

The Political/Economic Spectrum

Understanding, Identifying and Classifying Ideological Stances

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**LEFT
WING**

Amount of Liberalism (Individual Choice)

**RIGHT
WING**

Communism



REJECTION OF LIBERALISM

-Economic and Political Equality,
but no Individual Choice



BALANCE
Between Choice and
Government Control
(MIXED ECONOMY)



**Fascism
& Classic
Conservatism**

REJECTION OF LIBERALISM

-Freedom for some, but not
for all citizens



More Government Control/ Less Individual Choice

Welfare Capitalism
-Purpose of production is
profit, but money is set
aside to fund social
programs.

Liberal



USA-2010/13/33
Barack Obama
"New Deal"

USA-2006
Laissez-faire policies,
Protection of the Free Market

French Monarchy
(Old Regime), Run
by Ruling Elite

POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

Less Government Control/ More Individual Choice

**Democratic
Socialism**

-Crown
Corporations (Oil),
Heavy gov't Control
(Norway/Sweden)

Welfare State

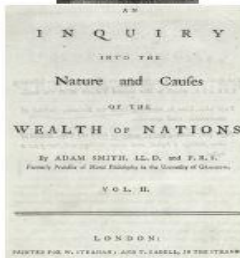
-Purpose of production is
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social programs, however
if you do well, you can
keep the extra profit.

**Capitalism
& Classical
Liberalism**



COMMUNISM/SOCIALISM

"Left", Planned Economy,
Centralization, Leninism,
Marxism, Command
Economy, Maoism,
"Hands on Economy"
"Equality/Equity for All"
-Production to Provide
rather than Profit



FREE MARKET ECONOMY

"Right", Supply and
Demand, Laissez Faire,
"Hands Off", Consumerism,
Privatization,
★ "The American Dream" ★
-Production for Profit-

WHY IS THIS THIS IMPORTANT?

Understanding the political/economic spectrum is one of the most important concepts you will need to master to be successful in social studies. Mastering this particular concept will allow you to understand how various economic and political systems (ideologies) relate to each other and to understand how the principles of collectivism and individualism relate to the concept of equality and liberalism.



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MORE THAN “LEFT” AND RIGHT”

In typical political, social and economic discussions, Three basic, key terms are typically used to identify the general approach and values of an individual, collective, ideology or nation. They are “Left Wing”, “Centrist” and “Right Wing”

“**Left Wing**” Individuals value outcomes that predominantly benefit the group (**Collectivist**) over the individual while “**Right Wing**” Individuals prefer outcomes that protect the integrity and sovereignty of the individual (**Individualistic**). “**Centrists**” typically encourage a balance between outcomes that benefit individuals and collectives and can have slight leanings to either end of the spectrum.



An easy way to remember this that **most people are right hand dominant**. If you look at the spectrum, **the more you move to the right, the more power and choice the individual has**. Since most people's left hand is the weakest, **this helps to demonstrate that the government has more power to influence your reality than you do**.

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WHAT IS AN IDEOLOGY?

An **ideology** is a system of values and beliefs, usually political or economic in nature, that help to describe an ideal system or world, and that typically answer the following questions;

What are humans like (what is their nature?), and why do they do what they do?

- What is the nature of society? (is society naturally positive or negative in its scope?)
- What is our role as individuals in society?

Ideologies that are **more right wing** apply more principles of **individualism** and in a more consistent manner **than those defined as being more centrist or left wing**. The **opposite** can also be said for **the principles of collectivism**.



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DEFINING TERMS

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PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVISM

Public Property
Economic Equality
Adherence to Social Norms
Cooperation
Collective Responsibility
Collective Interests



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PRINCIPLES OF INDIVIDUALISM

Private Property

Rule of Law

Individual Rights and Freedoms

Competition

Economic Freedom

Self Interests



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**RIGHT
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POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

Less Government Control/ More Individual Choice

Cuba North Korea
-State Ownership,
Heavy gov't Control

**Democratic
Socialism**

-Crown
Corporations (Oil),
Heavy Industry
(Norway/Sweden)

Welfare State

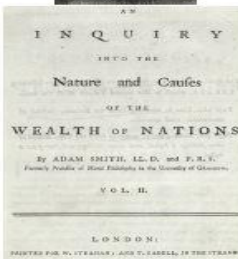
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COLLECTIVISTS

Freedom- Is defined as not being restrained by economic or social difference such as poverty that provides some individuals with more opportunity than others. **Collectivist** societies often use **government interventions** in form of legislation or **wealth redistribution** to "equalize" **opportunities** for all members of society, rather than upholding the advantages found with the elite.

