

Name - _____

SUNY Broome – Public Policy

American Government and Politics Today

Date - _____

CH. 1: pgs. 1 – 19

Why is government necessary?

1. Define the following:
 - a) Politics –
 - b) Order –
 - c) Liberty –
 - d) Authority –
 - e) Legitimacy –
2. Can you still have liberty while providing order? Explain.
3. Can you have authority without legitimacy? Explain.
4. Define and briefly explain each type of government.

	TOTALITARIAN REGIME	AUTHORITARIANISM	DEMOCRACY
Define			
Explain			

5. Distinguish the major features of direct democracy and representative democracy? Pros and Cons.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY	REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

6. What kind of democracy do we have?

a. Majoritarianism –

b. Elite theory –

c. Pluralism –

7. How is our country impacted by our political culture and political socialization?

8. Summarize the conflicts that can occur between the principles of liberty and order, and between those of liberty and equality.

9. Opinion: Based on the reading in the text, what do you think should be “the proper size of government”?

10.

	SOCIALISM	LIBERALISM	CONSERVATISM	LIBERTARIANISM
Define				
How much power should the government have over the economy?				
What should the government promote?				

Who Rules?

Name: _____

Someone's Got to Be In Charge

If you compared all the governments in the world, you would find one thing in common: Someone is in charge. The question is, who? There are many different forms of government. Some have one leader who has all the control. Others give power to the people. Here are some forms of government that exist (or have existed) in the world:



King Harald V of Norway with his wife, Queen Sonja. Norway is a constitutional monarchy. The king is the head of state and has a mainly ceremonial role. The actual government is a democracy.

Me, Myself, and I

An **autocracy** is a government in which one person has all the power. There are two main types of autocracy: a monarchy and a dictatorship.

In a **monarchy**, a king or queen rules the country. The king or queen is known as a monarch. Monarchs usually come to power through their family line: The current king or queen's oldest child becomes the next king or queen. In some monarchies, especially those in historical times, the monarch held all the power and had the final say over the government. In modern times, monarchs usually share power with other parts of government. Often they are also subject to the country's constitution.

A **dictatorship** is a form of government where one leader has absolute control over citizens' lives. If there is a constitution, the dictator has control over that, too—so it doesn't mean much. Although other parts of the government may exist, such as courts or a lawmaking body, these branches always do what the dictator wants them to do. They do not represent citizens.

Power to the People!

In a **democracy**, citizens hold the political power. There are two fundamental types of democracies:

In a **representative democracy**, citizens elect leaders to represent their rights and interests in government. The elected leaders, or representatives, do the day-to-day work of governing the country: They consider the issues, work to find solutions, pass laws, and do all of the other things necessary to keep a country going. Citizens hold the ultimate power, though, because if they don't like what their representatives are doing, they can vote in new ones!

In a **direct democracy**, there are no representatives. Citizens are directly involved in the day-to-day work of governing the country. Citizens might be required to participate in lawmaking or act as judges, for example. The best example of this was in the ancient Greek city-state called Athens. Most modern countries are too large for a direct democracy to work.



A man votes in Peru.



The Peruvian legislature

Who Rules?

Name: _____

We, Ourselves, and... um... Us

In an **oligarchy** (OH-lih-gar-kee), a small group of people has all the power. *Oligarchy* is a Greek word that means "rule by a few." Sometimes this means that only a certain group has political rights, such as members of one political party, one social class, or one race. For example, in some societies only noble families who owned land could participate in politics. An oligarchy can also mean that a few people control the country. For example, a **junta** is a small group of people—usually military officers—who rule a country after taking it over by force. A junta often operates much like a dictatorship, except that several people share power.



From 1962 to 2011, Myanmar (also known as Burma) was ruled by a military junta that was condemned by the world for its human rights violations.



Crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which was tied to the Catholic church and lasted from the 10th–19th century.

