

The Political Spectrum

Political

Spectrum



Political

Spectrum

Left wing

Moderate

Right wing

Radical

Liberal

Conservative

Reactionary



Political Spectrum

Left wing

Moderate

Right wing

Radical

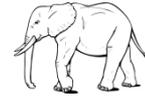
Liberal

Conservative

Reactionary



Change



Tradition/
Reform

Human Nature

Background:

Views about:

Change:

Right Wing

Reactionary

Conservative

Background:

Views about:

Change:

- Conserve = protect, preserve

- Maintain the status quo;
keep things the way they
are (the present is good)

- Need good reasons to
change

*Saying: "If it ain't broke,
don't fix it!"*



Right Wing

Conservative

Reactionary

- Conserve = protect, preserve
- Maintain the status quo; keep things the way they are (the present is good)
- Need good reasons to change

Saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

“React” – respond to change

- Regress (go back) to the way things used to be (the past was good)
- Hostile to change

Saying: "Back in the good ol' days..."



Left wing

Radical

Liberal



Background:

“liber” = free (seeks liberties, rights)

Views about:

- Change things; solve problems

- find new ways of doing things

- change within the system

- Change is good – the future can be even better

Change:

Saying: “Don’t get stuck in a rut”

Buzz words: Reform; Progressive;

Change = Progress



Left wing

Radical

Liberal



- “rad” = root;
change at the root
level
- System is corrupt;
must create new one

Example: weeds –
must pull them out
by the roots; plant
something new

Saying: “Start over from scratch”



“liber” = free (seeks liberties, rights)

- Change things; solve problems
- find new ways of doing things
- change within the system
- Change is good – the future can be
even better

Saying: “Don’t get stuck in a rut”

*Buzz words: Reform; Progressive;
Change = Progress*

Right Wing

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Views
about
tradition
and
reform

- Confidence in & love of tradition and heritage (in USA = WASP)
- Certain amount of conformity - “should do this”

*Buzz words: “Family values;”
“the American Way”*

- **Must** be part of the accepted “traditional” group
- If not, you are excluded, by force, if necessary

Deport, enslave, imprison, or eliminate excluded groups
ex.: the Holocaust,
“Ethnic cleansing,” genocide

Become more exclusive

Left wing

Radical

Liberal



Different traditions & heritages are divisive & dangerous

Willing to question traditions and heritage -
- may see some in need of change

Therefore, include all peoples by doing away with differences, by force, if necessary

Support diversity of all groups

Saying: "Religion is the opiate of the people."

Accept multiple cultures, holidays, and/or lifestyles

Saying: "Can't we all get along?"



Become more inclusive

Views about tradition and reform

Right Wing

Conservative

Reactionary

Views
about
human
nature

Pessimistic – people are basically bad in their *nature*: **born bad** - can't reform a person's nature

Based on Biblical concept of "original sin"

- Favors fewer government programs -- fears people will abuse them
- Government's role should be to rein in human nature

More and more social control



Police state
Dictatorship:
Fascism

- Rule by the elite few; hierarchy of privilege
- Persecution of excluded groups

Left wing

Radical

Liberal



Views
about
Human
Nature

Work to make all people equal -- people will become happy and not need gov't

Until then, full government control to institute reform

Communes;
Communism

Optimistic – people are basically good: controlled by how they are *nurtured*

-Based on Enlightenment ideals: “tabula rasa” or “blank slate”

-People can be trusted and can change – gov't should make reform, education, and social programs

(back side)

Radical

Liberal

Conservative

Reactionary



Authority
And
Personal
Freedom

Gov't
and
Economy

Right Wing

Conservative

Reactionary

Views about
Authority
and Personal
freedom

Favors more
authority over the
masses

Fewer individual
freedoms, aside
from in business

Control social behavior
(protects tradition)

*More and
more
social
control*



Authoritarian
dictatorship;
Fascism -- complete
control

Remove
opposition
with force

(imprison, deport,
eliminate
opposition)

Left wing

Radical

Liberal



Views
about
Authority
& personal
freedom
(Role of
Gov't)

Ultimate goal:
everyone
is equal and
content --
No need for
gov't

For now, make
everyone equal (the
same) through force

No individuality –
you can't be different

*More and
more
eco-
nomic
control*



Favors personal
freedoms for the
masses – especially
in the areas of social
issues and First
Amendment rights

More social equality;
workers' rights;
regulate business for
the sake of society

Right Wing

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Gov't and
Economy

Laissez-Faire capitalism:
Gov't leaves business alone

Decrease social welfare
& other gov't programs –
Small gov't is best:

- lighten regulations
- reduce taxes
- tax breaks for business

Exception: gov't
programs to help
business (tariffs,
subsidies, recent
bailouts)

Symbiotic relationship
with big business

Big business and
fascist dictators can work
together -- very efficient
and mutually beneficial

Discriminatory laws
against social groups

ex.: Jews restricted from
certain jobs in Nazi
Germany; later made into
slaves

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All property owned
by the state

Nationalize
industries

“Collectivism” -
everyone works for
the common good
enslave, imprison or
eliminate those
who will not conform
(gulags -- work camps,
“purges”)

Gov’t should regulate
business (labor laws,
environmental safety,
consumer standards, etc.)

Create gov’t programs to help
the masses; taxes required
(price of doing business)

Capitalism accepted, with
restrictions

Gov’t and
the
Economy:

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DEMOCRATS

REPUBLICANS

(American
Nazi Party –
non-electoral)

GREEN
PARTY

Peace and Freedom

AMERICAN
INDEPENDENT

← LIBERTARIAN →

Political
Parties:

(CPUSA –
minor party)



Political Spectrum

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People who fit the description: (historical and current)

Lenin

Stalin

Mao

Fidel Castro

Sandinistas

FARC and ELN

Young, urban, educated, mainline Christians, Catholics, Jews

Union activists, civil rights groups, environmentalists

Progressives

FDR, JFK, LBJ

Cesar Chavez, M.L. King, Gov. Brown

Harris and Feinstein

Obama

Clinton

Bernie Sanders

Older, rural, blue collar evangelical Christians (traditional religious)

Big business

Tea Party Movement

(anti-tax group)

Hoover (1920s Pres.)

Reagan

Bush

Trump/Pence

Paul Ryan

KKK
Neo-Nazis

Hitler

Ayatollah (Iran)

Al Qaeda

Taliban

ISIS