Liberalism- "Individual Rights and Freedoms" and the importance of the individual are still seen as valuable (such as In **Socialism** or the **Welfare State**), just so long as it does not prevent society from taking care of the interests of the collective society over the individual citizen. **Communists** however **reject Individual rights and freedoms** on the basis that they can, and often are applied unequally, especially between **social classes**, **race** and **gender**.

Common Good- Is what is deemed to be in the best interest of the group as a whole. In collectivism, that might require ignoring (or in more severe cases, eliminating) minority groups.

Equality- Equality, whether socially, politically or economically is provided to all individuals. This can be in the form of "equality" where citizens are provided the exact same outcomes as other citizens, or this can be in form of **equity**, where everyone gets what they need (which may mean some individuals or groups get more, because they need more, which means that everyone's needs are met, thereby making it equal). This can be considered to be the **Equality of Outcomes**"

INDIVIDUALISTS

Freedom- Is defined as the ability for an individual or group to make decisions based on their own **self interests** and through the promotion and protection of **individual rights and freedoms** without **government interventions**. These freedoms are owned by all individuals are equal in measure are cannot be bought or sold (**inalienable**).

Liberalism- Is seen as vital to healthy societies. Typically this means that the individuals made decisions based on their self interests about the interests of society as a whole. That is not to say they do not consider the needs of others, rather they do so without being expected to by society or the government (**Welfare Capitalism**) who would force others to redistribute wealth from the wealthy to those in need through **taxation** and the funding of **Social programs**. **Capitalists**, and more specifically, **Laissez Faire Capitalists** believe that it is every individuals **responsibility to take care of their own needs**, thus individuals should not come to expect or rely upon handouts from others in society.

Common Good- Individualist often believe that **the most effective and efficient society** is one that **sees all individuals pull their own weight and meet their own basic needs by themselves**. To some extent, failure of an individual in society **is based on choice**, rather than circumstance, and since in theory, every individual is provided the same opportunities, success or failure rests with them. **If everyone pulls their own weight given this approach, then society will flourish.**

Equality- Is defined as **equality of opportunity**. Everyone is given the same chances, and in theory, treated the same, **however individuals may apply themselves differently** to these opportunities, thereby producing altered results. Those that more motivated will have more success whilst those that do not will not, which is acceptable as they are responsible for achieving their own individual needs.

**LEFT
WING**

Amount of Liberalism (Individual Choice)

**RIGHT
WING**

Communism

REJECTION OF LIBERALISM

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Canadian Political Parties

American Political Parties

BALANCE

Between Choice and
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(MIXED ECONOMY)

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**Capitalism
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Less Government Control/ More Individual Choice

Political parties within a nation tend to hold an ideological position on the political/economic spectrum that can be traced through their political platforms and their actions, should these groups make up the governing party. These ideals are often rooted in their links to the "Great Thinkers", especially the Social Contract Theorists; Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau. Other Key thinkers (and their theories) to consider in respects to a political parties location on the spectrum are John Stuart Mill, Baron de Montesquieu, Karl Marx, Adam Smith, John Maynard Keynes and Friedrich Hayek. Additionally since politicians (especially at the federal level) such as Margaret Thatcher, FDR, George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, John F Kennedy, Adolf Hitler, Barack Obama, Josef Stalin and Pierre Elliott Trudeau may represent a large part (or even the entire) executive branch of government, they also hold a tremendous degree of power to maintain or shift the ideological location of a party or their nation. Notice the most mainstream left wing American political party is even more right wing than the most individualistic party in Canada. This indicates a general trend in American politics, that Americans tend, in comparison to Canadians, prefer a political stance more akin to classical liberalist approaches in their political parties than in Canada, who embrace more collectivist ideals.

