

# PLS 140 Introduction to comparative politics

Week 4 – September 5  
Social movements

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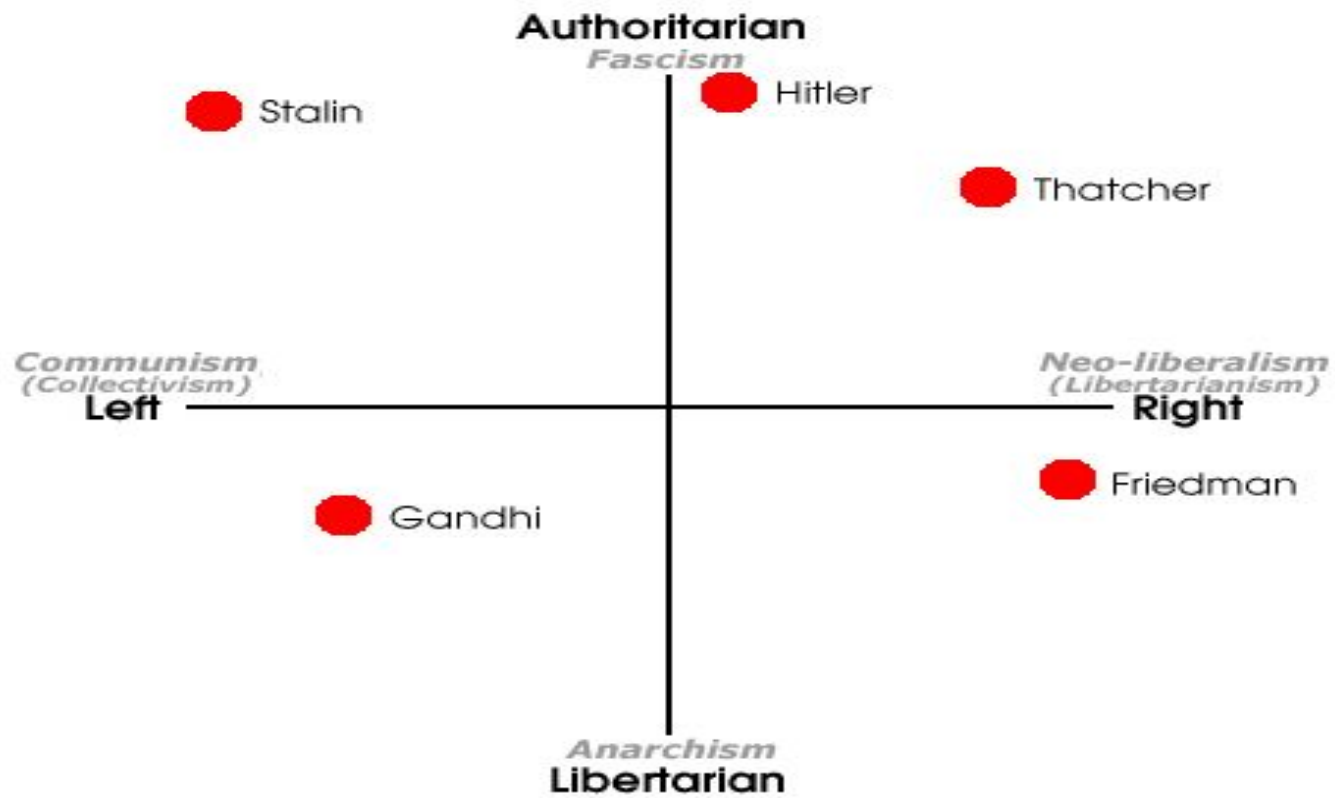
# Political attitudes

- Usually described according the right-left continuum.
- **Pace and scope** of political change in the balance of freedom and equality.
- In modern societies, they also concern social issues: marriage, abortion, social care, immigration.
- Transmitted through political parties, the society, the family.

# Left vs Right wing political views

- The fundamental differences centered around **the rights of individuals** vs. the **power of the government**.
- They tend to have opposite views on social affairs too.
- Left-wing beliefs (liberal) favor an expanded role for the government to insure the welfare of the people.
- Right-wing beliefs (conservative) favor a limited role for the government to insure individual rights and civil liberties. Yet, often **not on social issues**.

