

Intro to Poli Sci – 8/27/15

- Objective: SWBAT describe the liberal-conservative political spectrum.
- Agenda:
 - Notes over Political Spectrum
 - Discussion time



Investigating America POLITICAL SPECTRUM



Especially when you consider the millions upon millions with viewpoints...



Biases

Values

Bigotry

Where do **YOU** stand on the issues?

What do **YOU** want *in* and *from* society?

What do you believe?

Assumptions

Faith

Is it different from the person setting next to you? Can you both agree???

Now imagine you had the OTHER 300 million+ people sitting next to you...

with a million or diverse citizens with all different views,

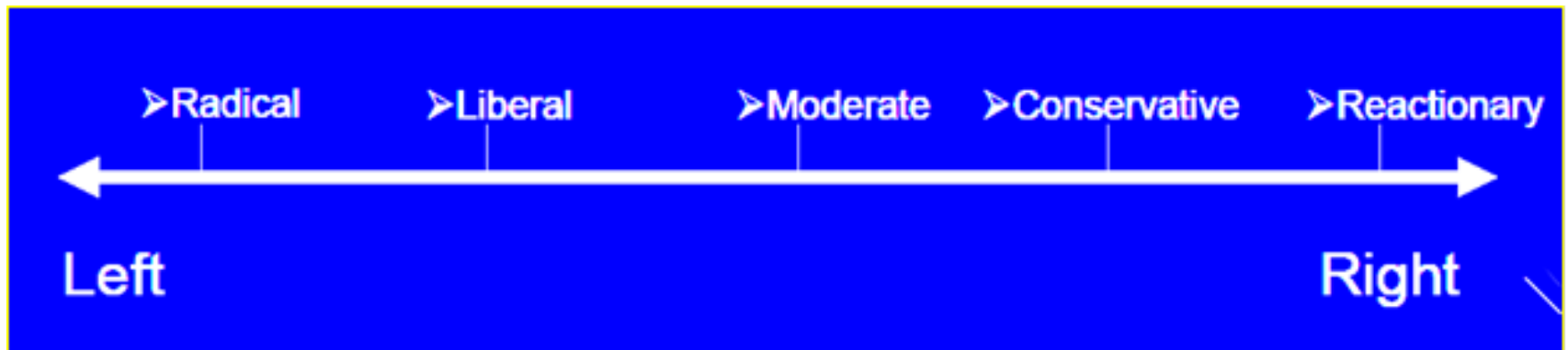
how can we even begin to understand and possibly organize it all



TWO “TESTS” OF YOUR IDEOLOGY

- **Role of Change** – How willing are you to accept change?
- **Role of Government** – How much do you want the government involved?

The Political Spectrum



“FAR LEFT” OF SPECTRUM

Radical – (“Far Left”)

- Favor a **rapid, fundamental (overall) change** in the existing social, economic and/or political systems.
- Will use **extreme measures** (including violence) to achieve their goals. (example: Communists)

LEFT OF “MODERATE” (A.K.A. “MIDDLE”)

Liberal – (“**Left**”)

- Believe that the **government should take action to bring about social reform** (changes) to increase individuals’ well being.
- They are **for the idea of change *but work peacefully*** by using the existing political system. Examples include Democratic Party and the Green Party.

MODERATE

(“MIDDLE” OF SPECTRUM)

Moderate – (“Middle”)

- Moderates are people who have **opinions between those of liberals and conservatives.**
 - They are generally **tolerant of many viewpoints.**
- They generally don't hold any extreme viewpoints.

RIGHT OF “MODERATE”

Conservative – (“Right”)

- **Government should stay out of the lives of** citizens and businesses, except on moral issues (items about such things as abortion).
- They are generally **for the status quo** (keeping things the way they currently are).
- They are often **hesitant to change**. They will work peacefully using the existing political system. (examples: Republicans, Reform Party)

“FAR RIGHT” OF THE SPECTRUM

Reactionary – (“Far Right”)

- Members of this group want a **return to a previous** social, political or economic that existed earlier in history.
- They will **use extreme measures** to achieve their goals, including violence. (dictatorships, monarchies, oligarchies)

Liberal

Conservative

← Change
Tradition →

← Problems are circumstantial
Problems are individual →

← Gov't is responsible for social reform/change
Gov't needs to be less involved →
Freedom – personal choices →

← Equality/fairness – gov't. levels the playing field

← Human Rights
Property rights →

Moral Absolutes →

← Relative Values

Before you decide if you are on the right or left...

Ever wonder where the terms left and right came from in the first place?

To find out, we have to go back to the end of the 19th century and a France torn apart by revolution-



right through the violence of the "Reign of Terror", and force the middle to accept their control.

Those seated on the left supported the change of revolution and wanted to end feudalism forever by any means necessary.

This would last for a short time until internal battles for power would turn the violence upon themselves and the Assembly would lose all control, and Napoleon would become "First Consul" and Emperor.