**LEFT
WING**

Amount of Liberalism (Individual Choice)

**RIGHT
WING**

Typical National Political/Economic Locations

Communism



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**SHIFTS DUE TO POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP**

More Government Control/ Less Individual Choice

Liberal programs.

USA 2006
Laissez-faire policies,
Program for the Free Market

French Monarchy
(Old Regime), Run
by Louis XIV

POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

**Democratic
Socialism**

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Corporations (Oil),
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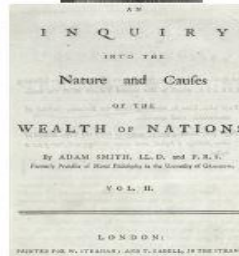
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REJECTING LIBERALISM

On the two extremes of the Political/Economic Spectrum, see two key groups that reject or ignore the concept of an individual's rights to have, need or earn the ability to make decisions to benefit themselves. Although the outcome is the same, the ideological reasons for this outcome are vastly different.

COMMUNISTS (MARXISTS)

First and foremost, communists believe that the collective is always more important than the individual. This means that individuals, minorities groups (usually based on political belief, though in the case of Stalin, nationality/ethnicity was also common) are not considered and often eliminated outright. When considering the most important communist texts The *Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital* (Written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels), The need for conformity and economic equality are seen as paramount for communists.

Marx also writes that since Communism would create a "classless society" or "dictatorship of the proletariat", and eventually there would be no need for a permanent government much less individual rights and freedoms as everyone would work together, have all their needs taken care of (through equity-as each individual getting what they need to survive, thus being equal) that there would be no conflict or disagreement in the areas of policy or in the distribution of resources, therefore the need to have individual rights and freedoms would, in a sense be useless.

FASCISTS, MONARCHIES & CLASSIC CONSERVATISM

Fascism and Classic Conservatism (Monarchies and other semi-democratic systems that encourage political, social and economic inequality) both reject liberalism as not all members of the society are treated equally. What this means for example is based on socio-economic class, heredity, race, religion ethnicity or political stance, some individuals are deemed to be of more importance or worth than others.

The easiest modern example of this would be seen in Nazi Germany where typically only Ethnic, Protestant, Nazi supporting citizens would be granted individual rights and freedoms and be allowed to make decisions based on their own self interests. Jews (Ethnic/Racial/Religious reasons), Poles (Nationality), and Communists (Political stance) were not afforded the same rights. Since Liberalism is distributed equally to all individuals regardless of these differences, Nazism is said to reject this principle as inequality is encouraged in such a society.

In Monarchies, those with stronger political, social or hereditary ties to the King or Queen may be granted rights and freedoms that others in society do not possess. This is most evident in the economic system of Mercantilism, where some individuals who lacked these connections were barred from participating in key industries such as the Fur trade in North America or the Spice Trade in India as Monopolies such as the Hudson's Bay Company or the British East-India Company had exclusive rights to these markets. Those who did not acknowledge these monopolies were often jailed and in some cases, killed. This was encouraged as profits were often sent directly to the King.

Lastly, classical conservatism through thinkers such as Edmund Burke believed that only the most educated, most capable and most successful individuals should have the ability to participate in the democratic process of governance. This prevented potentially damaging decisions by those with less ability from harming the interests of those who were comparably offering more to society.

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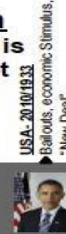
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Welfare Capitalism

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Liberal



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Barack Obama, economic Stimulus,
"New Deal"



USA-2006
Bill Clinton, laissez-faire policies,
Protection of the Free Market



French Monarchy
(Old Régime), Run
by Ruling Elite



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More Government Control/ Less Individual Choice

POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

Socialism

Welfare State

**Classical
Liberalism**

The purple line above indicates that part of the spectrum that identifies all individuals as holding (in theory) the same amount of **rights and freedoms** as other **citizens** in the same **society**. Even in **communism**, despite the fact that **individuals** themselves may not have **individual rights or freedoms**, and may not be able to act on their own **self interests**, they hold the same value as anyone else, whether according to the **Rule of Law** (and its interpretation in individualistic societies) or due to **Adherence to Social Norms** (peer pressure that exerts the same expectations on every member of the collective, despite perhaps not being applied equally)

CLASSICAL LIBERALISM VS. MODERN LIBERALISM

Classical Liberalism=Maximum freedom, no government intervention.

