

The American Way of Politics

Chapter 03

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Looming Deadlines

- Pre-Course Survey 01/21
- Syllabus Quiz 01/21
- Chapters 01 & 02 01/25

Where We Have Been

- Governments as Public Goods Providers
- Types of Government
- Types of Economic System

Where We are Going

- Loose Ends
- The American Way of Politics
 1. Ideology
 2. American Values
 3. Partisanship a Brief Intro

Loose Ends

The American Way of Government

What we see as inappropriate (According to the Book)

1. Promotion of an Explicit State Religion
2. Allocating the Factors (Land, Labor, and Capital)
3. Explicit Promotion of Racial Supremacy

Varities of Capitalism



Participation

- Elections
- Advocacy
- Protest

Participation

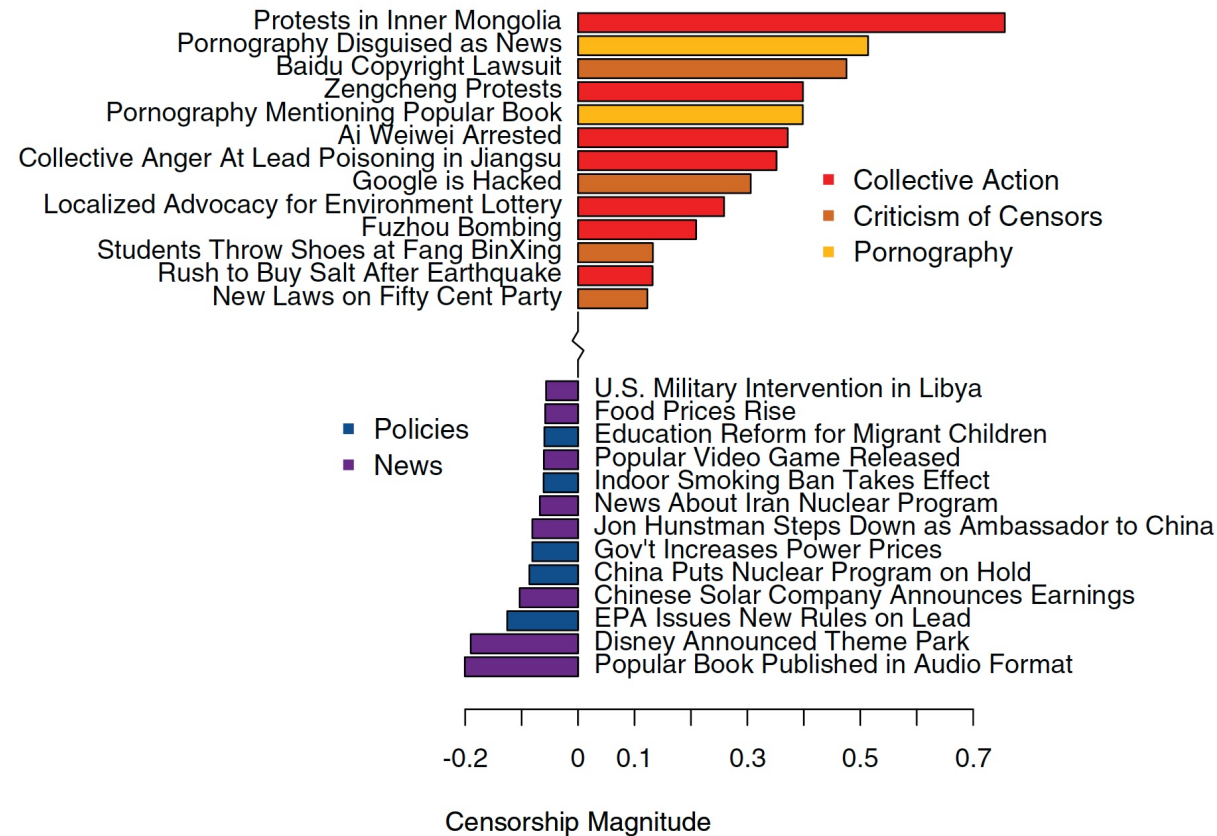


Figure derived from King, Pan, and Roberts(2013)

American Way of Politics

What is Politics

Book Definition

Nonviolent, open, and free activities through which people, bound by the same stable democratic government, and who often have different opinions and interests, struggle to exert power over what government does."

