

# Employee Ownership and the Case for Liberal Socialism

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# Why Liberalism, Why Socialism

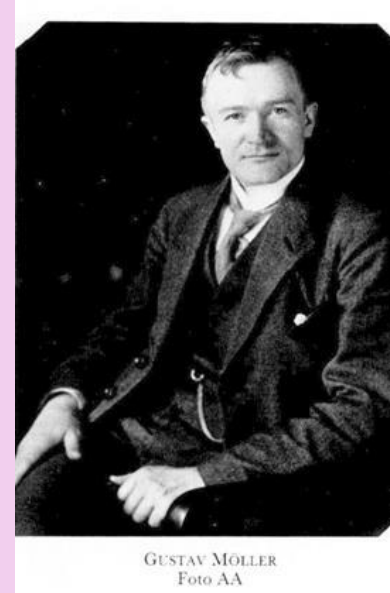
- Liberalism because democratic companies work within a liberal (but well regulated) market economy including the rule-of-law, political democracy and respect for human rights
- Socialism: When those who work in a company have the dominating power over the company. Socialism is **not** state control, nationalization or central planning.
- (Capitalism: When those who provide the capital for the company have the dominating power over the company)

# Carlo Rosselli (1899-1937)



- From a well-to-do Jewish family, joined the socialist but severely disappointed by the party's inability to cope with the social wave (and almost civil war conflict) in 1919
- Critical of the determinism of Marxism, of the dictatorship of the Soviet Union, and of Stalin's "class-to-class" policies
- **No to state-directed economy, instead an economy built on local autonomous cooperatives**
- A free civil society and the primacy of the rule of law, social rights and welfare policy
- Imprisoned by fascists, flees to France, builds a large anti-fascist resistance movement, participates in the Spanish Civil War, murdered by Mussolini's agents in 1937

# Gustav Möller (1884-1970)



- Best known as the creator of the Swedish universal welfare state. But this obscures his role as an ideological innovator
- Deeply shaken by the experience of the Finnish Civil War and very critical of the left's revolutionary strategy
- Critical of the idea of socialism as nationalization
- **Production should be conducted by autonomous self-governing companies**
- Organized their welfare reforms so that they would be immunized against bureaucratic hassle and abuse of power

# Liberals for economic democracy

**Robert Dahl**



**John Rawls**

