

CHAINS HE NEVER WORE

Two men were born the same year, 1818. One was born the property of another human being, forbidden to learn to read, and did not know the month of his own birth. The other was born in a comfortable house in the Rhineland, to an educated family, and sent to university. Which one of them spent his life telling the world that the individual is helpless, the system is rigged beyond redemption, and the only remedy is to tear it all down and hand the pieces to the state? It was not the slave. It was the man who was never in chains.



Frederick Douglass escaped bondage, taught himself to read in secret, built businesses, advised presidents, and called the Constitution a glorious liberty document. Karl Marx wrote about chains he never wore, on another man's money, and the theory he built did not die when the Berlin Wall came down; it changed clothes. KCarl Smith, creator of the Frederick Douglass Messaging Strategy, joins Kevin Freeman to stage the debate these two men never had in life, in their own words.



In this briefing we will discuss the following:

- » Two Men, One Year: Douglass Earned His Freedom, Marx Theorized About Freedom on Someone Else's Money
- » The System Swap: How Classical Marxism Became Democratic Socialism, and Why Venezuela Is the Receipt
- » The Answer and the Assignment: Taking the Liberty Message Into the Classroom, the Church, and Your Own Living Room

YOUR MISSION: Learn the real difference between a man who earned his freedom and a man who theorized about freedom on someone else's money. Use this to answer the case for Marxism wherever it shows up next, in whatever new clothes it is wearing.

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

- » This isn't a 19th-century argument. It's a 2026 platform. The Democratic Socialists of America's own current national program calls for a new constitution, a single federal legislature with no Senate, and public ownership of the largest corporations, and its membership has passed 120,000.
- » Venezuela already ran this experiment. A country sitting on the largest proven oil reserves on earth removed the same check on power in 1999 and now has empty shelves and nearly seven million of its own people gone.
- » Frederick Douglass's real record needs no exaggeration. Cedar Hill grew from fourteen rooms to twenty-one on fifteen acres, with a personal library of thousands of volumes; he was a newspaper publisher, a bank president, a U.S. Marshal, Recorder of Deeds, and Minister to Haiti, four federal offices held by a man born with no legal right to his own body.
- » It's already sitting at your own dinner table. If a son or daughter came home from college using the language of oppressor and oppressed, the first conversation, not the argument, is the one that matters, and it can happen tonight.
- » The church has a curriculum waiting for it. KCarl Smith has already built the discussion questions and answers, and pastors can book a four-hour workshop to run it in their own congregation.

Ep. 11-415 (OSINT) Open-Sourced Intelligence Report.
This briefing includes a conversation between Kevin D. Freeman, D.Sc. (h.c.), CFA and KCarl Smith. KCarl is a friend of the Economic War Room® and an American Patriot.

KCarl Smith is a retired United States Army officer and the creator of the Frederick Douglass Messaging Strategy, which he has carried to more than 700 faith and civic audiences over two decades. He is the author of Frederick Douglass Republicans: The Movement to Re-Ignite America's Passion for Liberty.

His new book, Douglass versus Marx: The Battle for America's Soul, stages 31 debates between Frederick Douglass and Karl Marx using only what each man actually wrote, a discipline built so that no one can accuse him of putting words in either man's mouth. KCarl is a friend of the Economic War Room of more than a decade.



1. Two Men, One Year: Douglass Earned His Freedom, Marx Theorized About Freedom on Someone Else's Money

KCarl Smith did not set out to build a messaging strategy; he studied two men. His new book stages 31 debates between Frederick Douglass and Karl Marx using only what each man actually wrote.

“Karl Marx was a theorist about oppression. Frederick Douglass had real-life experiences about oppression. Karl Marx sat in coffee shops and libraries and came up with ideas about how to tackle the issue of oppression. Douglass had real-life experience, and that alone separates the two.” –KCarl Smith

Douglass's public record needs no inflated number to make the point. Cedar Hill, his home in Washington, D.C., grew from fourteen rooms to twenty-one on fifteen acres, and he built a personal library of thousands of volumes. He was a newspaper publisher, president of the Freedman's Savings Bank, a U.S. Marshal, Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia, and Minister to Haiti. A man born with no legal right to his own body ended his life holding four federal offices.



Douglass versus Marx treats Marx as a sincere man who was sincerely wrong. The facts point somewhere harder: Friedrich Engels sold his stake in a Manchester cotton mill and put Marx on an allowance. Marx took an inheritance into the London stock market and wrote his own uncle bragging about the profit. A private secretary, tutors for his daughters, and unpaid creditors completed the picture.