Various other Definitions

"War is a mere continuation of policy 'with other means'" - Von Clausewitz

"Who Gets What, When, [and] How" - Lasswell

Political Ideology

A system of beliefs in which one or more general organizing principles connect an individual's views on a wide range of issues

Political Culture

Collection of beliefs and values about the justification and operation of a country's government.

American Political Culture

- Size and Age
- Unique among nations

Core Values

Definition

beliefs which are central in American political culture, and which people often rely on when determining their attitudes on specific policies.

American Core Values

1. Individualism
2. Free enterprise
3. Egalitarianism
4. Humanitarianism
5. Limited Government & Popular Sovereignty

Political Ideology



American Political Ideology

Liberal

- Believe in government action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all.
- It is the duty of the government alleviate social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights.
- Believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need.

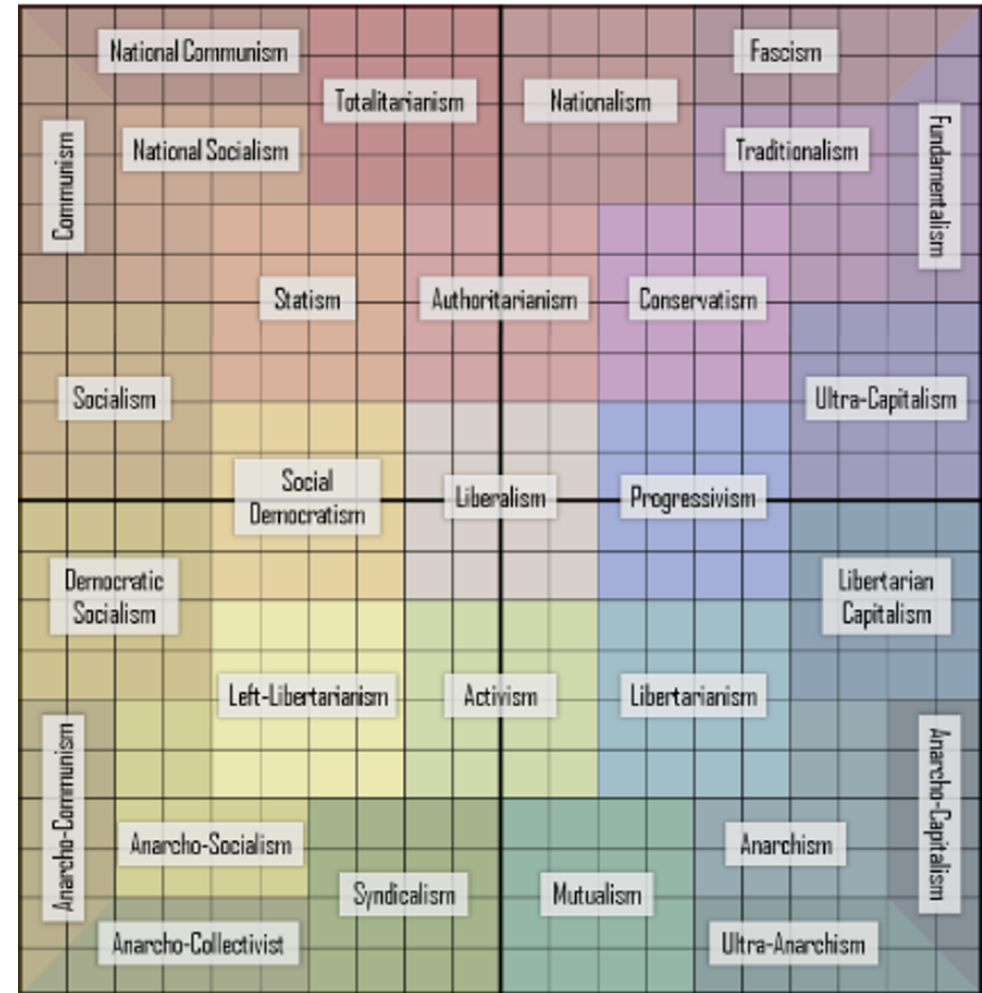
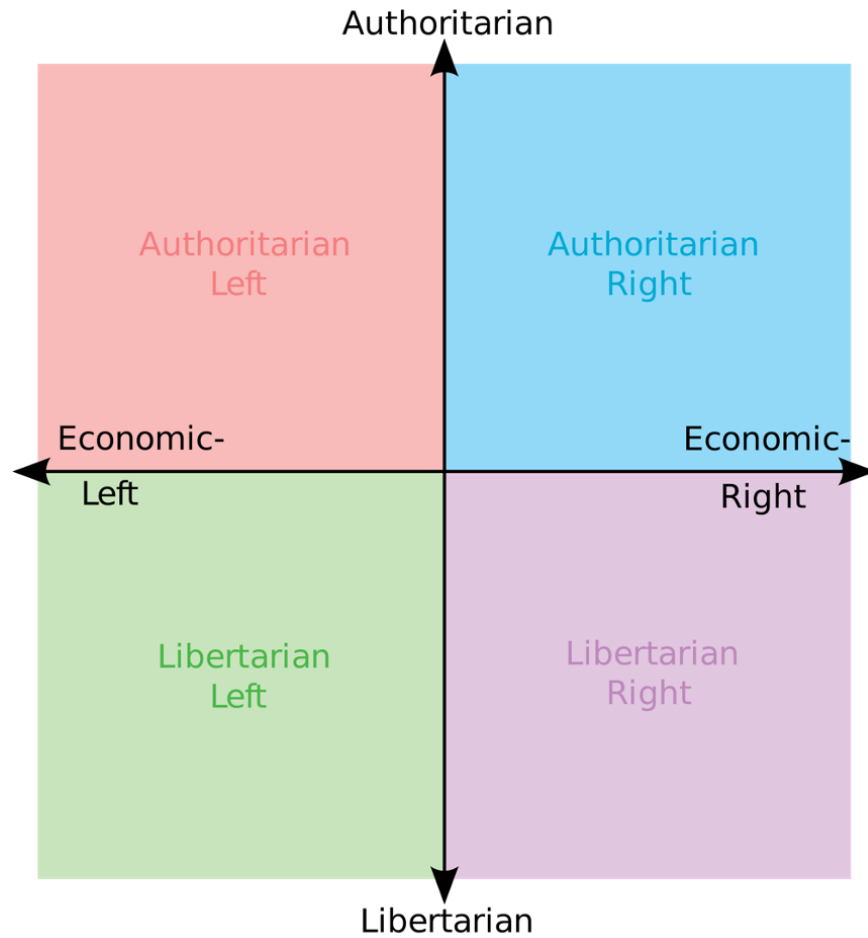
Conservative