Modern Liberalism= Equal Freedom and equalized economic outcomes, through government interventions (social programs)

Remember: **Money=Choice=Freedom**. The more money you own, the more freedom you have. For this reason, wealth redistribution is sought for the disadvantaged in Modern Liberalism, and maximum wealth accumulation is sought in classical liberalism to maintain their social standing and class advantages.



The blue line above indicates that part of the spectrum that identifies the span of “liberal thought” (Which also is the same span as capitalism). Each line on the spectrum identifies various types of liberalism, all of which are important to understand and to identify. The red line identifies “Laissez Faire Capitalism.” This liberalist ideology encourages maximum individual freedom with minimal government intervention. Classical liberalism, which spans roughly from the yellow line to the red, indicates a belief system where the primary focus of society is to maximize and uphold freedoms, economically, the purpose of business is to provide profit for business owners and their stakeholders. In classical liberalism, the theorists of Locke, Hobbes, Friedman and Hayek are very important as they serve to empower and justify the decision making of the individual by claiming each “man” as being capable and “naturally good.”

Unfortunately, Classical Liberalism to some, is seen as flawed, in that those with more money, have more power and more influence than those that do not. Between the yellow and the purple line, spans the concept of “Modern Liberalism.” Modern Liberalism describes the ideal of upholding individual rights and freedoms, however, does so through government interventions which seek to equalize outcomes for all individuals. This means the typically disadvantaged (women, visible minorities, the sick, sexual minorities and the disabled) get assistance to compete on equal playing fields with everyone else.

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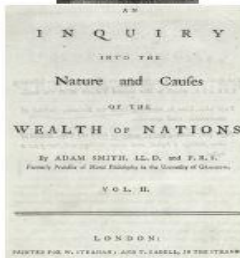
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Amount of Liberalism (Individual Choice)

**RIGHT
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DESIRE FOR CHANGE

(RADICALS)

Want massive and immediate change, at all costs, thereby may support violence, if necessary

(LIBERALS)

Want considerable changes and are open to making them in a deliberative and progressive manner (Chartists, for example)

(MODERATES)

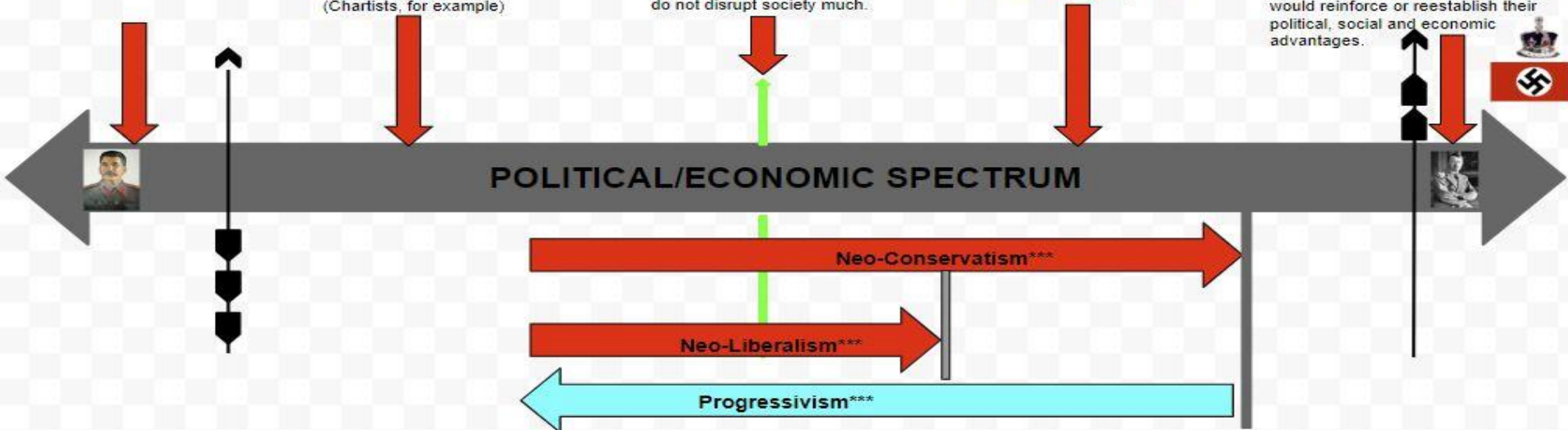
Are open to some, limited changes as long as they are deemed to be positive, are done slowly and, by in large do not disrupt society much.