Religious Rule

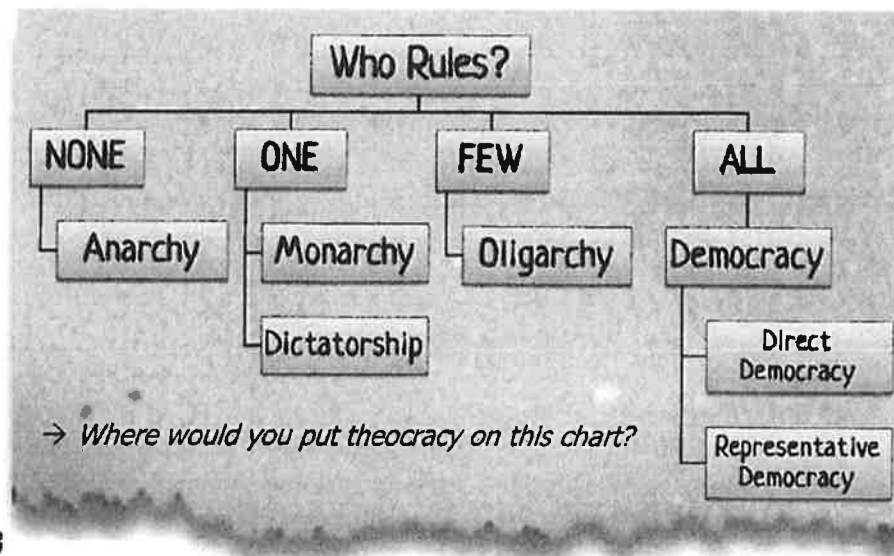
A **theocracy** is a government that recognizes God or a divine being as the ultimate authority. ("Theo" is a Greek word that means *god*.) In a theocracy, religious law is used to settle disputes and rule the people. A theocracy can also be a democracy, dictatorship, monarchy, or just about any other kind of government. For example, the Republic of Iran recognizes Islamic law, but Iran's citizens vote to elect their leaders. Modern theocracies are usually found in countries where the population is strongly religious.

Rule by None

In an **anarchy**, nobody is in control—or everyone is, depending on how you look at it. Sometimes the word anarchy is used to refer to an out-of-control mob. When it comes to government, anarchy would be one way to describe the human state of existence before any governments developed. It would be similar to the way animals live in the wild, with everyone looking out for themselves. Today, people who call themselves anarchists usually believe that people should be allowed to freely associate together without being subject to any nation or government. There are no countries that have anarchy as their form of government.



An A inside a circle is the traditional symbol for anarchy.



Who Rules?

Name: _____

A. Identify That Government! Identify the form(s) of government that each country has or had.

Switzerland

Citizens elect representatives to sit in two different lawmaking assemblies. But citizens also vote several times a year to decide on laws. Citizens can vote to propose their own laws or undo laws passed by their representatives. All citizens may vote directly on these laws.



Forms of government:

and

South Africa

From 1948-1994, official policy in South Africa gave white people all the political power. Even though the majority of South Africans were black, non-whites could not influence government. White South Africans elected representatives to sit in a lawmaking body.



Forms of government:

and

North Korea

One man leads North Korea and controls its government. He also controls its ruling political party. The ruling party chooses candidates for an Assembly, and citizens vote. The candidates do not have opponents, so citizens have no choices.



Form of government:

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is led by a king. The king appoints a Council of Ministers to help govern, but there are no elections. Saudi Arabia's Basic Law states that the country's constitution is the Islamic holy book the Qur'an and other religious traditions.



Forms of government:

and

Denmark

The people of Denmark elect representatives to sit in Parliament, a lawmaking body. The Queen of Denmark heads the country, but she only has a small role in government. The government is led by a Prime Minister, who is appointed from among the elected representatives.



Forms of government:

and

Brazil

Brazil is led by a president who is elected by the citizens. Citizens in Brazil elect a new president every four years. Citizens also elect representatives to serve in two different legislative bodies.



Form of government:

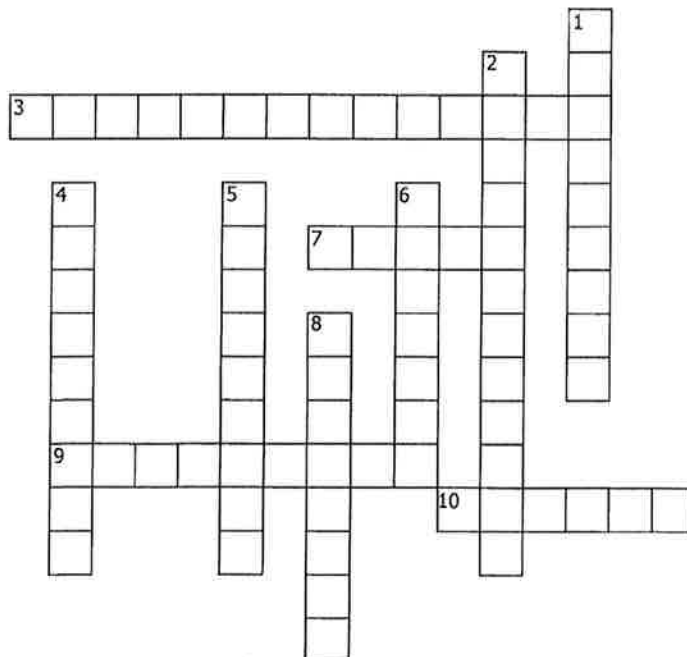
Who Rules?