“That is not a man in chains. That is a man selling chains to other people. So was Marx an honest man who was wrong, or was he running a con? And does it even matter, when the fruit is the same either way?” –Kevin D. Freeman, D.Sc. (h.c.), CFA

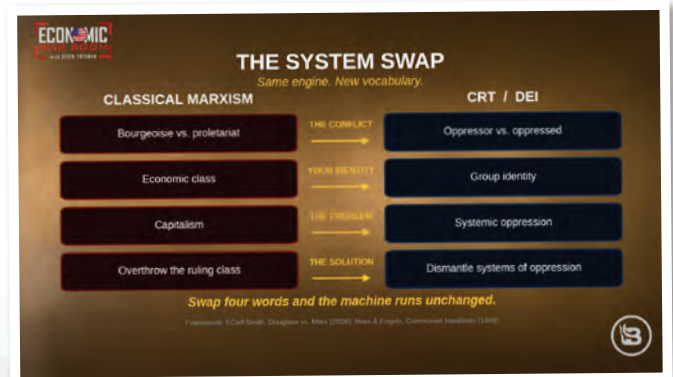
“Isn’t that interesting? A man who criticized capitalism relied on Engels, whose family owned textile mills. They were capitalists, and he relied on that money for his own survival.” –KCarl Smith

Marx was not idle, to be precise about it. He spent roughly a decade as the European correspondent for the New York Tribune, hired by managing editor Charles A. Dana, filing hundreds of pieces at about five pounds a column; Dana called him one of the paper’s best-paid contributors. What Marx never did was work a day of manual labor, meet a payroll, or run a business. He earned his keep by writing and agitating, while the bulk of his household’s support came from a mill owner’s profits.

⚠ Attention: One of these men earned his freedom. The other theorized about it, on somebody else’s money.

2. The System Swap: How Classical Marxism Became Democratic Socialism, and Why Venezuela Is the Proof of Concept Failure

Classical Marxism had four parts. Bourgeoisie against proletariat. Your identity was your class. The problem was capitalism. The solution was to overthrow the ruling class. Swap four words. Oppressor against oppressed. Your identity is your group. The problem is systemic oppression. The solution is dismantling systems of oppression. Same engine, new paint.



“They looked at oppression in the world and came up with two totally different worldviews. Karl Marx believed our rights come from the collective or the state. Douglass believed our rights come from God. That is the whole clash.” –KCarl Smith

This is not a theory about someday. The Democratic Socialists of America’s current national program calls for a new democratic constitution, a single federal legislature with proportional representation, and public ownership of the largest corporations. Membership has passed 120,000, and the organization’s candidates are winning primaries. A single

legislature means no Senate. No Senate means no brake. That is not interpretation. That is arithmetic.

Venezuela removed the same brake in 1999. A country sitting on the largest proven oil reserves on earth now has empty shelves and nearly seven million of its own people gone. Ideas have consequences. That is not an argument. It is a receipt.

“Karl Marx did not see an individual. He saw a part of the machine. Douglass said we have souls. We are individuals, made in the image of God. That is not the theory of Karl Marx.” –KCarl Smith

There is no separate box for socialism. It is the same system as communism, further up the road, with the destination not yet announced. Economics is the study of scarcity and how to allocate it, so there is one real question: who decides? Capital is anything added to labor and land in production, tools, equipment, money that builds a factory, and every system on earth uses it. In that sense, even communists are capitalists.

“The only difference is who controls it. Marx did not object to capital. Marx objected to you holding any.”
–Kevin D. Freeman, D.Sc. (h.c.), CFA



Douglass versus Marx spends 31 debates working through where Douglass lands on private property, and the through-line is direct: private property was never greed to Douglass. It was the tangible proof that a man owned the fruit of his own labor, which is exactly what a movement built to abolish it cannot allow him to keep.



Attention: Every time this ideology has taken power, the men at the top ended up rich. Marx did not object to capital. He objected to you owning any.

3. The Answer and the Assignment: Taking the Liberty Message into the Classroom, the Church, and Your Own Living Room

Smith has taken his liberty message into a high school auditorium in Tuskegee, into college classrooms, and into a Lakeland, Florida city commission district that is roughly 60 percent Black, where a candidate named Guy LaLonde broke a nearly fifty-year hold on the seat. But the clearest example of the message working is close to home.



