

10—Political Parties

Issues:

1. Political ideologies express our beliefs about the way the world should be, and the role of individuals and government in achieving that better world. One way to determine how conservative or liberal you are is to examine how much you favor conserving community order (conservative) compared to fostering individual freedom and change (liberal).
2. The American party system has consistently been a two-party system, but the identity of those parties, their key issues, and their key constituents, have varied over time. In comparison with other countries, America's two main parties tend to be moderate in their political ideology.
3. Over the course of American history, the number of citizens who enjoy the right of voting and being directly represented in government has expanded substantially.
4. Participating in political parties and elections is not the only way for American citizens to try to influence the government and public policy. These alternatives include political interest groups, ballot initiatives, civil disobedience, and public protest.

Student Outcomes:

1. Students will understand the changing meaning of the labels “conservative” and “liberal” in American politics. They will be able to describe and reflect upon their own political ideology, and apply their beliefs consistently to real world problems related to conserving community order and fostering individual freedom and change.
2. Students will recognize that political parties were not part of the Constitution. They will be prepared to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of parties as a way of preserving freedom and representing citizens.
3. Students will be able explain why America has been a two party system. They will be able to describe the most likely impact a third party can have on politics at the national or state level.
4. Students will be able to describe the ways that political parties, and the issues associated with them, have changed and developed over time.
5. Students will be able to describe how voting rights were extended to women and ethnic minorities and young people, and what obstacles had to be overcome along the way. They will be able to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of different ideals of representative democracy.
6. Students will be able to explain what factors influence election turnout in America and other democracies. They will be able to evaluate the merits of voting and other forms of political participation.

Note: First day's readings: pages 1–7; second day's readings: pages 8–12.

All students should come to class prepared to teach the others students in the class what they have learned through preparing for the class and be able to provide evidence to support their ideas.

The Democratization of America

The patriot philosophers made some distinctions between “republican principles” and the “democratic spirit.” Republican principles were considered good and the basis for government that protected the interests of the people. The democratic spirit on the other hand was somewhat feared because of its susceptibility to passion and its resulting divisiveness. It was hoped that a true republic would avoid the excesses of democracy and the “democratic spirit.” But the patriot philosophers espoused principles which could not help but bring a desire for greater and greater public (democratic) participation in the processes of governing. This has led to the “democratization” of American government. This democratization does not mean that America has changed from a republic to a democracy in form of government, but it does mean that over time processes have evolved that include rather than exclude more and more people in the operation of government. The increasing commitment to this “democratic spirit” has been an important part of the American political culture. In fact, being more “democratic” has become an American obsession.

The “democratization” of American government becomes obvious by examining the changes in voting rights from the early years of the United States to the 1900s. The paradigm shift began with a changing definition of certain key ideals from America’s founding. One of the most famous phrases from the Declaration of Independence—“all men are created equal”—began to take on a more literal meaning; *all* are equal to participate in government. The constitutional system itself, by which the government operated, also helped bring about this change. The Constitution stipulated no significant barriers to participation for any citizen of the United States as voter qualifications were left for the states to decide. The states, for the most part, began to practice a more liberal view on voter rights, especially after the profound social and political changes of the early 1800s. With Andrew Jackson’s ascent to the white house came the “rise of the common man,” proving that even those from humble backgrounds could do great things, and inspiring the attitude that *everyone’s* ideas are important.

Another condition that fueled this democratization was the movement of men, women, and children from the East and Midwest to the West with their eyes fixed on the Pacific. Success on the trail and on the frontier was not determined by wealth or social class but by work. The sense of equality was much greater as everyone started in the same situation and fought the same problems. Historian Frederick Jackson Turner wrote, “...frontier individualism has from the beginning promoted democracy.”

1. Why could one say that America has become more democratic even though the form of government has not changed and it remains a republic and not a democracy?

