



Your OWN Ideology

Where do you stand?

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What is a Continuum?

- A person's views on the issues help determine where their **IDEOLOGY** and where they would fall on the political spectrum.
- The labels used on the spectrum are not pure categories, but they make up a continuum, or value line, and citizens and politicians fall somewhere on that line depending on what they believe.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a protest. A large white sign with the word 'STOP' in large, hand-drawn letters is visible, with the word 'WAR' written below it. The sign is partially obscured by the text. In the foreground, there are several people wearing winter jackets and hats. One person on the left is wearing a green hooded jacket. Another person on the right is wearing a dark jacket and a pink hat. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a public demonstration.

Factors That Determine Placement

- Two major factors shape political views.
- The first is how much change a person is willing to have within their society and government.
- The second deals with how much government involvement in the economy a person calls for.
- Others also bring in the question of how much freedom from government authority a leader is willing to give the people.



Political Labels

- To see where you stand, you would have to figure out where you stand on a number of social (people-related), economic (money-related), and political (governmental) issues.
- First you need definitions of the terms radical, liberal, conservative, and reactionary. Some authors include the terms authoritarian and libertarian.

What is a Radical?

- Seen as being on the far left of the political spectrum, radicals call for wide-sweeping rapid change in the basic structure of the political, social, or economic system.
- They may be willing to resort to extreme methods to bring about change, including the use of violence and revolution.



**V.I. Lenin: Mastermind
of the Russian
Revolution and Father of
the Soviet Union**

What is a Liberal?



Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King

Civil rights leader

- **Liberals believe that the government should be actively involved in the promotion of social welfare of a nation's citizens.**
- **They usually call for peaceful, gradual change within the existing political system.**
- **They reject violent revolution as a way of changing the way things are, often called the status quo.**

What is a Moderate?

- Moderates may share viewpoints with both liberals and conservatives.
- They are seen as tolerant of other people's views, and they do not hold extreme views of their own.
- They advocate a “go-slow” or “wait-and-see” approach to social or political change.



Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff is generally seen as a moderate.

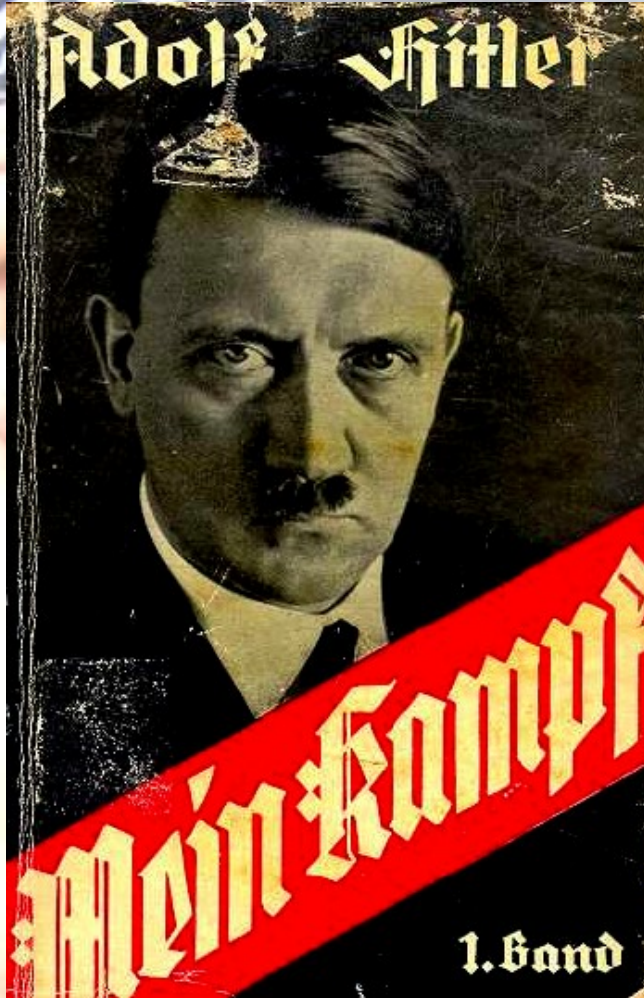
What is a Conservative?



