Social Studies 11 – Ideological Perspectives

There are three ideological perspectives to consider:

- 1. Philosophical
- 2. Political

2.

- 3. Economic
- 1. PHILOSOPHICAL: The philosophical perspective is viewed in the context of (a) the desirability of progress and (b) the belief in the nature of people.
 - (a) The desirability of progress:
 - it can mean greater freedom for the individual
 - it implies that the individual can handle greater freedom (former Prime Minister Trudeau said "freedom means self-discipline)
 - it infers that society can use new ideas to improve itself (others think society was better in the past, and that it is better left unchanged)
 - (b) Belief in the good nature of people:

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Left Wing <	>Right Wing
 believe in change believe people can be responsible 	 believe in tradition a small group should decide what is good for the people
- have faith in people's abilities	- cautious of people's abilities
e.g. Liberalism Communism Socialism	e.g. Conservatism Fascism
POLITICAL: The political perspective considers the relationship between people and the government. How much are the people involved in the decision making process? In some government's all the people are involved in the decision making process, in others, it is done by one person.	
Democracy <	> Dictatorship
 free to criticize the government no political interference in the courts by the government 	 what the leader says is law limited personal freedoms

Conservatism (only land owners vote)

Socialism

(totalitarian)

3. ECONOMIC: The economic perspective considers how much influence or control the government has in the economy.

Public Ownership <	Private Ownership 'Capitalism'
 - 'economic equality' - government is the major producer of goods and services 	 'economic freedom' business is the major producer of goods and services
e.g. Socialism, Communism	e.g. Liberalism (some owned by gov't) Conservatism Fascism (with control)
KARL MARX said that the rich have a disproportionate amount of wealth – uneven distribution - the 'workers' should be in charge of gov't and production.	ADAM SMITH maintained that 'supply and demand'; the invisible hand and 'laissez-faire' would control Business. (no gov't interference)