(CONSERVATIVES)

Want to keep the status quo, meaning they will resist new changes and will also reject a return to traditional practices.

(REACTIONARIES)

Actively resist new changes (react to new changes/challenges), however, they would like to see changes that return more traditional practices that would reinforce or reestablish their political, social and economic advantages.



Adapted from the inside cover page of *Understandings of Ideologies* published by Oxford Canada

Please note that **Neo-conservatism** and **Neo-liberalism** are "right wing movements" that attempt to reduce government interventions (especially taxation) and attempt to empower individuals to make decisions for themselves. Where Neoconservatism does not want to remove progressive accomplishments such as minimum wages, it does want to limit the way in which the government interferes politically and socially in lives of the people. Additionally, Neo-conservatives do believe in exerting its national (and personal) interests outside of the nation through increased military spending, something that a neo-liberal would not support ****Note with Neo-conservatism and Neo-liberalism, these are shifts to the right, whose starting point is dependant, ideologically speaking on where the society in question currently finds itself on the spectrum. Conversely, **Progressivism** is a left wing movement that attempts to equalize opportunities for all individuals in a society through increased social programs and other government interventions. Its starting point also fluctuates depending on where the nation in question is currently standing, ideologically.

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POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

An additional term to consider is "**extremism**". An extremist, is an individual who (in comparison to someone who holds an opposing ideological perspective), is **considered to be so different in their ideals or actions that they pose a considerable (or perceived) threat to another's belief system or way of life**. For instance, to a "**Conservative**" who was a staunch supporter of classical liberalism, a "**Liberal**" and especially a "**Radical**" could accurately be considered an extremist because of the drastically different **ideological worldview** they hold. Shortly after 9/11, the **Western World** (predominantly made up of "Christianized" nations such as the United States, Canada and Europe) were skeptical of many individuals who embraced the various denominations of Muslim faiths who didn't share the same political and social perspectives as typical **Westerners**. Due to this, many Westerners labelled them as "Extremists". Conversely, many Iraqis saw the American invasion of Fallujah as an act of extremism that challenged a predominantly Muslim worldview with an **imposition** of western liberal ideologies and practices.

Adapted from the inside cover page of *Understandings of Ideologies* published by Oxford Canada

Monarchies

Monarchies, **Classical Conservatism** and **Fascism** are examples of ideologies that have inequality within their political system but encourage it.

In **Monarchies**, the King, Queen (or other ruler) is seen to be of more importance than other individuals, making them . This is typically justified by the concept of the 'Divinity of Kings'/ 'Divine Right of Kings'

Divinity of Kings means that The ruler him/herself is considered to be God, and to disobey or disregard his wishes it was as if those who did so acted out against God himself;

Whilst, the **Divine Right of Kings** however means that the reason why the monarchy is in power is because they are God's hand-selected representative on Earth. In both such cases the monarch is seen as being more important/capable than the average person, and due to his or her lineage, of their implied moral, religious and hereditary qualities, they were destined to rule others.

Economically and politically the idea that **MONARCH-NATION**, meant that since all actions in a **mercantilist** economy were meant to **benefit the nation directly**, this meant that the King himself financially benefited directly from the **monopolies** he or she set up because he/she was the nation itself.