Name: _____

B. True or False? Use what you learned in the reading and in Exercise A to fill in the chart below.

1. A monarchy can be like a dictatorship or It can be part of a democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
2. A dictatorship can also be a democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
3. A democracy can have both representative and direct characteristics at the same time.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
4. An oligarchy can include representative democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
5. A government can be both a monarchy and an anarchy at the same time.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
6. Theocracy can co-exist with monarchy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
7. Theocracy can co-exist with democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
8. An oligarchy can be like a dictatorship.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:

C. Vocabulary. Solve the crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the reading.



Across

- 3. Type of democracy where citizens elect leaders to represent them in government
- 7. A small group that rules a country after taking it over by force
- 9. One person has all the power
- 10. Type of democracy where citizens are involved in day-to-day government

Down

- 1. Recognizes God as the ultimate authority in government and law
- 2. One leader has absolute control over citizens' lives
- 4. Citizens hold the political power
- 5. A small group of people has all the power
- 6. People are not subject to any nation or government
- 8. A king or queen rules the country

Who Rules?

A or B Active Participation Activity. Read each statement aloud, or project and uncover each statement individually. Have the class answer "A" or "B" as a chorus. Listen for a mix of answers, indicating confusion. Use each question as a chance to quickly review concepts before moving on.

	A	B
1. One person is in charge.	Autocracy	Democracy
2. Citizens often have no rights.	Democracy	Dictatorship
3. Can exist with other forms of government	Dictatorship	Theocracy
4. Led by a king or queen	Monarchy	Oligarchy
5. Nobody is in charge	Monarchy	Anarchy
6. Those in charge are military members who took over by force	Junta	Democracy
7. Leader often shares power with other parts of government	Monarchy	Dictatorship
8. Democracy where citizens elect others to serve in government	Direct	Representative
9. Citizens vote to elect their leaders.	Democracy	Autocracy
10. A small group rules the country	Oligarchy	Democracy
11. People do not answer to any leader or government	Oligarchy	Anarchy
12. God and religious law are the government's authority	Theocracy	Anarchy
13. The group with power can be based on race or social class	Monarchy	Oligarchy
14. Democracy where citizens participate in lawmaking themselves	Direct	Representative

WHICH IS THE BEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT?

It would be interesting if you could listen to a discussion by leaders who actually once directed these different governments. Imagine what it would be like to overhear:

- ★ **Thomas Jefferson**, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and third U.S. President, who is recognized as a leading supporter of **democracy**;
- ★ **Joseph Stalin**, a former leader of the Soviet Union, who was a feared **dictator**;
- ★ **Louis XIV**, King of France in the late 17th century, who built up the power and authority of the French **monarchy**.

If you listen very carefully, you might be able to hear these three men discussing which is the best type of government:

Jefferson: Gentlemen, a dictatorship and monarchy may have advantages, but democracy is surely the best government. Only a democracy protects its citizens' rights. In a dictatorship or monarchy, people who express dissatisfaction with the government are often arrested. Except for the king or dictator, no one else has any real say in how the government is run. People live in fear. Dictatorship and monarchy are based on the ruler's will. This is not so in a democracy.

Stalin: Comrade Jefferson, I agree that the purpose of government is to help the people. This was always my goal as ruler. The problem is that people don't always know what is best. A good ruler can do more than a bunch of arguing politicians unable to make up their minds. I was able to improve our economy in a shorter period than any democracy could have done.

Louis XIV: Messieurs, I agree with Stalin. Democracy is unable to truly protect people's rights. In a democracy, the people have to protect their own rights. What kind of government is that? It's a government of chaos, fighting, and disorder. Nobody benefits. In a monarchy, the king is the true representative of the interests of the people before God. A king has only his people's welfare at heart. God tells the king what is best for his people, and the king carries out God's will.