This increasing democracy can be seen in the expansion of the right of suffrage. The right to vote expanded from the 1790s when the only persons allowed to vote were white males, of at least twenty-one years of age, and land-owners (generally defined as fifty acres). In the 1830s, the practice of “universal manhood suffrage” allowed any white male to vote, regardless of whether or not he owned land. The 15th Amendment passed in the 1860s granted black men the right to vote, in print if not in reality, since many obstacles were erected to prevent black men from voting. After a long struggle for equality the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920, essentially doubling the voting population. With Civil Rights activities in the 1960s, legislation known as the “Voting Rights Act of 1965” passed to finally give blacks and other minorities the right to vote, eliminating Jim Crow laws, poll taxes, and other barriers set up to prevent their participation. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Vietnam War tore the country apart and the issue of whether an eighteen year-old should be expected to fight and die for their country without having the right to vote for who made the decision to send them to war resulted in the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to eighteen. Finally, in the 1980s long residency requirements of the states were eliminated, completing the broadest voting base the United States has had in over 200 years.

2. How have voting rights changed over the years and how have those changes affected democratization in America?

Another condition that contributed to the democratization of America was industrialization and the rise of big business in America. In the late 1800s and early 1900s big business wielded a massive amount of economic power and influence in politics. Most legislators came from business backgrounds and, keeping their interests in mind, intimidated the legislative process and locked out immigrants, farmers, and the

industrial working class from participation. Many feared that this business control of the political system undermined democracy.

Out of this fear of business control came changes to the system specifically designed to give the people (democracy) more power in government. These changes included the addition of **primary elections** at the state level to allow people more control over choosing the candidates (these were used more extensively at the national level as well starting in the 1970s), **initiatives** (allowing citizens to propose a law by petition and ensure its submission to the electorate), **referendums** (measures proposed or passed by the legislature but referred to the people to vote for or against), and **recall elections** (where voters have the ability to remove a public official from state office by petition and voting).

Other changes in the way people participated in government appeared in the form of **Grassroots Reform Movements**. The importance of these movements centered in that they were started locally by members of a community who felt a specific issue needed to be addressed. Rather than initiating political reform from the top down, grassroots movements reform from the bottom up. Successful grassroots movements have included Women's Suffrage, Populism, and Civil Rights, to name just a few.

Another significant addition to the idea of democratization has been, since the early 1800s, the increasing participation in **political parties**. Although political parties were frowned upon by the patriot philosophers, and George Washington warned against them in his "Farewell Address" as being divisive factions, many saw them as an opportunity for like-minded people to join together to promote their democratic interests. The first political parties, the Federalists and the Democratic Republicans, were relatively weak and were certainly not as entrenched in the political process as today's parties, but they did provide an opportunity for party leaders to motivate popular action and party supporters to become more active in the political process. (More will be said about political parties later.)

Political participation on the part of the people has been an issue since the beginning of the United States – indeed, since before the forming of the United States ("No taxation without representation") – but participation has expanded over time. As mentioned before, Andrew Jackson's ascension to the White House was considered the "rise of the common man" into the political sphere. Government was no longer the playground for the rich and well-educated. In the 1980s a woman from New York – Geraldine Ferraro – was picked to run as Vice President to Walter Mondale on the Democratic Party Ticket. She said in her speech to accept the candidacy, "Tonight, the daughter of an immigrant from Italy has been chosen to run for vice president in the new land my father came to love..."¹ The ticket lost to Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, but Ferraro's involvement opened the door wider to female participation in government. The year 2000 saw another historical mile marker with the Democratic presidential nominee, Al Gore, and his running mate Vice Presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman. Lieberman was the first Jewish candidate in history to run on a major political party presidential ticket. The expansion of the ability to participate politically is demonstrated further with the election of Barack Hussein Obama II as the first Black president.

3. How did American attitudes towards the "democratic spirit" change in the early 1800's? What factors prompted the change in attitude and helped create the "democratization" of American government? How have opportunities for popular participation changed and expanded over time?

The Two-Party System

One of the results of democratization in American has been the development of a strong two-party political system. A two-party system is one in which there are two main political parties vying for control. These large parties must be center-of-the-road politically speaking, seeking broad voter support in order to win elections and control public policy. Today these two parties are the Democratic and Republican parties.

There are other types of party systems in place around the world, however. The most common alternative systems are single party systems and multi-party systems. These alternatives may seem obvious, but they too have developed out the existing political culture to meet the needs of people in certain situations. A single-party system is one in which one party dominates and controls all policy; this is not always a dictatorship, nor does it mean that there is no political conflict, it just means that one party has come to dominate when it comes to getting people elected. A multi-party system has three, four, five, six, or more parties, each with a chance of winning elections; these are most often found in parliamentary systems where parties are awarded seats in parliament based on a percentage of votes cast rather than on which party receives the most votes in a particular area.

