I. Right Wing Populism: Too Close For Comfort

A. RWP movements: continuous and significant

1. Not extremist:

a. American Revolutionary movement

b. Jacksonian populism: dominant political force from

1828-1860.

c. Ford’s “Producerism”: 1923 front runner for

Presedency

d. McCarthyism

e. George Wallace: American Independent Party

f. Christian Right

2. Significant influence on “mainstream” thought

a. McCarthy

b. Wallace influence the “Southern

Strategy”

b. Christian Right influence on Republican

party and foreign and domestic policy

c. Christian Right influence on Democrats

3. Dangerous

a. populist but anti-democratic

i. exclusionary

ii. anti-minority rights

b. racist: demonization

c. easily coopted by elite (scapegoating, conspiracist)

d. don’t solve real problems

e. violent

4. Why do people join?

a. fear of change: traditionalism, nostalgia

b. fear of losing privilege and status

c. economic hardship and uncertainty

d. disillusioned with political system

II. Right Wing Populism: 1970s to present

A. Most important movement

1. shaping institutions

2. shaping laws

3. shaping political spectrum

4. shaping daily live

B. New Right

1. Neo-conservatives

2. Christian right

3. popular base:

a. evangelical/fundamentalist Protestants

and conservative Catholics (mainly middle class)

b. white working class (semi-skilled and unskilled)

C. Backlash movement

1. liberation movements: civil rights, women’s movement,

AIM, Gay rights

2. economic crisis 1970s

a. recession

b. oil embargo

c. competition

d. Vietnam

e. Bretton Woods

3. cultural change

a. abortion, homsexuality, sexuality

D. Ideology

“ Secular humanists (aka liberal elite, or godless Communists, pro-terrorist who hate America) control society. They want to undermine our freedoms by imposing “big government” (New Deal liberalism and the U.N.) on us. They also are trying to undermine traditional American values (God, family, and country) and way of life (the joys of high level consumption ). The secular humanists want to replace those traditional values with liberal values: abortion, homosexuality, sexual promiscuity (aka sex education), social welfare culture, and impose politically correct lifestyles on us all.

“We want to put God back into American institutions (political, legal,education), reassert the values of family and support the American way of life.”

D. Political Process and RWP 1970s

1. (Emergence)Political Opportunity

a. govt: elections won't make difference

i. only 25% thought govt would do right

ii. 60% leaders don't care about us

iii. 83% leaders don't tell the truth

iv. pres and Congress 13% approval

v. 65% of Americans oppose military aid abroad

allows dictators to maintain control

vi. no more interventions even in NATO,

Mexico

b. economy

i. corporations too powerful

ii. business18% approval

c. military

i. no more weapons

ii. 29% approval

d. 55% alienated

2. Indigenous organizations

a. church

b. private schools

c. corporations

d. think tanks

3. cognitive liberation:

a. legitimation crisis

b. 21st Century and Millenialism

c. Crisis of Democracy

4. (Continuation) formal movement organizations

a. grass roots: Christian Coalition, Focus on the

Family

b. mega-churches

c. more think tanks

i. web sites

ii. magazines

iii. newspapers

d. television networks

i. CBN

ii. 700 Club

e. radio networks and stations

f. publishing/book stores

5. External resources

a. Foundations: Four Sisters

i. $1 billion to top 20 think tanks

ii. Bradley, Scaife ($350 million),

Richardson, Olin + Coors and Koch

b. Corporations

Goals:

1. Neo-conservative

a. role back New Deal

b. Free market

c. U.S. as global power

2. Christian Right

a. Free market:

i. anti-New Deal: welfare

ii. anti-social welfare

c. theocracy

d. converting world to Christianity

D. Success

1. Republican Party and Democratic (Welfare Reform, Drug War)

2. Policy

a. economic

i. tax

ii. regulation

b. education

i. sex education

ii. religion inschool

iii. law schools, science schools

c. mass media

i. concentration

ii. decency

d. foreign policy

i. Middle East

ii. Israel: Chrisitian Zionists

e. health

i. women and reproduction

ii. global aids

iii. global birth control

f. family

i. anti-gay agenda

g. science: research, theory