Stalin: Comrades, a dictator is not chosen by birth, like a king. A dictator is chosen on the basis of talent. A dictator fights to get to the top. Only the best individual will succeed. Once in power, the dictator can bring together all the interests of society to achieve a single goal. A dictator's aim is always to improve the welfare of the people. The dictator has the advantage of absolute power to achieve this end. A dictator can do more in two years than a democracy can in twenty. In a democracy, listening to everybody's opinion takes far too much time and forces people to make poor compromises. For centuries, Russia was ruled by monarchs and fell far behind the West. I changed all that. We built factories, produced cement and steel, and manufactured tractors.

CONTINUED

Some people who disagreed with me died along the way, but that is not so important. In the long run, we were all be better off.

Louis XIV: I agree with you, Monsieur Stalin. The will of one person can achieve wonderful things when given complete control over a society. Everyone bends to that person's rule. Society moves towards one goal — whether it is building the economy or defeating an enemy. In contrast, citizens in a democracy are always disagreeing. As soon as the government starts to accomplish something, a new group is voted into power and changes direction. Dictatorships have one weakness, however: the dictator does not rule by inheritance, like a king. For this reason, the dictator is always insecure, always out to win public support through great deeds or by terrorizing opponents. The dictator never knows when someone might try to overthrow him. Your own career is proof of this, Monsieur Stalin. You murdered millions to keep control. You were never sure of yourself. No king would ever act this way by waging war on his own people.

Jefferson: Gentlemen, both of you pretend that the ruler has the interests of the people at heart, but is this true? Your own records are not very convincing. Mr. Stalin, you killed millions in your desire for power. Your Majesty was little better. You dragged your country into senseless wars to increase your glory and power.

Stalin: Comrade Jefferson, you oversimplify. You say democracy protects the people from over-active governments, but what about poor harvests, floods, or attacks from enemies? By the time a democracy agrees to act, it is often too late. If I did not have total power, my nation could not have responded quickly to threats.

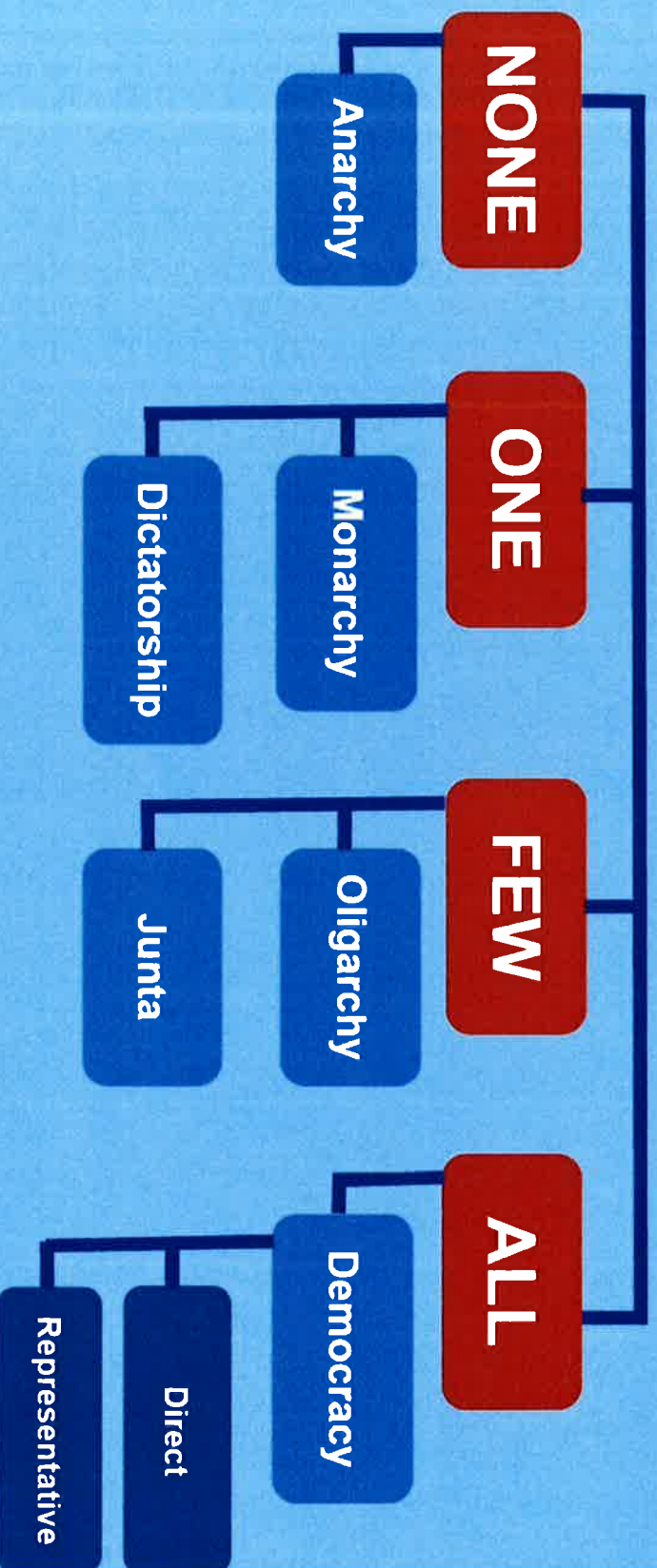
Jefferson: Gentlemen, no system of government is perfect. At times there may have been a good dictator or king, but most dictators and kings have proven to be short-sighted, vain, and selfish. The people can only rely on themselves to create a government that looks after their interests. Only democracy recognizes the dignity of each person. I prefer putting my trust in the people.