4. What is a two party system and what are the alternatives to a two party system?

The tradition of the two-party system developed in the United States for a number of reasons. First there was the **electoral system** for choosing a president. The Constitution requires an electoral majority in presidential elections. That means that in order to get elected a candidate must garner more than half the total Electoral College votes not just a majority. Three or more major parties vying for the electoral college votes would frequently result in no candidate getting a majority, the election of the president would then be turned over to congress and the people would have less say on who would be elected. Second, there is a strong tradition of **constituent representation** in the United States. Representatives are expected to represent a specific district, and it is expected that these representatives will be elected by a majority of the popular vote in those districts. Again, multiple parties would often lead to candidates winning elections with a small percentage of the overall votes cast. Finally, there are the election laws and finance laws which have over time been put into place that protect the two-party system. The **election laws** in many states only allow candidates from parties that ran candidates in the last election to place names on the ballot. This makes it difficult for third-parties and independents to run if they cannot get their names on the ballot without going through a petition process. The **finance laws** are equally exclusive. If a presidential candidate represents a political party that received at least 2% percent of the popular vote in the last election, they will receive money from the national government for their campaign. However, it is highly unlikely that any member of a third party will receive that percentage of the vote when facing the two major parties and therefore they usually receive nothing. The laws work in favor of the two-party system and make it difficult for any third party or independent candidate to have a chance at the White House. This may lead to the question as to why any third party candidates exist? The answer is simple, **third parties** provide a forum to alternative voices. Third parties seldom get their candidates elected, but they can affect which party wins and they can get their arguments heard.

5. What major reasons can be given for the existence of the two-party tradition in American politics? Why then do third parties exist?

The basic functions of political parties are important for the election process. The parties are responsible for nomination, which means they pick a candidate for office and promote their election. This is done through the use of primaries, caucuses, and conventions. Political parties also define the political issues through the development of a party “platform” with “planks.” The parties state what the issues are that need to be addressed and how they plan on doing so. These “platforms” are meant to be broad definitions so as to appeal to a wider voting base.

The parties also organize the government. The organization of congress depends upon the two-party system, where the senate majority leader is the head of the party with the most people in the Senate and the speaker of the house is the head of the party with the most people in the House of Representatives. Political parties also provide leadership and cooperation in the executive branch as most often members of the

cabinet are chosen from the same party as the president. There have been very few times in American history when the party in office for president also held the majority in Congress. This means that there has to be cooperation and compromise between the legislative and executive branches, forming a check and balance on each other so that one party does not gain too much power.

6. What have been, and still are, the basic functions of the political parties in the United States?

Although there are some dangers in simplifying history too much, a brief review of five periods of political party history can help us understand how we came to accept political parties as an important part of our democracy, and how loyalties to the parties have changed over time.

1790 – 1828 (The First Party System):

The patriot philosophers were very wary of political parties. They were seen as factions to gain power and many philosophers felt political parties would tear the nation apart. Despite these feelings, political parties developed as a natural outgrowth of freedom, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government. It was natural that a person would want to be around others who think like him or her, and that these people would want their ideas to be heard and implemented. They petitioned, assembled, campaigned, and rallied to get others to hear their ideas and join them. Of course, another group of people with opposing ideas did the same thing. The emergence of the first two political parties in America was the result.

7. What were the early patriot philosophers' attitudes towards political parties and why did political parties develop despite these feelings?

The two major political parties that developed during this time were the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. The Federalists were led by Alexander Hamilton and John Adams, but should not be confused with the group of the same name that favored ratification of the Constitution. The Federalists of this time period believed in a strong central government, a loose construction (interpretation) of the Constitution, and an America strong in finance and industry. Alexander Hamilton fully believed that government should be led by a "privileged class" because the "illiterate masses" could not be trusted to make important decisions. Hamilton felt these decisions should be left to the "ruling elite," who would earn their position by merit and not by heredity.

The Democratic Republicans (DRs) were led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and their platform was the flip-side of the Federalists'. The DRs believed in strong state government, a strict construction (interpretation) of the Constitution (no wiggle room – if the Constitution did not provide for it, it was not allowed), an America based on an agricultural economy, and government by the common man. Thomas Jefferson felt common men were completely capable of making decisions for the good of the people, and should be trusted to do so.