Those seated in the center did not have strong views on the revolution.

Those seated on the right wished the monarchy to return and wanted to see an end to the disorder and violence the revolution.

Democrat

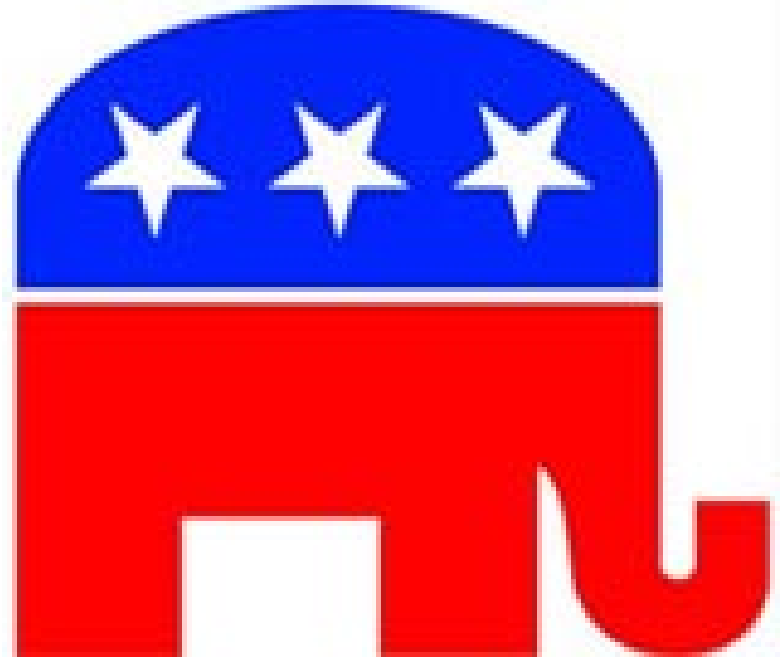
(LIBERAL)

vs.

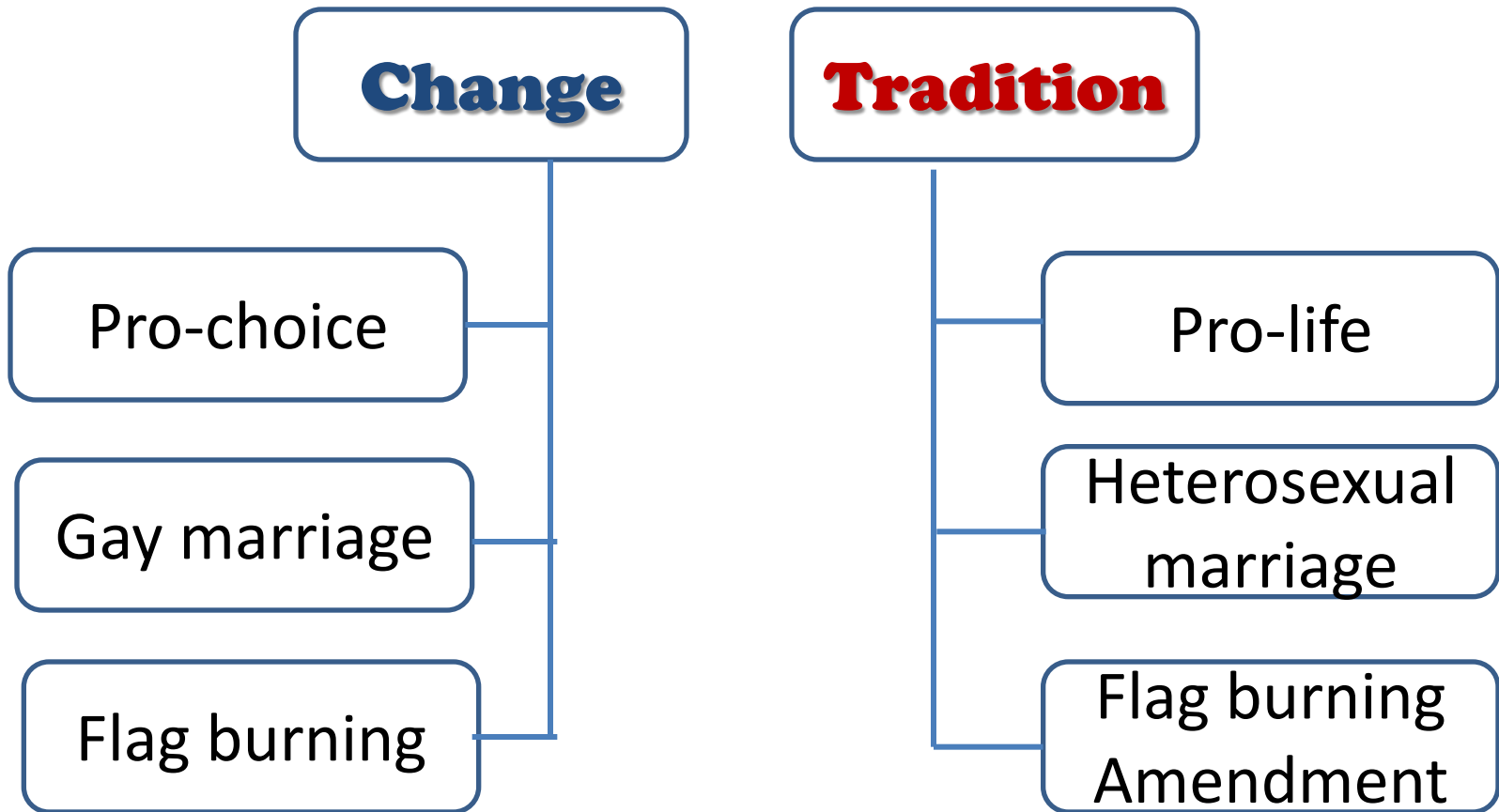
VS.