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

★ Which government do you think is best? _____ Explain your answer.

★ What would the ruler of a theocracy add to this debate? _____

WHO RULES?



16 Government Types

The way governments work

Republic

A government whose authority is based on citizen voters, which are represented by elected or nominated officials chosen in free elections.

Theocracy

A government where priests rule in the name of God or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided, or consistent with the principles of a particular religion.

Technocracy

A government where scientists & technical experts are in control of the state, & where rulers are selected on the basis of their knowledge/skill rather than wealth/power.

Anarchy

Anarchy is a state of absence of law, a state of lawlessness and disorder (usually resulting from a failure of government).

Democracy

Democracy means 'rule of the people'. The term today refers to a political system in which the people or their elected representatives govern themselves.

Autocracy

A government controlled by absolute power, & in the hands of a single person with minimal restraints on the decisions & lack of any mechanisms of popular control.

Fascism

A way of ruling that advocates total control of the people and seeks to promote the ancestral & cultural values & eradicate foreign influences.

Monarchy

A government where supreme authority is vested in a single & usually hereditary figure, such as a king, & whose powers can vary from absolute to none at all.

Oligarchy

Rule of the few.
This is a form of power structure in which power effectively rests with a faction of persons or families.

Tyranny

Government or authority of an absolute ruler; arbitrary exercise of power over subjects not requisite for the purposes of government/approved by law and justice.

Federation

A political organization characterized by a union of small states, groups or parties, which are self-governed in internal affairs & are united under a central government.

Junta

A junta refers to a group or coalition that takes control of the state after overthrowing a government. Usually, this is done by military groups.

Plutocracy

Government ruled by the rich or power provided by wealth, often used to describe a wealthy class ruling a government, often from behind the scenes.

Totalitarian

A totalitarian system is one in which a single political authority regulates total control over state, that is centralized and dictatorial.

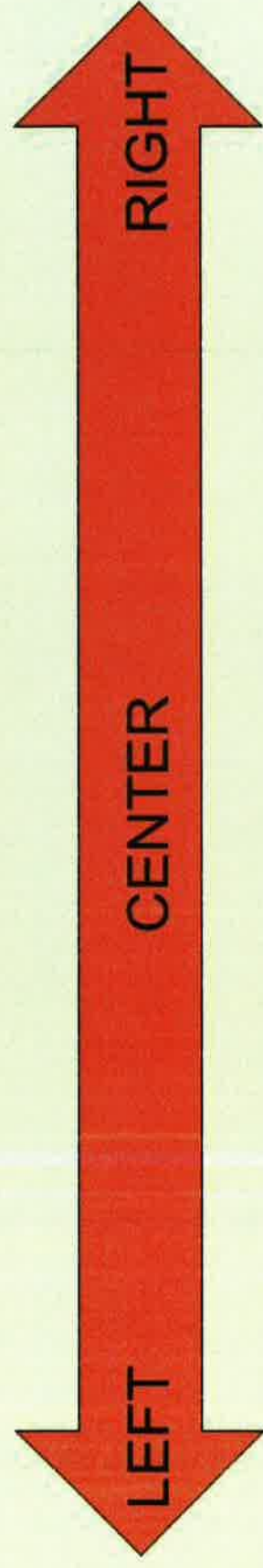
Communism

As a system of government, communism is when the state owns and operates industry on behalf of the people.