Classical Conservatism

This political/economic system suggests that **only the smartest, most successful and most capable individuals should be able to participate in democratic processes**. The idea is championed by individuals such as **Edmund Burke**, who wanted decision making to be made by those most likely to increase political, societal and economic prosperity by making decisions that would produce the least amount of confusion or complications. **Typically, this meant that the people who already had wealth and economic power would continue to exert it over the "uneducated and incapable masses", thus limiting the potential of any kind of political or social change in society. Free markets could exist but typically only benefited the wealthy classes.**

Fascism

The pseudoscience of **Eugenics**, the idea that **some individuals are genetically more superior in ability to others** applied in Nazi Germany, in an approach nicknamed "**Social Darwinism**". In it, **Aryans** (Nordic/ German descendants who were white, blonde and blue eyed) were said to be more genetically capable than Jewish, African or Gypsy populations. In Nazi Germany, **Individual Rights and Freedoms** and **Economic Freedom** was only available to Aryan individuals who supported the Nazi cause (to strictly benefit of the Aryan German nation)



Middle Left:
Former British
Prime Minister
Benjamin Disraeli

Middle Right: Theorist
Edmund Burke



Bottom: Senior Nazi Officials with Hitler
in the middle of the photo

Laissez Faire Capitalism (Classical Liberalism)

Laissez Faire Capitalism (politically known as classical liberalism) seeks to encourage the idea that individuals should have the same rights and freedoms as everyone else and that legislation and other government actions should not be used to encourage this outcome.

Ultimately it supports the concept of "Humanism", and that logic and reason must be used to establish "truths" and to guide decisions. Thinkers such as Adam Smith (economics) and Jean Jacques Rousseau valued the 'sovereignty of the individual'-the beliefs that individuals should decide for themselves how to make decisions through the lense of self-interests.

Classical liberalism upholds the idea of religious and political freedom in addition to economic beliefs that support capitalism, privatization of industry and the upholding of risk/reward models of a free market. Classical liberals/Laissez Faire economics believe the purpose of work is to produce wealth.

The idea that Laissez Faire capitalism/Classical Liberalism is more fair and equal to all members of society in comparison to mercantilist monopolistic economies can be viewed as accurate, In that from the time classical liberalism was adopted there was a rise in the number of individuals joining the middle class as well as the general wealth of those in that class also rose. This individuals were known as "Robber Barons"/"Captains of Industry" depending on the class of the person using the phrase.



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Learning Centre

Welfare Capitalism

In **Welfare Capitalism**, individuals recognize that although the attainment of **classical liberal principles** is important, they typically are not applied equally to all individuals within a society. As such, some individuals such as **Robert Owen** wanted to **improve the working conditions, wages and compensations that workers receive in their factories**. They did this **by choice** (which promoted **individual freedom** and the expansion of **economic freedom** for both the workers and the factory owners)

At the height of the **Industrial Revolution**, Owen believed that his factories could be more moral and that the factory owners had a responsibility to take care of their labourers. Although this may not seem revolutionary now, workplaces at this time were extremely harsh, in addition to being dangerous. Child labour was common, and in some cases these labourers were not even paid. Women who were lucky enough to find work were paid a fraction of what men made and were subjected to extreme social norms in regards to their morality. Factory owners at this time provided housing, food, schooling and businesses to buy consumer goods (all of which were typically of poor quality).

Robert Owen, who is said to be **Utopian Socialist** is arguably one of the most important visionaries of Welfare Capitalism. He made individual choices (that were not pressured or guided by the government) to improve the lives of his workers, which in turn benefitted his businesses' bottom line.

By improving the services offered to his workers, banning child labour and expanding educational services, he soon saw improved production, less injuries and better quality workers in his factory. His intent to help others (welfare), with a direct focus on business and personal profit (**capitalism**) Owen saw a way to balance his own **self interest** for increased profit with the **collective interests** of his workers (**better working conditions and compensation**).

A 20th Century application of Welfare Capitalism can be seen through the creation of the **5-Day Work Week**. **Henry Ford** believed that he would be more profitable, and his workers would be happier and of better quality if they were afforded one extra day off a week to spend with their families. Aside from encouraging more sales, this attracted the best quality and most capable members of the workforce (often leaving Ford's direct competitors) to his business, making his industry more competitive, thus improving his own self interest by increasing his bottom line (profits).