8. What were the names of the two major political parties in this time period and what were their philosophical differences?

With the election of 1800 came a moment of truth for the United States. Democratic Republican Thomas Jefferson beat out Federalist President John Adams for the presidency. It was the first time in the country's short history that power had changed parties. Some feared there would be war, but on the day the change was made the transition was peaceful and no problems occurred. This set the stage for the grudging yet peaceful political "battles" between parties that continues today.

9. Why is the presidential election of 1800 important to the two-party tradition?

The presidential election of 1824 was also important to the two-party tradition. Five men ran for presidency: Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, William H. Crawford, Henry Clay, and John C. Calhoun. Andrew Jackson received 40% of the votes, gaining him the popular vote but failing to gain the electoral majority which the Constitution requires. There was no clear winner to the election, so the decision of the presidency was passed on to the House of Representatives for the first time. The House

could only consider the top three candidates, excluding Henry Clay who came in fourth. Clay, however, was the Speaker of the House and voted for Adams, swaying the vote and outraging Jackson and his supporters. The words exchanged in the aftermath of this decision were ugly, but peace remained and the decision stood. It was a defining moment in election and congressional history.

10. Why is the presidential election of 1824 important to the two-party tradition?

1828-1860 (The Second Party System):

During this time the attitude towards political parties changed to one of acceptance, and parties became seen as a normal and important part of political tradition. Parties slowly became part of the organization of government, and people began to develop strong loyalties to certain parties. Andrew Jackson's presidency symbolized these changes in the rise of the "common man." With the advent of universal manhood suffrage came the rise of the popular spirit of mass participation, where "elite" and "common" alike involved themselves in the workings of government. In fact, it was Andrew Jackson's creation of the Democratic Party that led to his election, and began the attitude of party affiliation.

11. How did the basic attitudes towards political parties change during this time period and how did Andrew Jackson's presidency symbolize these changes?

The two major parties of this time were the Democrats and the Whigs. The Democrats centered around Andrew Jackson, advocated strong state governments, strict constructionism, agriculture, and government by the common man. The Whigs (National Republicans) were led by John Quincy Adams and believed government's role should be to help encourage finance and industry by building roads and canals and maintaining harbors. The Whigs eventually lost influence because they became divided over the issue of slavery and disappeared in the 1850s.

12. What were the names of the two major parties during this time?

1860 –1932 (The Republican Era) :

The two main parties from 1860 to 1932 were the Republicans and the Democrats. The Republicans rallied around Abraham Lincoln on a platform that opposed slavery openly and wanted finance and industry to be government-sponsored. Republican support was mostly in the North – Lincoln did not even appear on southern ballots in the 1860 election. The Democrats retained much of the Jacksonian philosophy regarding Constitutional interpretation, states' rights, and government by the people. They were also willing to accept slavery since they felt it was protected by the constitution and was an issue to be decided by the states not the national government.

After the Civil War the term GOP helps us understand the development of Republican Party philosophy. GOP stands for Grand Old Party of the Union, or the party of Lincoln. After the war, the Republicans stayed in power by waving the "bloody shirt of rebellion," an image that blamed the Democrats for the war. During this era of Republican domination the only Democratic presidents were Cleveland and Wilson. Fortunately for the Democrats, these two presidents served two terms or the balance of power would have been even more lopsided. Out of this political era came the famous party symbols developed from Thomas Nast political cartoons– the Elephant for the Republicans and the Donkey for the Democrats. The images were meant originally as insults but eventually became party mascots. The south remained Democratic and voted that way solidly, winning the nickname of "the solid south." After the war former slaves flocked to the Republicans and no respectable southern man would have any part of that party. Loyalty to party reached its highest point in American History during this time.

13. What were the names of the two major parties during this time period? How does the term GOP help us understand Republican philosophy during this time?

What was the political character of the two major parties in this time period?