Dictatorship

A form of government where the power rests entirely on one person or a group of persons. This rule could be acquired by inheritance or force & is usually oppressive.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A POLITICAL SPECTRUM



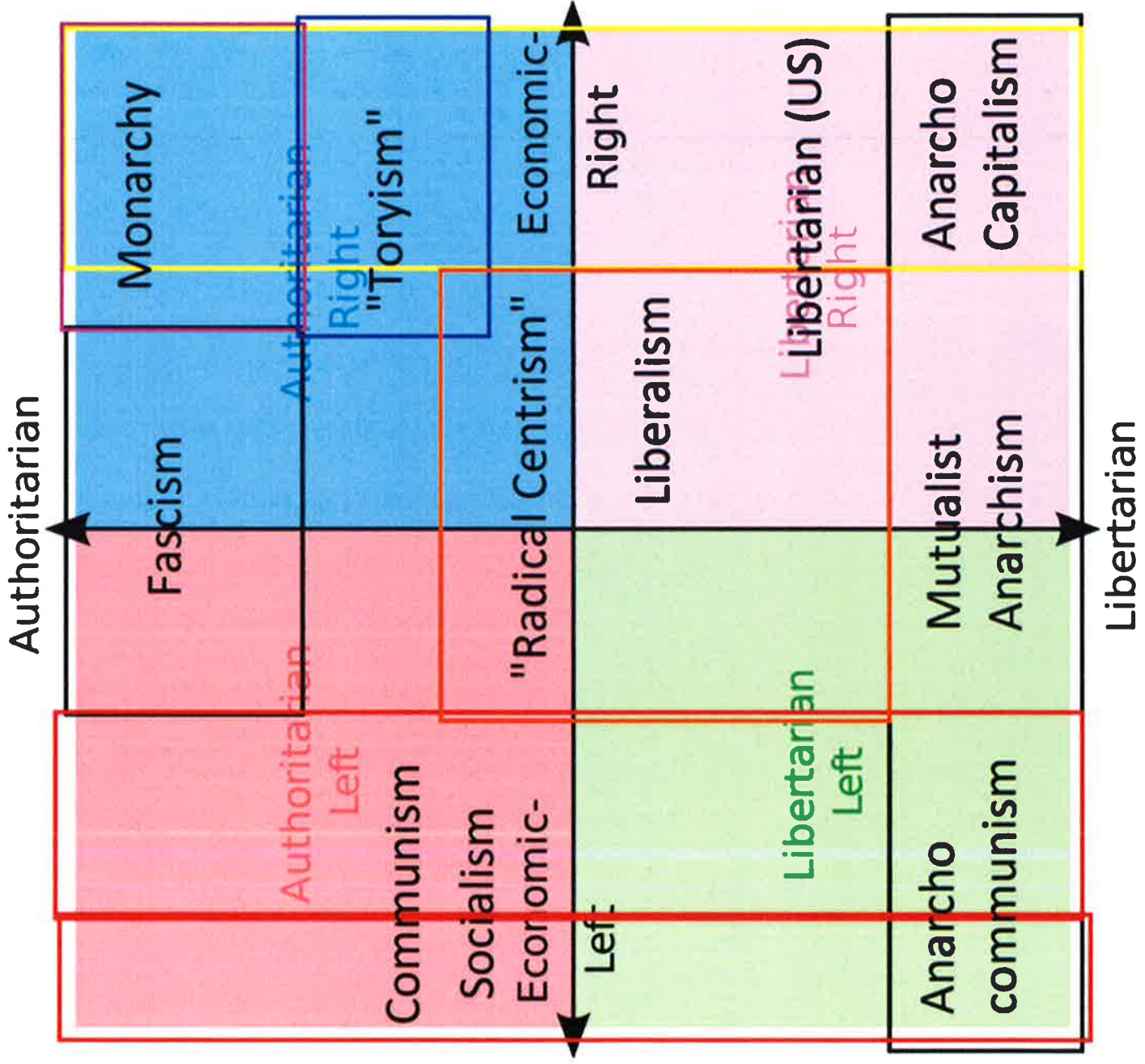
RADICAL
Favors extreme changes to create an altered or entirely new social system.