# Take the test!



# Right vs Left

| <b>Issues</b>       | <b>Left</b>   | <b>Right</b>  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Economy</b>      | Higher taxes, government spending on social programs. Regulations of the economy. | Lower taxes, reduced government spending. Economic laissez-faire. Less regulations. |
| <b>Poverty</b>      | Public spending to reduce poverty.  | Minimal involvement of the state.   |
| <b>Abortion</b>     | Generally in favor.   | Generally opposed.  |
| <b>LGBTQ issues</b> | Generally in favor of expanding their rights.                                     | Generally opposed to expanding their rights.  |
| <b>Immigrants</b>   | Open to immigration and the legalization of undocumented people.                  | Stronger immigration laws/reduction of nb of immigrants.                            |

Left

Right

GOVERNMENT ← → GOVERNMENT

COMMUNISM LABOUR DEMOCRATS PARTIES

PARTIES REPUBLICAN CONSERVATIVE NATIONALIST



PROGRESSIVE NATURE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE EGALITARIAN IDEALISM EQUALITY

LIBERAL PROGRESSIVE

CONSERVATIVE TRADITIONAL

EQUITY PRAGMATISM MERITOCRACY LOOKS TO THE PAST CONSERVATIVE NATURE

TRADE: fair trade SUPPORT: workers GOAL: personal freedom FOCUS: society

FOCUS: individual GOAL: economic freedom SUPPORT: employers TRADE: free trade

ECONOMY: regulates economy, business & industry = TAX AND SPEND

ECONOMY: de-regulated economy, business & industry = DON'T TAX AND SPEND

SOCIAL PROGRESS=EVOLUTION

SOCIAL PROGRESS=STATUS QUO

SOCIETY & CULTURE

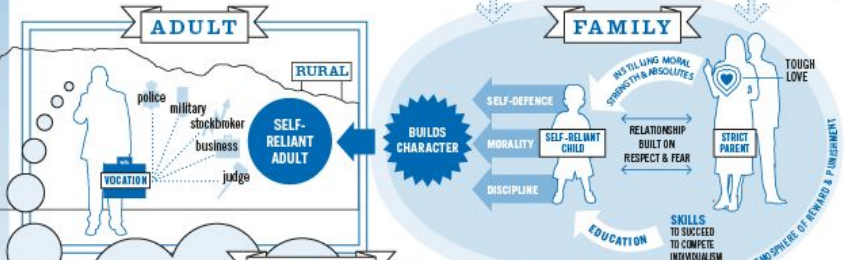
SOCIETY & CULTURE

COMMUNITY BASED ON ETHICS

"The world can be improved. Bring in the new." (UTOPIANISM) INCLUSIVE MULTICULTURAL EVOLVING

"Protect the good things about the world." (PRESERVATION) EXCLUSIVE ESTABLISHED NATIONALISTIC

COMMUNITY BASED ON MORALS

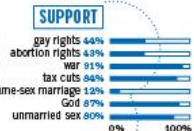
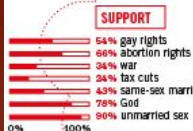


BELIEFS

BELIEFS

EQUALITY is a level playing field  
FREEDOM is freedom from power abuse and inequality but which is best?  
RELIGION: scientific, non-organized, unconventional  
RIGHTS: others must observe  
CRIMINALS: social and economic victims  
HOMELESS: downtrodden, victims of the system  
SOCIETY: "ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE"

FREEDOM is opportunity  
FREEDOM is the chance to achieve or fail but which is best?  
RELIGION: theistic, organized, conventional  
RIGHTS: others must not interfere  
CRIMINALS: choose to be criminals  
HOMELESS: no work ethic, no sense of shame  
SOCIETY: "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST"



VOTES FOR:

VOTES FOR:

- FAIRNESS ✓
- HELPING THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES ✓
- POSITIVE ROLE MODELS ✓
- CHAMPIONS OF DOWNTRODDEN ✓

- DIplomacy ✓
- PACIFISM ✓



GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT



- AGGRESSION ✓
- MILITANCY ✓
- UPHOLDING ORDER ✓
- HELPING THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES ✓
- STRONG ROLE MODELS ✓
- CHAMPIONS OF OPPORTUNITY ✓

CREATIVE CREDIT David McCandless & Stefanie Posavec // v1.2 // Dec 2010 InformationIsBeautiful.net / ItsBeenReal.co.uk

INEVITABLE CAPITALIST AGENDA from the new infographic book of visual exploration The Visual Miscellaneum

For a larger version, click on [this link](#).

# Political culture

- ◉ Societies' norms for political activity.
- ◉ Modernization theory predicts that cultures change with economic development → secular societies.
  - > Counter-examples?
- ◉ Does globalization lead to the liberalization of cultures around the world?
- ◉ Changes greatly over time.
  - > Ex: Egypt, conservatism in the US, LGBTQ rights etc.