1932-1952 :

During this period the Great Depression created a national crisis in which the Republicans failed to create “government solutions.” Republican President Herbert Hoover firmly believed that government should stay out of the economy and the Depression would sort itself out. His inaction caused a major shift in party loyalties in the 1932 election as Franklin Roosevelt promised to do something and was willing to use the power of the government to do so. As a result of this shift in loyalties the Democratic Party gained support from voters outside the South. Democratic Party members included the traditional base of small farmers, southerners, and blue collar workers, but also gained increasing support from the poor, immigrants, and Jewish voters, (many of these from Northern cities) as well as African Americans. This Democratic block of voters is generally referred to as the “New Deal Coalition.” Those who continued to support the Republican Party were mostly white-collar workers, big business, and large farmers.

14. How does the Great Depression and the election of 1932 affect the political parties? As a result of this shift, what groups of people become loyal supporters of the Democratic Party? What groups of people continue to support the Republican Party?

1952 – 1990s :

Between 1952 and the 1990s the United States saw a decline in political party loyalties and a rise in political apathy or political party independence. People in the U.S. simply did not vote in the number they once did. In a good election year 30-40% at *most* participated. Some suggested that this means that many just did not care. Others that with the declining party loyalty there was not the same passion about politics there once was. Others suggested that the low voter turnouts were a reflection of the desire of people to be independent, voting for the person rather than the party. If there was no person or issue that attracted voter interest, there was no reason to go to the polls. There were an increasing number of independent voters, implying that people voted more for the candidate than for the party. There was also less commitment to parties in everyday life, but there did seem to be an increasing significance of ideological labels (conservative” or “liberal,” “right” or “left,”) rather than party labels to describe political philosophies.

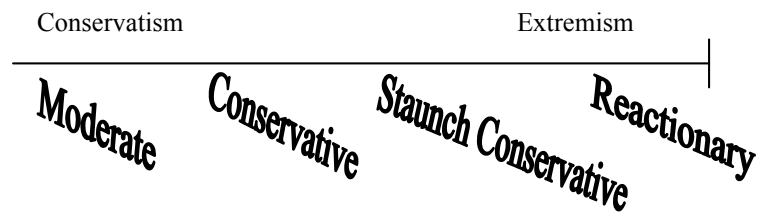
15. How do you understand the changing nature of political party character between 1952 and the 1990s?

[End of first day’s readings.]

Political Ideology

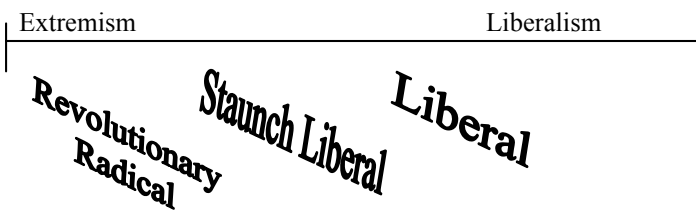
“Conservative” and “liberal” are ideological labels that must always be placed in the context of history. The policies and issues that a conservative or liberal believes in today may be quite different from what they believed eighty or ninety years ago. It is also important to remember that ideological labels are not inherently connected to political party. In other words, the “conservative” party in one time period could become the “liberal” party in another. To gain an understanding of the role political ideology has played and continues to play in American politics it is important to start with “generic” definitions of the terms.

The “generic” definition of conservatism is defense of the status quo against major changes. Conservatism follows a desire to return to tradition ideas, values, and institutions. As we look back through history or look at the conditions present in many countries today, those who supported the tyrant and defended the rich against the poor were called the “conservatives” because tyrants and the power of the rich had been the status quo of the world. Conservatives differ from each other based on their commitment to issues, ideas, and ideological principles; the farther to the right, the stronger the commitment. Reactionaries will use force and violence if necessary to promote their goals.