Smith's nephew KJ attends a historically Black college in Alabama, the same kind of school Smith himself graduated from, where a professor had once taught Smith that the Constitution's three-fifths clause meant Black Americans were three-fifths of a human being. Smith says he believed that for forty years. KJ, having read the dialogues in Douglass versus Marx, knew better. When a professor in KJ's own history class stood up and called the Constitution a pro-slavery document, KJ pushed back, respectfully, with Frederick Douglass's own words: that the Constitution is a glorious liberty document, and that the three-fifths clause was never a statement about a slave's worth as a human being.

"The bottom line is KJ won the argument with the professor, and KJ won the classroom, because other students wanted to know more about Frederick Douglass's liberty message." –KCarl Smith

The clause itself does not say what KJ's professor taught. It counted an enslaved person as three-fifths of a person only for the purpose of calculating each state's population for representation in Congress, and that formula worked against the slave states, not for them, by capping how many House seats slaveholders got credit for. Reading it as a statement of a slave's human worth gets the mechanism exactly backward, and it is the kind of correction Smith says an entire generation now needs before they ever reach a classroom.

“If you’re in the seventh game of the NBA playoffs and the opposition is scoring point after point, you don’t keep your best player on the bench. You call time out, put Douglass in the game, give him the ball, and tell everyone else to get out of the way. Karl Marx cannot cover Douglass one-on-one. Impossible.” –KCarl Smith

Douglass’s own record makes Smith’s case without any embellishment. He advised five Republican presidents, Lincoln and four more, work most people never get to do once, done by a man with zero days of formal schooling. He was the most photographed American of his century, and decades before the country had professional sports or recorded music, crowds sat for hours just to hear him speak. It is that record, Smith argues, that makes Douglass the natural starting point for reclaiming the Republican Party’s own founding purpose: the party exists because Douglass and the abolitionist movement declared political war on slavery, not because of anything Karl Marx ever wrote.

“You cannot cancel Frederick Douglass. You cannot call him privileged. You cannot tell him he does not understand oppression. He is one man that the ideology has no answer for.” –Kevin D. Freeman, D.Sc. (h.c.), CFA

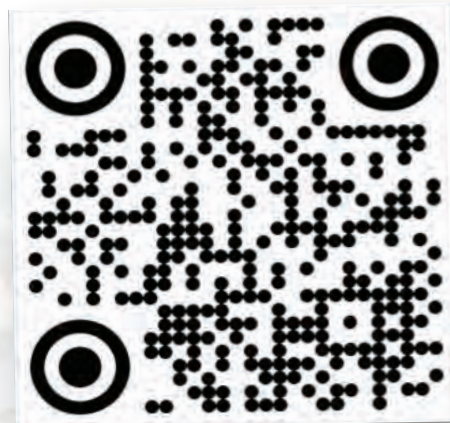
For the parent whose son or daughter comes home from college using this vocabulary, Smith’s advice is not to start with the argument. Start with the conversation.

“You now can bring political healing to your own families. How do you help them understand the value of liberty? You do that by leveraging the liberty message of Frederick Douglass, because nobody can argue against it.” –KCarl Smith

Smith has already built this as a curriculum, discussion questions and answers included, and he is offering pastors a four-hour workshop in their own church to run it. Reach his team through the Frederick Douglass Republican Store at [fdrstore.company.site](https://kcarl.company.site) (<https://kcarl.company.site/>), his official contact and booking channel.



Attention: Frederick Douglass got it right, and he got it right from inside the worst thing this country ever did. That is why the ideology cannot answer him, and why the church ought to be the one carrying his message forward.





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ACTION STEPS:

1. Read [Douglass versus Marx: The Battle for America's Soul](#) by KCarl Smith, all 31 debates, using only what Douglass and Marx actually wrote.
2. Read the Democratic Socialists of America's own [2026 national program](#) yourself, in their own words, before anyone else characterizes it for you.
3. Read Frederick Douglass's 1852 address, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July," in full, and find the exact line where he calls the Constitution a glorious liberty document.
4. If you are the parent of a college-age son or daughter, have the first conversation now, not the argument, about where they believe rights actually come from.
5. If you are a pastor, or you know one, ask KCarl Smith's team about the four-hour in-church workshop built on his curriculum; reach his team through his official contact and booking channel, the Frederick Douglass Republican Store (<https://kcarl.company.site/>).
6. The next time someone tells you capitalism and socialism are the only two choices, ask them the real question instead: who controls the capital?
7. Put Douglass versus Marx in the hands of one college student before somebody else fills that space.