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Welfare State

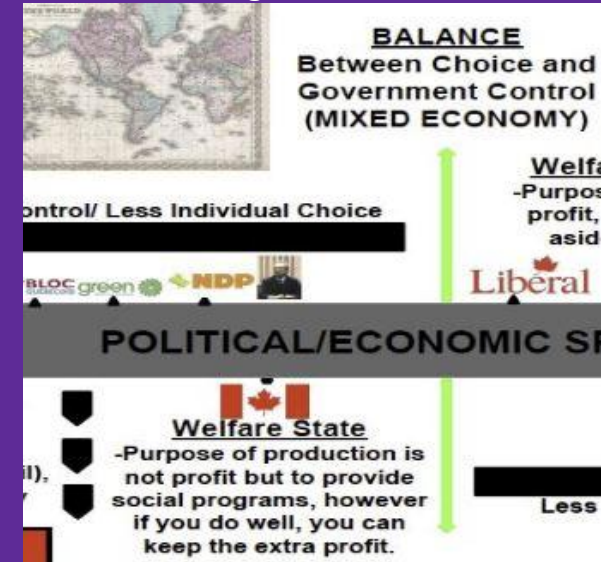
The **Welfare State** is a support system provided by the government **that assists at risk individuals by providing wealth redistribution** (via taxation of the rich) through **social programs**. The welfare state provides a **"Social Safety Net"** that help to prevent individuals from economically "failing" in the economy.

"Failing", in this case means that they can no longer economically participate in the market. **FDR** (through the **New Deal**), Canada's **Tommy Douglas** (through **Universal Health Care**) encouraged this "Socialist mentality" as it saw increased government interventions for the sake of assisting at risk individuals and improving the overall effectiveness and equality of the economic system. This was especially evident when the Welfare State developed in North America during the **Great Depression** as the economic conditions were considered so bad that politicians and economists believed that individual citizens could not overcome these challenges by themselves without help from the government.

Economically, In a welfare state, **Capitalism** is still embraced, but some of those profits made by companies and taxes collected by wage earners are taken to provide social programs to general public. **This rejects classical liberalism** as previous North American governments believed **that individuals were responsible for their own success** and as such, had complete freedom to act on their **self interests** without being pressured to act by the government or other individuals that may compromise this **autonomy**.

In the 1970's **Neoconservatism** and **Neoliberalism** fought against the resulting increase in **taxation** as they believed it limited the people's **economic freedom**.

Nations such as **Canada** embody the **Welfare State**, not just through their usage of social programs but through **Crown-Corporations**, publicly owned enterprises that provide key services to the public that are funded through **taxation**.



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Socialism, Democratic Socialism and Communism

Socialism describes a political or economic system that focuses on achieving outcomes that benefit the collective over the individual. To do this, socialism utilizes a large degree of government involvement through the use of heavy taxation to support more defined social programs (compared to **Welfare Capitalism**). Socialism and Democratic Socialism do not reject capitalism, however believe that the profits and rewards of work should be more equally distributed amongst all members of society, rather than those that own the means of production (factory owners and investors).

Socialism is predominantly collectivist in nature, but can (and often does) utilize smaller applications of the principles of individualism in its ideology (both politically and economically). Since in classical liberalism (money is freedom and power, and it is not distributed equally) some people in society become extremely disadvantaged (Women, minorities, the disabled etc...), so as a result may require assistance by the government to equalize their "economic outcomes". When considering the system of Political Socialism, think of the word "Social" as in "Social Issue". **Feminism** for example works at equalizing opportunities for women and as such, is a social issue. Economic Socialism focuses on equalizing wealth distribution.

The political system of "**Democratic Socialism**" attempts to balance individualism through Individual Rights and Freedoms, Self Interests and limited Economic Freedom Competition and limited Private Property with the Collectivist practices of Cooperation, Economic equality, Public property, Collective Responsibility and Collective Interests.