16. What is the “generic” definition of conservatism? How do conservatives differ from each other?

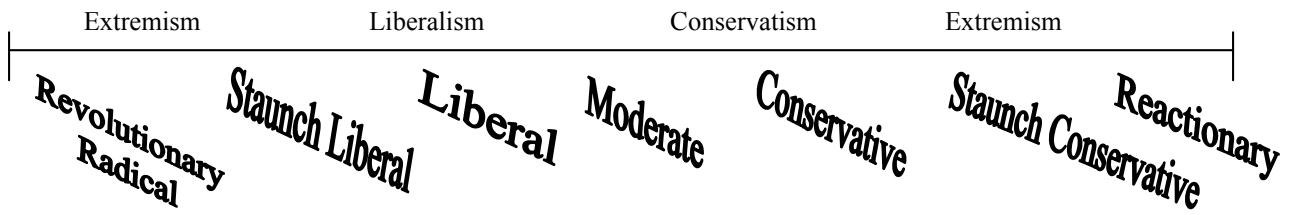
The generic definition of liberalism is a desire for change, reform, and greater experimentation, as well as a greater willingness to accept new ideas, values, and institutions. A great example of this type of liberal thinking would be Franklin Roosevelt’s approach to the Great Depression. Hoover was more constrained in his policies because of his conservatism, FDR was more willing to try new ideas, programs, and policies because of his liberalism. The farther to the left, the stronger the commitment to ideas, values, and institution. Radical revolutionaries will use force and violence if necessary to promote their goals.



As we look back through history or look at the conditions present in many countries today, those who supported democracy and the Free Market economy were often called the “liberals” (“**classical liberalism**”), because democracy and the free market represented a change from the tyranny and oppression that was most often present in the world.

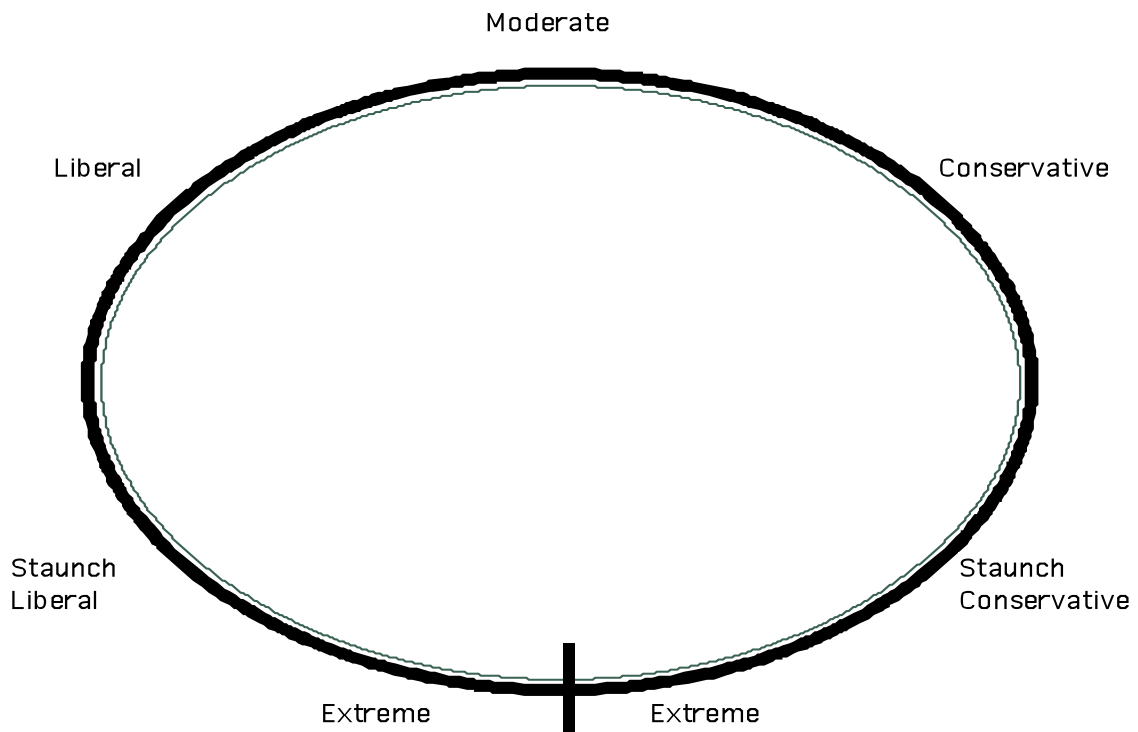
17. What is the generic definition of liberalism? How do liberals differ from each other?

When the two ends of the ideological continuum are put together, one gets a better picture of the entire scope of political ideology in the world and in our own country.



Some historians and political scientists like to draw the Ideological Continuum as a circle instead of a straight line because the goals at the extremes are different, but all extremists resort to the same methods to obtain their goals. Some examples of these extreme methods are guerilla warfare, terrorist activities, and assassinations. All extreme groups use violence, force and fear to obtain their goals.

