

Political Ideologies



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The Purpose of Government

To organize society for common action so that the needs of every individual can be met

- I Economic needs**
food, shelter, employment, trade
- I Social Needs**
health care, welfare, education
- I Legal Needs**
law and order, national defense

Government in Canada

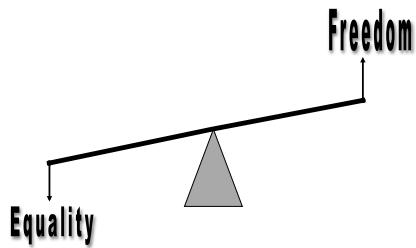
There are three levels of government in Canada

- I Federal**
This is the government of all of Canada.
- I Provincial**
Each of the Canadian provinces has its own government
- I Municipal**
Local government at the urban or district level

Freedom and Equality

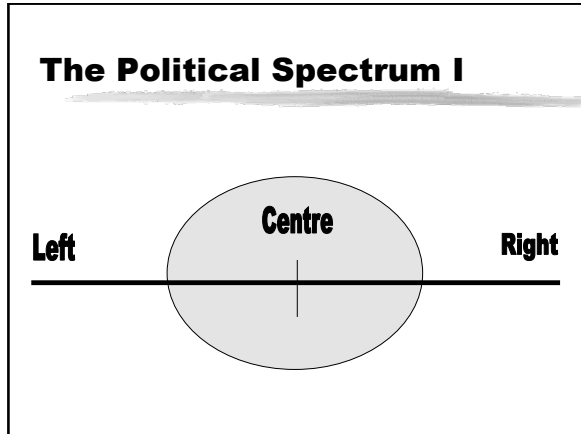
- I Freedom**
The belief that the rights of each individual in society are of primary importance.
- I Equality**
The belief that all individuals in a society should be treated in the same way.
Governments attempt to balance freedom and equality. Political ideologies have different beliefs regarding the importance of freedom and equality.

The Balance of Freedom and Equality



The Political Spectrum I

- I The political spectrum is a line along which are placed the various political ideologies and political parties**
- I This line has a centre, a left side and a right side**
- I The extreme ends of the line represent extreme political beliefs while the centre is associated with more moderate beliefs**
- I The origins of the political spectrum are associated with the French Revolution**



The Political Spectrum II

- The centre of the political spectrum is associated with the democratic form of government.
- The extreme ends of the line on both the right and the left are totalitarian in form.

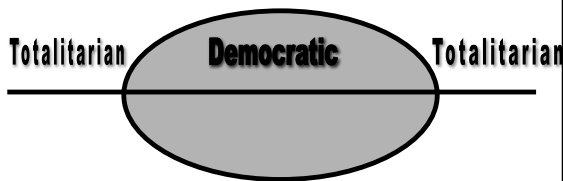
Democracy

- Direct democracy, where all citizens participate in government, originated with the ancient Greeks.
- In Canada, today, we practice indirect democracy through elected representatives.
- In a democracy the state exists to serve the citizen.

Totalitarianism

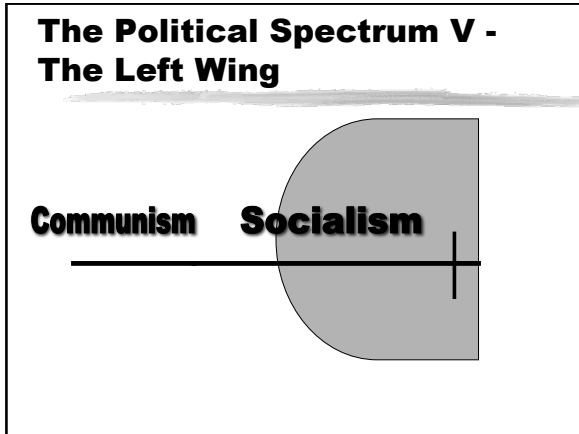
- Totalitarian forms of government are found at the extreme ends of the political spectrum on both the right and the left.
- The state exercises total control in this form of government.
- In a totalitarian regime the individual exists to serve the state.

