, we are never

actually motivated to do anything. We do things out of necessity and pleasure for our own selfish selves. We do our homework to not wind up on the streets. We wash the dishes because we ran out of clean plates. We clean out the fridge because the rancor odor of spoiled food makes us regurgitate all the food that has made its way into our bodies. We do things for ourselves. Spring cleaning, without immediate repercussions and rewards, often comes off as worthless.

We are willing to clean *important* things. We'd definitely prioritize washing our dirty clothing over making the bed that we're bound to mess up at the end of the day. And that raises a good question -- why do we even bother? It's true -- everything will be messed up anyway. In the end, it doesn't make a difference.

Yeah, that's what's wrong: the fact that you were nodding your head at those previous claims. Your attitude is an issue. Maybe a big issue. Maybe a tiny issue. But it's there. It's an issue.

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