In America examples of these extremes would be certain neo-Nazi groups or extreme anti abortionists on the right and extreme animal rights and environmental groups on the left. Internationally an example of this extremism using similar methods would be Stalin and Hitler. Hitler was a reactionary (conservative) who used violence and intimidation to gain and maintain power while Stalin was a revolutionary (liberal) who used violence and intimidation to gain and maintain power.

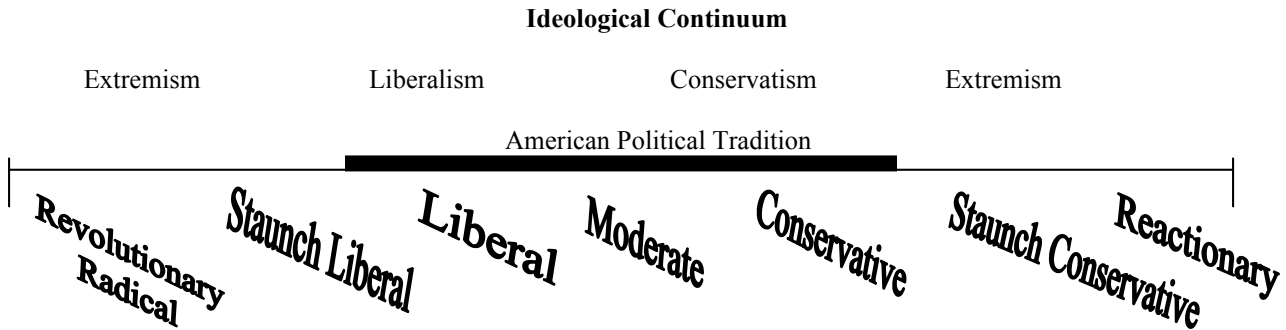


18. How can conservatives and liberals be different from each other and yet the same?

In nations where dictators or chaos governs, extremism is a way of life and is the foundation of political traditions and governing power. In most democratic nations of the world, many active politicians with political clout and influence are extremists. Political traditions in these countries, although strongest in the center, are also shaped, molded, and influenced by extremist political parties and groups.

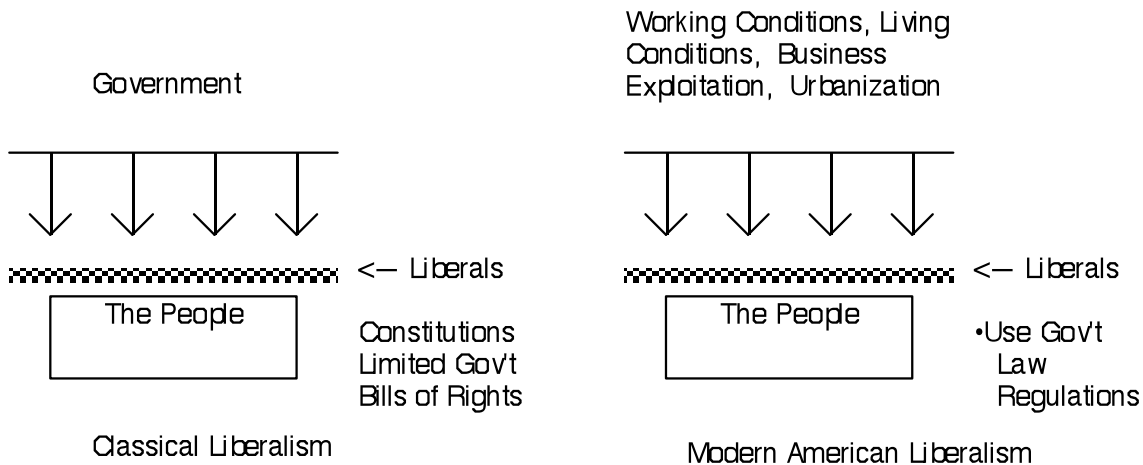
In the United States, our political traditions have been pushed more decisively to the center. The operation of the two-party system, and the compromise it requires, tends to lock out extremists; extremists

exist but simply cannot get into the governing process nor have any significant influence on government policies. The American political character has a strong commitment to Rule of Law – to fairness and justice – that allows us to come to a consensus on basic political principles and to ensure that the rights of everyone are represented. The nature of the Constitutional system in America requires compromise in the process of lawmaking and policy. And the two-party system makes it so that both parties must seek support from as many Americans as possible and so they must cater to a broad voting base. Extremist ideas do not appeal to many people, so the more moderate the platform of the party, the more people will join.