# Social movements

- ◉ An organized effort by a large number of people to **bring about** or **impede** social change.
- ◉ Differ in size but collective.
- ◉ Based on shared beliefs and solidarity, which mobilize about conflictual issues, through the frequent use of various forms of mobilization.
- ◉ The collective challenges nourish sustained interactions with elites, opponents, and authorities.
- ◉ Are different from political parties or interest groups in that they are not as hierarchic or bureaucratic.



# Social movements

- Contentious politics outside of parliaments.
- **Contentious politics** is the use of disruptive techniques to make a political point, or to change government policy.
- A movement is not necessarily an organization.
  - Ex: Occupy Wall Street has no leadership.
- But organizations may be parts of a social movement.

# Examples of social movements

- Suffragettes.
- Arab Spring.
- Occupy Wall Street.
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- The anti-globalization movement.
  - > Examples from KZ?

# Factors that contribute to collective behavior

- Structural factors that increase the chances of people responding in a particular way.
- Breakdown in social control mechanisms and corresponding feeling of normlessness.
  - Ex: state-building, wars (WW2, Vietnam), political isolation (Apartheid).

# Emergence

- The better the movements' symbols, networks resources, the easier it will be to exploit even modest opportunities.
- When successful, movements create opportunities for other movements, which can also borrow ***repertoires of contention*** from unrelated movements.

# Repertoires of contention

- ◉ Set of various protest-related tools and actions available to a movement or related organization in a given time frame.
  - > Petitions.
  - > Gatherings.
  - > Demonstrations.
  - > Riots.
- ◉ Repeated use of the same repertoire diminishes its instrumental effectiveness and thus encourages tactical innovation.
- ◉ The reason for the escalation and radicalization of tactics in many movement campaigns, condemning them to be successfully painted as "extremist" by their opponents and by the media.

# Social movements create social change

- These groups might be attempting to create change (Occupy Wall Street, Arab Spring).
- To resist change (anti-globalization movement, Manif pour tous).
- To provide a political voice to those otherwise disenfranchised (civil rights movements).

# Other aims

- Many also tend to emphasize social changes in lifestyle instead of specific changes in public policy or for economic change.
  - > Ex: the Slow Food movement is in opposition to the fast-food lifestyle that is found unhealthy and unsustainable.

# Are social movements left or right wing?

- Tendency to see them as left wings.
- Maybe because left-wing groups are more active?
- They may be radical or conservative, highly organized or very diffused, they are all examples of social movements.
  - Manif pour tous, Tea Party, Pro-Life movements, Westboro Baptist Church.



# Westboro Baptist Church



# Social Movement Theories

- Relative Deprivation
- People compare achievements, become discontent and join social movements to get their “fair share”.
- Resource Mobilization
- People participate in social movements when the movement has access to key resources.
- New Social Movement
- The focus is on sources of social movements, including politics, ideology, and culture. Race, class, gender, sexuality, and other sources of identity are also factors in movements such as ecofeminism and environmental justice.
- Social Construction Theory:
- Used to determine how people assign meaning to activities and processes in social movements.
- New Social Movement T

# Four stages of SM

## 1- Emergence

- Individualized, but widespread feelings of discontent and windows of opportunity.
- Movements in this stage lack clearly defined strategy for achieving goals and little organization.

## 2- Coalescence

- The coming together of social movement constituents. This stage is marked by demonstrations and formulation of strategy.

# 3- Co-optation

- This occurs when movement leaders are offered rewards by the movement's opponents in order divert movement pressure.
- For example, leaders can either be "paid off" or given a job by the movement's target so as to divert leadership.

# 3- Bureaucratization

- Strategies are carried out by formal organizations and trained staff. Also known as formalization.

# 4- Decline

- The end of mass mobilization. Decline can occur in five ways repression, co-optation, success, and failure, and establishment within the mainstream.

# SM need

- 1- organization
- 2- leadership
- 3- resouces



# Impact of technology

- Social media has the potential to dramatically transform how people get involved.
- The ability to organize without regard to geographical boundaries becomes possible using social media.
- <https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology/chapter/chapter21-social-movements-and-social-change/>

- Rather than increasing engagement, he contends that social media only increases participation; after all, the cost of participation is so much lower than the cost of engagement.

# Gender issues today

- ◉ Sexism in politics
- ◉ Mansplaining