Canadian Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper

- **People who hold conservative ideals favor keeping things the way they are or maintaining the status quo if it is what they desire.**
- **Conservatives are usually hesitant or cautious about adopting new policies, especially if they involve government activism in some way.**
- **They feel that the less government there is, the better.**
- **They agree with Jefferson’s view that “the best government governs least.”**

What is a Reactionary?



Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is a typical reactionary manifesto

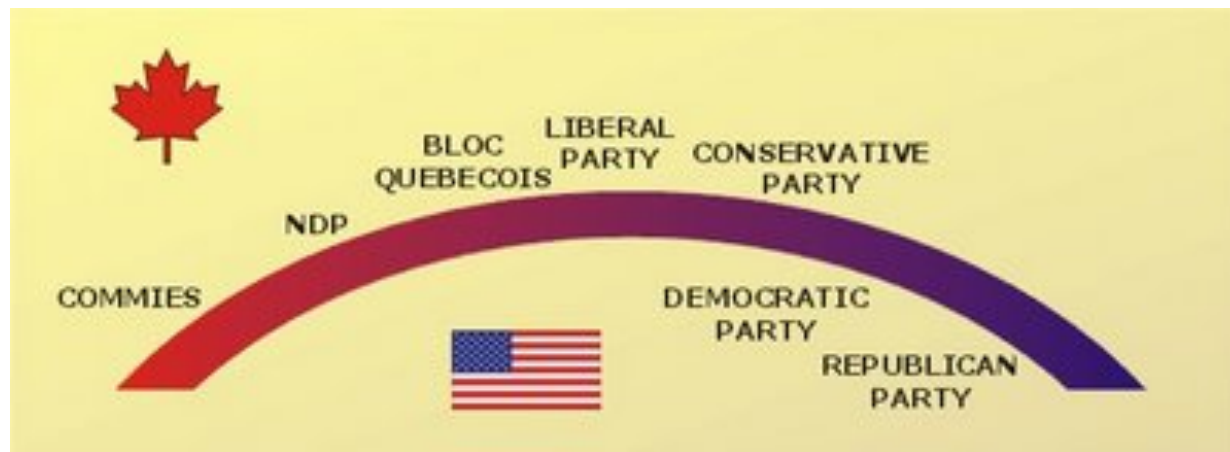
- Sitting on the far right of the ideological spectrum, reactionaries want to go back to the way things were—the “good ol’ days.” Often reactionaries are willing to use extreme methods, such as repressive use of government power, to achieve their goals.
- The term “reactionary is generally negative. A positive way to say the same thing is “arch-conservative.”

The Political Spectrum



IDEOLOGY	Radical	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Reactionary
Government involvement	More	More	Some involvement	Less	Less
Speed of changes in government	Rapid	Gradual	Slow to no change	No Change	Return to the past
Political Parties	Communists	Socialists Dem.	Centrists ← Independents →	Rep. * Conserv. (UK)	KKK, Neo- Nazi
ISSUES	Radical	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Reactionary
Taxes	High taxes for high level of government services. State control over economy.		Mixture of both sides depending on individual convictions and political expediency.	Low taxes or large tax cuts. Reduction in government services and regulation.	
Education	Government subsidizes public education through college level.			Government turns control to local agencies. Vouchers OK.	
Defense	Reduce government spending on military. Interventionist foreign policy.			Increase spending on military readiness. Reduce U.S. involvement in world conflicts.	
Environment	Regulate business to protect natural resources. Steer away from nuclear, coal, oil fuels.			Support exploration of federal land for new energy sources. Reduce government regulation.	
	* Dem. = Democrats; Rep. = Republicans				

American & Canadian Parties on the Spectrum



- Take a quiz and find out about your IDEOLOGIES
<http://politicalcompass.org/>