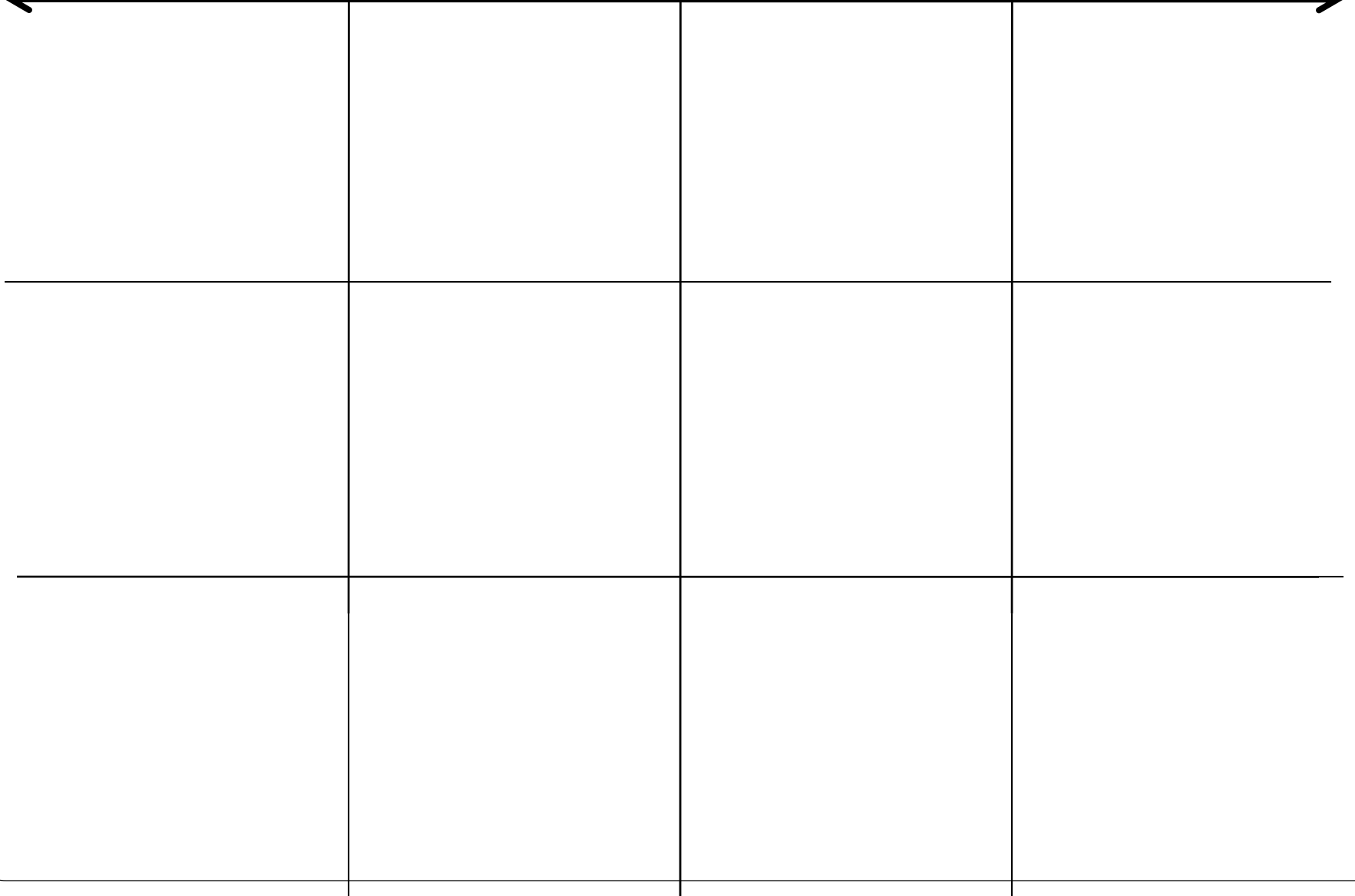


# The Political Spectrum

*Political*

*Spectrum*



# *Political Spectrum*

Left wing

Moderate

Right wing

Radical

Liberal

Conservative

Reactionary



Instructions: fill in the titles at the top of each column. Make sure they are in the right places - it matters.

Note: for this online version of the chart, you'll fill it in from left to right (in class we did it starting from the conservative POV).

Radical	Liberal	Conservative	Reactionary

# *Political Spectrum*

Left wing

Moderate

Right wing

Radical

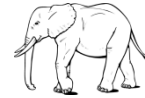
Liberal

Conservative

Reactionary



Change



Tradition/  
Reform

Human Nature


# Left wing

Radical

Liberal



**Background, Views about, Change:**

- “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

Conservative

Reactionary

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!"*

"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



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  
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



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

# 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, strict control  
no rights

- Rule by the elite few; hierarchy of privilege
- Distrust even at highest level
- Persecution of excluded groups; destruction of "degenerate" art

*(back side)*

Radical

Liberal

Conservative

Reactionary



Authority  
And  
Personal  
Freedom

Gov't  
and  
Economy


# 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 authority

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

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)

Within the Constitution

*More and  
more  
social  
control*



Authoritarian  
dictatorship;  
Fascism -- complete  
control

Remove  
opposition  
with force

(imprison, deport,  
eliminate  
opposition)

# Left wing

Radical

Liberal



Gov't and  
the  
Economy:

All property owned  
by the state

Nationalize  
Industries; No  
Capitalism

“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

# Right Wing

Conservative

Reactionary



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)

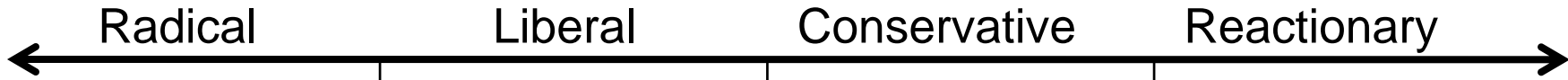
Symbiotic relationship  
with big business

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

*(back side)*



Instructions: draw another line dividing the "Political Parties" section, and only use the upper part so you have more room for the "People who fit the description" section.

Authority  
And  
Personal  
Freedom

Gov't  
and  
Economy

Political Parties

People who fit  
The  
Description



# *Political Spectrum*

Left wing

Moderate

Right wing

Radical

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Reactionary



Political Parties:

(CPUSA – minor party)

DEMOCRATS

REPUBLICANS

(American Nazi Party – non-electoral)

GREEN PARTY

Peace and Freedom

LIBERTARIAN

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT



# Political Spectrum

Left wing      Moderate      Right wing

Radical

Liberal

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Reactionary

People who fit the description: (historical and current)

Lenin

Stalin

Mao

Fidel Castro

Sandinistas

FARC

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

Union activists, civil rights groups, environmentalists

Progressives

FDR, JFK, LBJ

Cesar Chavez, M.L. King  
Gov. Newsom

Harris and Feinstein

Obama

Clinton

Sanders, Pelosi

Warren, Biden etc.

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

Big business

Tea Party Movement (anti-tax group)

Hoover (1920s Pres.)  
Reagan  
Bush

Trump/Pence

Ryan

Sen. McConnell

Sen. Graham

KKK  
Neo-Nazis

Hitler

Ayatollah (Iran)

Al Qaeda

Taliban

ISIS