

# Social Studies 11 – Ideological Perspectives

There are three ideological perspectives to consider:

1. Philosophical
2. Political
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:

**Left Wing** <----->**Right Wing**

- believe in change
- believe people can be responsible
- have faith in people’s abilities

e.g. Liberalism  
Communism  
Socialism

- believe in tradition
- a small group should decide what is good for the people
- cautious of people’s abilities

e.g. Conservatism  
Fascism

2. **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

e.g. Liberalism (universal suffrage)  
Conservatism (only land owners vote)  
Socialism

- what the leader says is law
- limited personal freedoms

e.g. Fascist, Communist  
(totalitarian)

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

