

The Political Spectrum

DID YOU KNOW THAT..... The terms *Left* and *Right* originated early in the French Revolutionary era. It referred originally to the seating arrangements in the various legislative bodies of France. The aristocracy (rich ruling class) sat on the right of the Speaker (traditionally the seat of honor) and the commoners sat on the Left, hence the terms *Right-wing politics* and *Left-wing politics*.

Issue	Left	Centre	Right
Change	Unjust conditions must be changed as quickly as possible.	There may be things that are unjust in our society, but change does not happen overnight. We must attack the problems but realize it may take years to bring about change.	Tend to support the establishment and status quo. Don't want sweeping changes.
Role of Government in Social Programs	The government has a responsibility to care for all people, especially the less fortunate. (Child care, welfare, medicare)	Believe in searching for ways to provide for the greater number of people based on what the country can afford.	The government should not interfere in the lives of individuals. Expensive social programs should be cut.
Government Ownership	The government should own key industries and resources. (Hydro, transportation etc.) Spend money to stimulate economy.	Accepts moderate government management and intervention in the economy.	Business and industry should be kept in private hands and the government should be limited. Cut government spending.
Individual Rights	The rights of the individual have high priority. Support rehabilitation in the criminal system.	Believe in law and order, but the rights of the individual come first.	Law and order have high priority. Support harsher penalties including capital punishment.

1.	LIBERALISM			CONSERVATISM	
2.	COMMUNISM	SOCIALISM	DEMOCRACY	AUTHORITARIANISM	TOTALITARIANISM
3.	LEFT WING	LEFT	CENTRE	RIGHT	RIGHT WING
4.	NDP LIBERALS			CONSERVATIVE PARTY	

1. Represents the two major divisions of political thought
2. Suggests a more specific grouping of political philosophies within group 1
3. Relates both group 1 and group 2 to the modern grouping of Left, Right and Centre
4. Places Canada's major political parties with the political spectrum

Left	Right
Equality	Liberty
Social liberty	Economic liberty
Promote economic security	Promote economic freedom
Control social programs	Get rid of social programs
Fair outcomes	Fair process
Embrace change	Reluctant to change