The Political Spectrum III



The Political Spectrum IV

- I The political beliefs of the left side of the spectrum support economic equality and change or progress in society
- I The extreme left is associated with Communism
- I Socialism and the Social Democratic parties are located on the left inside the circle



Communism

- Karl Marx wrote the 'Communist Manifesto' in which he indicated that economic equality would only be achieved after a violent revolution.
- Marx believed that the working people or proletariat would take power from their capitalist masters.

Socialism

- The socialists, also, believe in economic equality but only if it can be achieved through the ballot box.
- Democratic socialist political parties can be found in most modern democratic states including Canada.

The Political Spectrum VI

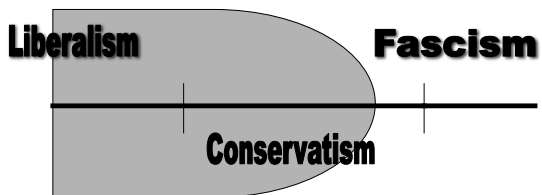
- I Political beliefs on the right side of the line support tradition and oppose change in society.
- I The extreme right is associated with Fascism.
- I Because the beliefs of conservatism and liberalism are democratic they are located inside the circle.

Fascism



- Fascism as a political ideology began in Italy in 1922 with the regime of Benito Mussolini.
- In Germany the National Socialist Party led by Hitler came to power in 1933.
- This was a backward looking political philosophy which stressed militarism and racial purity.

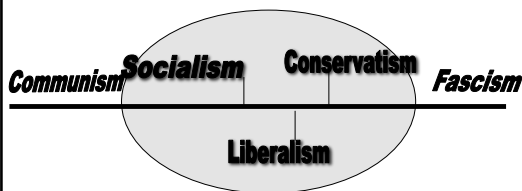
The Political Spectrum VII - Centre to Right Wing



Liberalism and Conservatism

- Liberalism is divided into classical and reform liberalism.
- Liberals were believers in the progress of good men with reform liberals accepting more government intervention in the economy.
- Conservatives were not as optimistic about mankind but strongly supported economic freedom

The Political Spectrum VIII



Political Parties

- Political parties derive their beliefs from the basic political ideologies.
- In a democracy political parties are found inside the circle at the centre of the political spectrum.
- Political parties may be left or right of centre.
- Political parties are not fixed in one location but may move left or right depending on current public opinion.

Political Parties in Canada

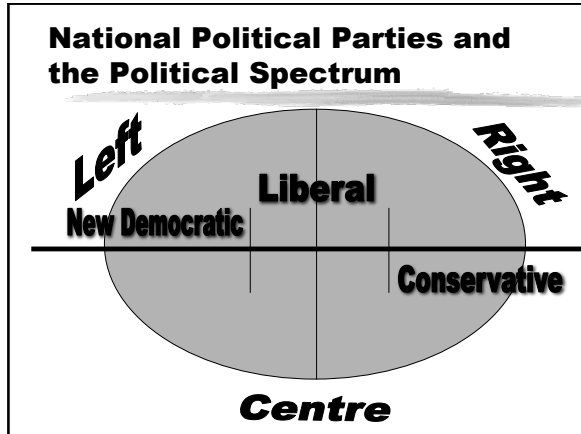
- Canada has political parties at both the federal and provincial levels of government.
- Federal and provincial parties may share a name but not policies.
- In large urban areas political parties may also control local government.

Federal Political Parties


- The following major political parties have elected members at the federal level
Liberal, Progressive, Social Credit/
Creditiste, Reform (later Canadian
Alliance), Conservative, New
Democratic Party and Bloc Quebecois

Provincial Political Parties

- The following political parties have elected members in the British Columbia legislature.
New Democratic Party, Liberal,
Reform, Progressive Democratic
Alliance.
- The Social Credit Party was once very powerful in B.C.




National Political Parties



- The Liberal Party of Canada is reform liberal in outlook.
- It moved left at the end of World War II, as voters seemed to be heading in that direction.
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau took it even further to the Left in the 1960's and 1970's.