ONGOING ACTION STEPS:

1. Explore the [Transactional Gold](#) initiative to learn how state-authorized, vaulted gold and silver could function as spendable legal tender through modern payment systems. Learn about progress in your state at <https://transactionalgold.com/> and click the "Active States" button in the upper right-hand corner.
2. Get a copy of [According to Plan](#) to better understand these domestic attacks on our Liberty as well as the overall Marxist plan to consume America.
3. Read [The Four Horsemen of the American Apocalypse and Our Six Trails by Fire](#) by Kevin D. Freeman for a deep dive on the greatest threats America faces along with practical solutions.
4. Seek opportunities to inspire other Americans to stand up for what is right.
5. Send them this Economic Battle Plan™ and ask them what they are doing to stand for America and Liberty!
 - » Elect Politicians that understand the need to preserve American Liberty.

- » Encourage and ask your elected officials to educate themselves.
- » Ask them how they are working to strengthen our education system and reverse the push for Marxist indoctrination. These are big issues, if your representatives are not aware and working toward solutions directly or indirectly based on their committees, hold them accountable!

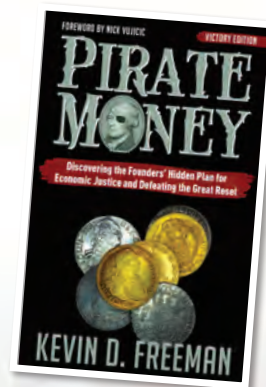
6. **Check your investments to see if they are helping fund the agendas of Globalist Elites. If you have a financial advisor insist that they give you an update and encourage them to become part of the NSIC.**

Seek out investment opportunities in patriotic innovations.
Financial Advisors can learn more at www.NSIC.org. Weaponize your money, your investing, spending, and giving!



ATTENTION: Clients already with a Financial Advisor - Make sure your financial advisor has your values and interests at heart. Make certain they really understand what ESG investments mean for our future. Suggest that they become part of the NSIC institute and nominate them to participate in our online certification at economicwarroom.com/advisor.

7. Be certain to buy Kevin's book, *Pirate Money: the Founders' Hidden Plan for Economic Justice and Defeating the Great Reset*. Learn more at www.PirateMoneyBook.com.



Discovering



In the **Economic War Room®**, we encourage Americans to be the “little ships that make the difference.” You cannot solely rely on the government or the president to solve America’s problems. You have to make a difference. It is up to you to help take our country back and create a voice for economic liberty. [The little ships are based on Churchill’s Operation Dynamo that rescued the British Expeditionary Forces in the Miracle of Dunkirk.]

SHAREABLE QUOTES:

“Most people who embrace Marxism or socialism have never heard the liberty message through the lens of Frederick Douglass. Once they hear it, you have to decide which way you are going to go: a man who had real-life experience with oppression, or a man who only theorized about it.”

—KCarl Smith - Founder and President, Frederick Douglass Republicans

“If your rights come from God, no man can take them. If your rights come from government, then whoever holds the government holds you. Everything else flows downstream from that one answer.”

—Kevin D. Freeman, D.Sc. (h.c.), CFA; Host, Pirate Money Radio

“Interpreted as it ought to be interpreted, the Constitution is a
GLORIOUS LIBERTY DOCUMENT.”

—Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” (1852)

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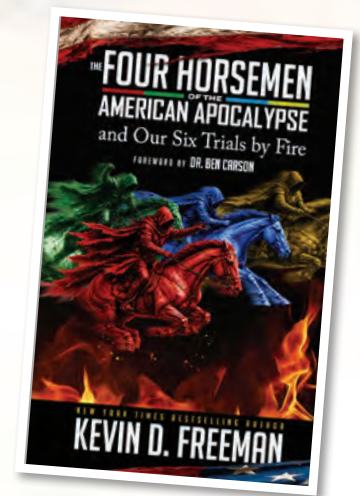
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Check out these in particular with application to this topic:

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Action Steps

Read [Douglass versus Marx: The Battle for America's Soul](#) by KCarl Smith, all 31 debates, using only what Douglass and Marx actually wrote.

Read the Democratic Socialists of America's own [2026 national program](#) yourself, in their own words, before anyone else characterizes it for you.

If you are a pastor, or you know one, ask K. Carl Smith's team about the four-hour in-church workshop built on his curriculum through his official contact channel, the [Frederick Douglass Republican Store](#).

Subscribe to BLAZETV (Use the code ECON) <https://blazetv.com/econ>

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