The Democratic Party is usually considered to be the liberal party in America because liberals feel more comfortable there, but the Democrats often attract those who consider themselves to be moderate conservatives. The Republican Party is often referred to as the conservative party because conservatives feel more comfortable there, but the Republicans often attract those who consider themselves to be moderate Democrats. In fact both parties seek to attract those in the middle rather than on the fringe right or left because there are more voters in the center.

As indicated the generic or historical definitions of conservatism and liberalism may be different from conservatism and liberalism as practiced today. This is especially evident in the differences between “classical liberalism” and “modern liberalism.” The chart below describes this difference and explains how liberals in America think today. This modern liberalism has been the basis of most economic and social change in America over the past 125 years. On the left is a description of classical liberalism where the biggest danger to society was the evil of oppressive government. Classical liberals sought to protect society from the evils of oppressive governments through writing constitutions and encouraging free economic systems. Thomas Jefferson fits this type of classical liberal. On the right is a description of modern American liberalism. For modern liberals the biggest danger to society is the danger of people and institutions oppressing people. Modern liberals seek to protect people from these evils by using governmental power to reform oppressive economic and social systems. Franklin Roosevelt fits this type of modern liberal.



19. How do “modern” liberals in developed, democratic nations (like the United States) differ from “classical” liberals in their views on the evils of society and their efforts to promote new ideas, issues, and institutions?

As demonstrated in the chronological review of American political history, Americans have maintained a strong two-party tradition. There have been occasions, however, when the two-party tradition has been challenged by a multiple-party system through the existence of third parties. Third parties developed when segments of the population felt locked out of the political debate by the two major parties.

In the American political tradition there are three types of third parties. The first is a party built around a specific issue. The Republican Party started out this way as a party dedicated to the abolition of slavery, but there have been other, less successful third parties based on an issue. The Anti-Mason party was dedicated to keeping political control out of the hands of the Masons, the Greenback party of the late 1800s urged the government to manage the money supply by printing paper money, and the Dixiecrats of 1948 were opposed to Harry Truman’s efforts to desegregate the military. One of the most successful issue parties was the Populist Party of the 1880s and 1890s. At issue was giving the people more of a voice in government. Although the party did not elect a president it was influential enough to get most of its ideas heard and eventually accepted.

Another type of third party is the personality party. These parties are built around the personality of a charismatic leader and people in essence vote for the personality rather than party or issues. Examples of personality parties are Teddy Roosevelt’s Progressive Party, George Wallace’s American Independent Party, and Ross Perot’s Reform Party.

And, finally, a third type of third party is an ideological party. These include the Libertarian, Green, Socialist, Communist, and Neo-Nazi parties to mention a few. These parties are based on social, economic, or political ideologies that are too far to the right or left to fit into mainstream American politics. Although ideological parties have never been very successful in America, in periods of economic and/or social stress they have received significant voter support.

20. What are the three major types of third parties that have appeared in American political history?

From time to time there has also been evidence of a single party challenge to the American two-party system. In some areas one of the two major parties has been discredited to the point that a true two-party system does not exist. Some have suggested that this is the case currently in northern Utah and southeastern Idaho where the Democratic Party has virtually ceased to exist in terms of representing the ideals of the people in local politics.

In another variation of the single-party system, political machines and bosses took control of one of the major political parties and sought to use that control to line their own pockets with money. These political machines appealed to voters because they provided basic levels of housing, employment, and security, but

along the way they used graft and dishonesty to skim money off of every government project and enrich themselves. Some of the most famous examples of these machines were Tammany Hall in New York City and the Tweed ring of New York as well. Most of these machines have disappeared because of greater voter independence and political regulation but some vestiges do still arise because of the lure of power and wealth. These one-party political systems are often regional rather than national challenges but they also form an important part of American political culture.

21. What are the major types of single-party domination that have appeared in American political history?

[NB: Some of the material herein may be the work of Gary Marshall and Eric Walz. Marshall's content may appear in a forthcoming publication.]