

Communism

I think there are fewer things that contributed more to the disenchantment of the population in communism than the ostentatious consumption patterns of their leaders.

Granted, the value of these consumption goods was trivial compared to the spending patterns of today's oligarchs, or of the rich in the West and Latin America. The communist elite was relatively poor compared to other elites. But the point is that their behavior stood out so sharply because it was so blatantly in contradiction with the ideology they preached.

Branko Milanovic, *The Haves and Have Nots*