1. **Questions: Define Socialism. Discuss the growth and development of socialism.**

**Answer**

Socialism refers to a broad array of doctrines or political movements that envisage a socio-economic system in which property and the distribution of wealth are subject to social control. This control may be either direct—exercised through popular collectives such as workers' councils or it may be indirect—exercised on behalf of the people by the state. As an economic system, socialism is often associated with state, community or worker ownership of the means of production.

The modern socialist movement had its origin largely in the working class movement of the late-19th century. In this period, the term "socialism" was first used in connection with European social critics who condemned capitalism and private property. For Karl Marx, who helped establish and define the modern socialist movement, socialism implied the abolition of money, markets, capital, and labor as a commodity.

It is difficult to make generalizations about the diverse array of doctrines and movements that have been referred to as "socialist," for the various adherents of contemporary socialist movements do not agree on a common doctrine or program. As a result, the movement has split into different and sometimes opposing branches, particularly between moderate socialists and communists. Since the 19th century, socialists have differed in their vision of socialism as a system of economic organization. Some socialists have championed the complete nationalization of the means of production, while some socialists influenced by anarchist thought favor decentralized collective ownership in the form of cooperatives or workers' councils. Social democrats have proposed selective nationalization of key industries within the framework of mixed economies. Stalinists insisted on the creation of Soviet-style command economies under strong central state direction. Others advocate “market socialism," in which social control exists within the framework of market economics and limited private property.

**Definitions**

1. *“Socialism, like everything else that is vital, is rather a tendency than a strictly definable body of doctrine***”-** Bertrand Russell
2. *“Socialism is principle of service and sacrifices and calls for a society in which all members are equal…*…” M. K. Gandhi.
3. *“Socialism as the establishment of social ownership over existing means of production, their further development and mass production and some kind of planned economy……”* Ram Manohar Lahia.

**Growth and Development of Socialism**

1. **Early socialism:** The term "socialism" was first coined in the context of early-19th century by Western European social critics. In this period, socialism emerged from a diverse array of doctrines. Robert Owen, Charles Fourier, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, Louis Blanc, and Saint-Simon were the pioneer of the doctrine. These socialists reacting to the excesses of poverty and inequality advocated reforms such as the egalitarian distribution of wealth and the transformation of society into small communities in which private property was to be abolished. Most of them advocated about the ‘Utopian Socialism’.
2. **The rise of Marxism:** In the mid-19th century Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels developed their own account of socialism as the outcome of a revolutionary class struggle between the proletariat and bourgeoisie. Marx and Engels regarded themselves as “scientific socialists" and distinguished themselves from the “utopian socialists" of earlier generations. For Marxists, socialism is viewed as a transitional stage characterized by state ownership of the means of production. For Marx, a communist society entails the absence of differing social classes and thus the end of class warfare. According to Marx, once private property had been abolished, the state would then "wither away".
3. **Split among the Thinkers:** On one hand, many socialist thinkers began to doubt the indispensability of revolution. Moderates like Eduard Bernstein argued that socialism could best be achieved through the democratic political process (a model increasingly known as social democracy). On the other hand, strong opposition to moderate socialism came from communists in countries such as the Russian Empire where a parliamentary democracy did not exist, and did not seem possible. Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin argued that revolution was the only path to socialism. In 1903, there was a formal split within the Russian social democratic party into revolutionary Bolshevik and reformist Menshevik factions.
4. **Cold War years:** The period following the Second World War marked another period of intensifying struggle between socialists and communists. In the post war period, the nominally socialist parties became increasingly identified with the expansion of the capitalist welfare state. Western European socialists largely backed U.S.-led Cold War policies. They largely supported the Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and denounced the Soviet Union as “totalitarian." Communists denounced these measures as imperialist provocations aimed at triggering a war against the Soviet Union.
5. **A new phase:** In the late last quarter of the twentieth century, socialism in the Western world entered a new phase of crisis and uncertainty. Western European socialists were under intense pressure to re-fashion their parties in the late 1980s and early 1990s and to reconcile their traditional economic programs with the integration of a European economic community based on liberalizing markets. The Labour Party in the United Kingdom put together a highly successful set of policies based on encouraging the market economy, while promoting the involvement of private industry in delivering public services. In China, the Chinese Communist Party has led a transition from the command economy of the Mao period under the banner of "market socialism." Under Deng Xiaoping, the leadership of China embarked upon a program of market-based reform