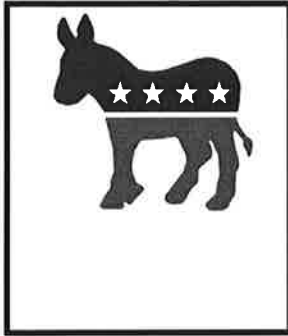
LIBERAL
Believes that government must take action to change economic, political, and ideological

MODERATE
Holds beliefs that fall between the liberal & conservative views, usually including both.

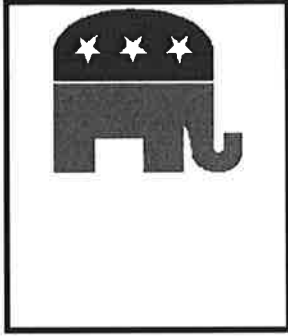
CONSERVATIVE
Seeks to keep in place the economic, political, and social structures of society.

REACTIONARY
Favors extreme changes to restore society to an earlier, more conservative state





Are You Conservative or Liberal?



Directions: Below you will find a table containing many of the nation’s biggest issues. You will also find what Conservatives and Liberals **GENERALLY** believe when it comes to such issues.

Before you start, read below to find out about conservatives and liberals overall views...

LIBERALS – Generally believe in governmental action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all, and that it is the duty of the government to reduce community issues and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights. Also believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need.

Liberal policies **generally** emphasize the need for the government to solve people's problems.

Liberals are often referred to as being on the **LEFT** when put into a political spectrum.

Democrats are often viewed as more liberal.

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

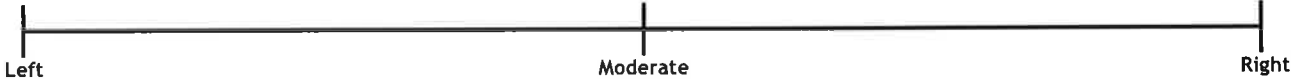
Conservative policies **generally** emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems.

Conservatives are often referred to as being on the **RIGHT** when put into a political spectrum.

Republicans are often viewed as more conservative.

Political Spectrum

A political spectrum is a way of modeling different political positions by placing them upon a geometric axis.



The Issues:

Directions: As you read the views for each issue, record a “L” or “C” and the Issue Title on a separate sheet of paper so you can see whether you end up with more conservative or liberal views overall.

Issue	LIBERAL	CONSERVATIVE
Death penalty	We should abolish the death penalty. The death penalty is inhumane and is 'cruel and unusual' punishment. It does not prevent crime. Imprisonment is the appropriate punishment. Every execution risks killing an innocent person.	The death penalty is a punishment that fits the crime; it is neither 'cruel' nor 'unusual'. Executing a murderer is the appropriate punishment for taking an innocent life.

Economy	Favor a market system in which government regulates the economy. We need government to protect us against big businesses. Unlike the private sector, the government is motivated by public interest. We need government regulation to level the playing field.	The free market system, competitive capitalism, and private enterprise afford the widest opportunity and the highest standard of living for all. Free markets produce more economic growth, more jobs and higher standards of living than those systems burdened by excessive government regulation.
The Environment	<p>Liberals sometimes believe that conservatives don't care as much about protecting the environment.</p> <p>Liberals will argue that Industrial growth can harm the environment. They argue global warming is caused by an increased production of carbon dioxide. The U.S. is a major contributor to global warming because it produces 25% of the world's carbon dioxide. The U.S. should enact laws to significantly reduce that amount and if it reduces some economic growth then so be it!</p>	<p>Conservatives want clean water, clean air and a clean planet, just like everyone else. However, extreme environmental policies destroy jobs and damage the economy.</p> <p>Changes in global temperatures are natural over long periods of time. So far, science has not shown that humans can affect permanent change to the earth's temperature.</p>
Gun control	The Second Amendment gives no individual the right to own a gun, but allows the state to keep a militia (National Guard/Armed Forces). Guns kill people. Guns kill children.	The Second Amendment gives the individual the right to keep and bear arms. Gun control laws do not thwart criminals. You have a right to defend yourself against criminals. More guns mean less crime.
Health care	Support universal government-supervised health care. There are millions of Americans who can't afford health insurance. They are being deprived of a basic right to healthcare.	Free healthcare provided by the government (socialized medicine) means that everyone will get the same poor-quality healthcare. The rich will continue to pay for superior healthcare, while all others will receive poor-quality free healthcare from the government. Health care should remain privatized. Support Healthcare Spending Accounts.
Immigration	<p>Support legal immigration and increasing the number of legal immigrants permitted to enter the U.S. each year. Support blanket amnesty for current illegal immigrants.</p> <p>Believe that regardless of how they came to the U.S., illegal immigrants deserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U.S. government financial aid for college tuition. - visas for spouse/children to come to the U.S. Families shouldn't be separated. <p>Illegal immigrants do the jobs that Americans do not want to do.</p>	<p>Support legal immigration at current numbers, but do not support illegal immigration. Government should enforce immigration laws. Oppose President Bush's amnesty plan for illegal immigrants. Those who break the law by entering the U.S. illegally should not have the same rights as those who obey the law by entering legally.</p> <p>If there were a decrease in cheap, illegal immigrant labor, employers would have to substitute higher-priced domestic employees, legal immigrants, or perhaps Increase mechanization.</p>
Religion	<p>Support the separation of church and state. Religious expression has no place in government.</p> <p>Support the removal of all references to God in public and government spaces.</p>	<p>The phrase "separation of church and state" is not in the Constitution. The First Amendment to the Constitution states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." This prevents the government from establishing a national church. However, it does not prevent God from being acknowledged in schools and government buildings.</p> <p>Oppose the removal of symbols of Christian heritage from public and government spaces.</p>