Republican

(CONSERVATIVE)



IDEOLOGY APPLIED TO ISSUES



PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

circumstantial

Welfare programs

Health care
for all

Drug rehabilitation
programs

Individual

Welfare limits

Private health
care

Tough on
crime

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN SOCIETY

Gov't responsible for social reform

Education
funding

Assistance
Programs

Environmental
Programs

Gov't should be less involved

School
Vouchers

Charity Tax
Deductions

De-regulation

EQUALITY - FREEDOM

Social Equality

Anti-discrimination

Gender Equity

Affirmative
Action Programs

Individual Freedom

The Right to
Hire

Merit Pay

Competition

THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Human Rights

Environment

Assistance
Programs

Crime
Prevention-
Rehabilitation

Property Rights

Pro-business

Tax Cuts

Tough on Crime
Death Penalty

MORALITY

Relative Values

Pro-choice

Gay Rights

Legalize Drugs

Moral Absolutes

Pro-life

Traditional
Family

Criminalize
drugs

Rex Tugwell, an advisor to president FDR, said that different attitudes toward change characterize adherents to different political philosophies. He wrote that if a community needed a new train station, or education reform, crime control, etc ...

- **liberals** would like to rebuild the train station while the train is running;
- **radicals** prefer to blow up the train station and forgo service until the new structure is built;
- **conservatives** would prefer to keep the old station, being satisfied with it;
- while **reactionaries** would abandon the station entirely since they do not approve of trains in the first place.

Left

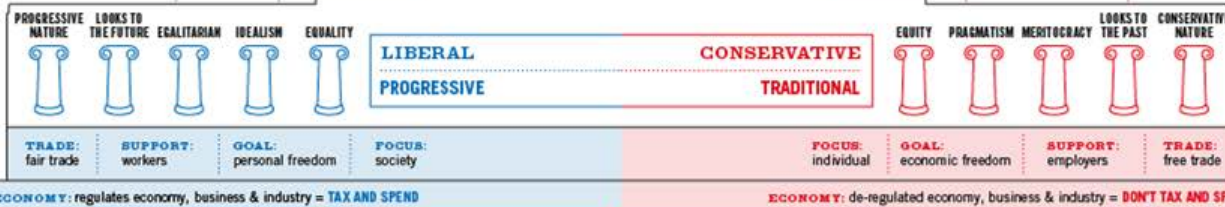
Right

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

COMMUNISM LABOUR DEMOCRATS PARTIES

PARTIES REPUBLICAN CONSERVATIVE NATIONALIST

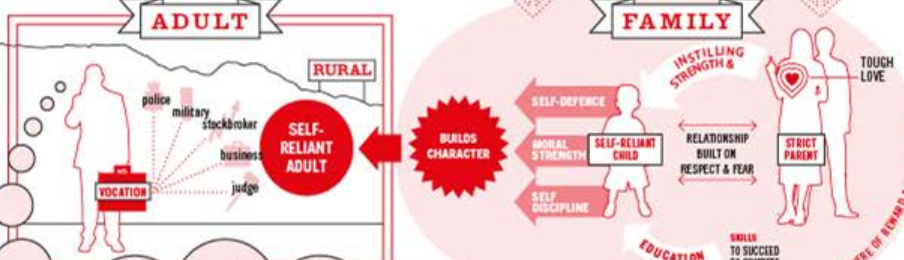


SOCIAL PROGRESS=EVOLUTION

SOCIAL PROGRESS=STATUS QVO

SOCIETY & CULTURE

SOCIETY & CULTURE



VOTES FOR:

VOTES FOR:

- FAIRNESS
 - HELPING THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES
 - POSITIVE ROLE MODELS
 - CHAMPIONS OF DOWNTRODDEN
 - DIplomacy
 - PACIFISM
- DOVES

- AGGRESSION
 - MILITANCY
 - UPHOLDING ORDER
 - HELPING THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES
 - STRONG ROLE MODELS
 - CHAMPIONS OF OPPORTUNITY
- HAWKS