National Political Parties

- The party of the Right in Canada was traditionally the Conservative Party of Canada.
- The leadership of Brian Mulroney took the party from success to humiliation in the late 1980's.



National Political Parties



Preston Manning, 1st leader of the Reform Party

- The near collapse of the Conservatives opened up an opportunity for a new right of center party.
- The Reform Party of Canada (later renamed Canadian Alliance) filled this void -- though it had difficulty convincing people outside the West that it was more than just a party of Western alienation.

National Political Parties

- The Reform Party was tremendously successful west of Ontario, but could not break through in the East.
- The tendency of more right-wing members to make dramatic but thoughtless public comments hurt their credibility with mainstream voters.
- An premature attempt to lure the remnants of the Conservative Party resulted in a name change to The Canadian Alliance Party. But it was unsuccessful in changing anything but its name and its leader until very recently.

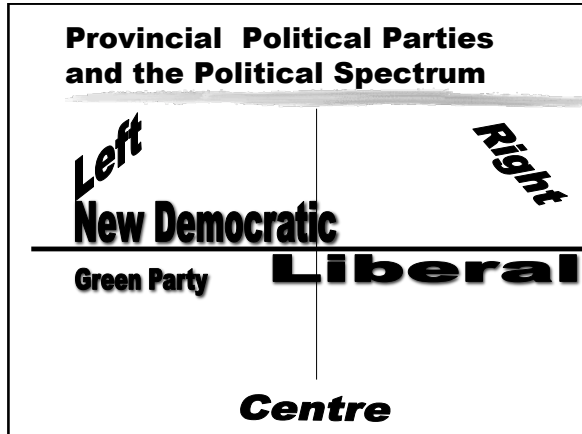


2nd leader, Stockwell Day -- staying afloat was easier in the Okanagan than in politics.

National Political Parties

- At the national level, the parties of the center-right long split the vote between them.
- The result is a series of easy wins by the national Liberal Party.
- The parties of the right have talked about unity; it took until December, 2003 before the Alliance and the Conservatives merged into the new Conservative Party of Canada. It was not until 2006 that they won a federal election, though only with a minority.





BC Provincial Politics

- In BC, there has been a very strong Left-Right split since the 1930' s.
- At first the Liberals and Conservatives fought to keep out the CCF.

BC Provincial Politics

- In the 1950' s to 1980' s. The Center-Right was dominated by the Social Credit Party, which kept out the CCF, then NDP, for all but one term in three decades.
- It eventually collapsed in scandal.

Long-time Social Credit leader
W.A.C. Bennett

BC Provincial Parties



- With the Center-Right divided, the NDP won election twice in the 1990's.
- The Center-Right united again under Liberal leadership (though these Liberals were more right wing than their Federal cousins.
- The NDP suffered from scandals that caused huge damage and a humiliating defeat in 2001, as some leftist voters turned to the Green Party, while others turned their back on the Left altogether.

BC Provincial Parties

- Liberal leader Gordon Campbell won the biggest majority in BC legislative history.
- However, even before his first term ended, he and his party was embroiled in scandal.
 - Over policy issues.
 - Over conflict of interest issues with a Minister.
 - Over the leader's drinking problems.
 - Over the investigation of political appointments by the police and government auditors.
- In his second term Olympic over-spending and trouble with the Ministry of Children and Health care as a result of first term spending cuts led to severe criticism



Political Ideologies and Parties - A Summary -

- **The balance of freedom and equality helps to determine the nature of political ideology.**
- **It is from basic political ideologies that political parties shape their policies.**
- **The political spectrum allows us to understand the roots of ideology and party beliefs.**

Summary – Ideologies and Parties

- In Canada most political parties are centrist – though they are labeled as Left or Right Wing.
- Federally the Liberals have dominated because of a split in the Right. The federal Liberals are Center-Left
- Provincially the Liberals dominate because of vote splitting and internal trouble on the Left. The Provincial Liberals are seen as more right wing – though in reality they are more tending to Classical Liberal than any other parties.