Communism (Marxism), is seen as the most extreme version of socialism, where the principles of individualism are outrightly rejected in place of the principles of collectivism. This is typically done suddenly through revolution (violent if necessary) to redistribute wealth to all individuals more equally. **Karl Marx** wrote that eventually, the need for even a government would cease to exist as the resulting "classless society" described as the "**Dictatorship of the Proletariat**" would world together for the mutual benefit of everyone, thereby establishing a kind of social/political anarchy. Interpretations of **Marxism** differ between its practitioners (creating **Stalinism**, **Maoism** and **Leninism** for example), and as such are individually applied based on the political leader or nation in question. Economically, Communist societies embrace direct and complete control of industry and the means of production. This "**Nationalization**" occurs so that resources are created and distributed equally for the collective benefit of society.

*"Each according to their needs,
each according to their ability"*



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A TWO DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATION OF THE POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

Although the primary visual used in ADLC, especially in Social 30-1 is one dimensional, a two dimensional spectrum does exist.

The “**x-axis**” represents the general approach to ideologies. It depicts the far left side representing “**Communism**”, an extreme form of a **Collectivist society**. While on the **extreme right**, **neoconservatism**, a highly **individualistic ideology**.

The “**y-axis**” represents the relative degree of control the government has on the lives of the people, with **Authoritarianism (complete control/near complete control)** at the top, and **Libertarianism (individuals have complete control of society)** at the bottom.

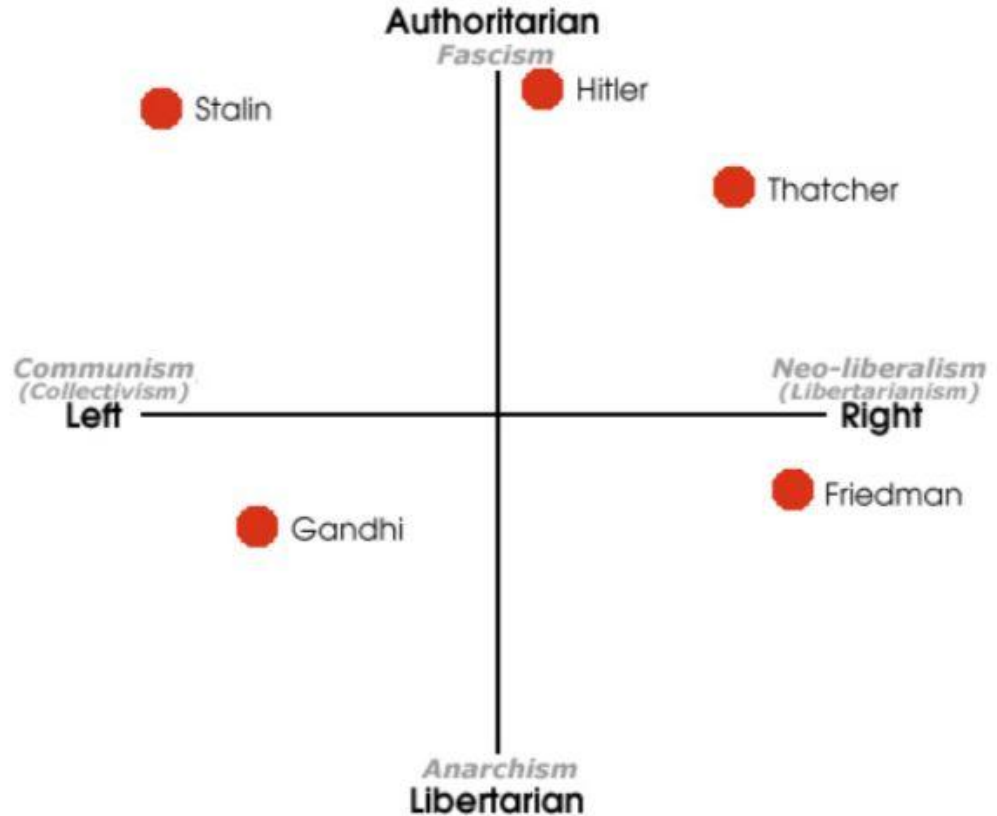


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