	Religion should not interfere with government.	Government should not interfere with religion and religious freedom.
Same-Sex Marriage	<p>Marriage should be legal for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender couples to ensure equal rights for all.</p> <p>All individuals, regardless of their sex, have the right to marry.</p> <p>Believe that prohibiting same-sex citizens from marrying denies them of their civil rights. Opinions differ on whether this issue is equal to civil rights for African Americans.</p>	<p>Marriage is between one man and one woman.</p> <p>Opinions differ on support for the creation of a constitutional amendment establishing marriage as the union of one man and one woman.</p> <p>Believe that requiring citizens to sanction same-sex relationships violates moral and religious beliefs of millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims and others who believe marriage is the union of a man and a woman.</p>
Taxes	Support higher taxes and a larger government. High taxes allow the government to do good and create jobs. We need high taxes for social welfare programs, to provide for the poor. We can't afford to cut taxes.	Support lower taxes and a smaller government. Lower taxes create more incentive for people to work, save, invest, and engage in entrepreneurial endeavors. Money is best spent by those who earn it.
Welfare	Support welfare. We need welfare to provide for the poor. Conservatives oppose welfare because they are not compassionate toward the poor. We have welfare to bring fairness to American economic life. Without welfare, life below the poverty line would be intolerable.	Oppose long-term welfare. We need to provide opportunities to make it possible for poor and low-income workers to become self-reliant. It is far more compassionate and effective to encourage a person to become self-reliant, rather than keeping them dependent on the government for money.
War on Terror/Terrorism	9/11 was caused by America's arrogant foreign policy. America needs to stop angering other countries. The threat posed by terrorism has been exaggerated by our government for their own political advantage.	The world toward which the Militant Islamists strive cannot peacefully co-exist with the Western world. In the last decade, Militant Islamists have repeatedly attacked Americans and American interests here and abroad. The terrorists must be stopped and destroyed.

Information found at <http://www.studentnewsdaily.com/>

Politics are daily part of every American's life. It is valuable for any U.S. citizen to know where they stand on the nation's most dividing issues. When the time comes to vote and be heard, you want to make an informed decision.

Reflection and Response: ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.

1. Overall, did you find yourself to be more conservative or liberal?
2. How do YOU THINK your life has influenced YOUR values, morals and beliefs?
3. What topics, if any, did you have trouble deciding whether you were more liberal or conservative? Explain your answer.
4. Which issue do you see as being the most controversial? Explain why.
5. In your opinion, what 3 issues are the most important?
6. When voting for someone to become the President of the United States, which 2 issues would you definitely want to agree with them on? What issues are you willing to disagree with the president on?

Label each statement as Conservative vs. Liberal. **RECORD THE STATEMENTS and YOUR ANSWERS on a separate sheet of paper.**

- _____ Supports more government involvement to solve problems.
- _____ Supports more individual involvement when working to solve problems.
- _____ Democrats generally match with this type of political view.
- _____ Republicans generally match with this type of political view.