- Believe in personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, individual liberty, traditional American values and a strong national defense.
- Believe the role of government should be to provide people the freedom necessary to pursue their own goals.

Political ideology continued

ISSUE AREA	LIBERALS	CONSERVATIVES
Regulating the Economy	Supports Govt Regulations	Supports Less Govt Regulation
Economic Security	More Supportive Programs	Supports Programs but at lower levels
Government Promotion of Social Equality	Wants laws/programs to increase social standing of historically oppressed groups	Generally favor the status quo
Traditional Moral Values(Abortion, prayer in schools, same-sex marriage etc	Generally oppose	Supports laws/programs that uphold these traditional values
Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	Want body cams on police/dashboard. Oppose: death penalty, long prison sentence, mandatory minimum sentencing laws, restrictions of felons after serving their time.	Greater leeway to police. More likely to support "Law & Order" policies like the death penalty, long prison sentences, mandatory minimums, restricted rights for former felons.

Ideology in More Dimensions



Partisanship

Social Identity

Group Orientation: The phenomenon of viewing politics through a groups lens

Social Identity Theory

Holds that individuals derive their self-concept from knowledge of their membership in a group (or groups) and that they place value and emotional significance that group membership, with resulting perceptual and attitudinal biases

Partisanship and Social Identity

- Acquired at a young age and rarely changes

Partisanship and Social Identity

- Acquired at a young age and rarely changes
- Formal occasions to express this identity

