

political ideology definitions **Most Americans have some form of political ideology, what does that mean?** Political ideology is a certain ethical, set of ideals, principles, doctrines, myths or symbols of a social movement, institution, class, or large group that explain how society should work, and offer some political and cultural blueprint for a certain social order.

Liberal **What is a liberal?** One who believes the national government should be active in promoting health, education, justice, and equal opportunity.

Conservative

What is a conservative? One who believes government should be limited except in supporting traditional values and promoting freedom of opportunity.

Moderate

What is a moderate? One whose beliefs fall somewhere between liberal and conservative views.

Where are you on the political ideology spectrum?

I don't really think I have a set political ideology, I tend to determine my position issue by issue rather than follow a strict ideology, but I guess if I have to label myself, so far from what I know, I think I'm more of a moderate.

What determines where we are on that spectrum?

Your political ideology, your set of basic beliefs about life, culture, government, and society in general.

What is a radical? A reactionary? Far Right? Far Left?

The term Radical as a label in political science for those favoring or trying to produce thoroughgoing political reforms which can include changes to the social order to a greater or lesser extent. Historical Radicalism should be distinguished from the modern American usage of radical merely to denote political extremes of right or left. Reactionary (or reactionist) is a political epithet typically applied to extreme ideological conservatism, especially that which wishes to return to a real or imagined old order of things, and which is willing to use coercive means to do so.

In fact when they say right and left and are referring to the political spectrum, what are they talking about? I think they are talking about the two extremes of the spectrum.

What is public opinion?

The ideas and attitudes a significant number of Americans hold about issues.

What six factors determined how we got that opinion?

The mass media which includes newspapers, radio and television constantly present a flood of information to the public. Thus people are always kept abreast of day to day events. Several people however, may actually be ignorant of the how the government functions, what is the public policy or even what particular issue the candidates stand for. This does not deter them from expressing their opinions. And this gives rise to the source of the formation of public opinion.

Public opinion often depends on the effect of political policies on personal lives. Thus if people are likely to be affected by certain issues, they will respond accordingly.

People may make use of schema or a set of beliefs, to examine a particular subject. It is made up of various influences including one's background, ideologies and life experience.

People occupying positions of power or responsibility, as in business the church or in labor unions, have immense influence on public opinion. However the greatest weight is attached to the opinions of those exercising control over government, particularly those of the President. The President has as Theodore Roosevelt expressed it a "bully pulpit," with the White House as his platform. Through television he can directly appeal to the public. Further he can summon the Press whenever he wishes, accept invitations to speak in public or arrange for a speaking tour. The President can systematically use press conferences to lead public opinion. Thus President Bush successfully managed to attract a lot of public opinion after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. The President not only gauges and shapes public opinion, but also mobilizes it behind his actions. For example the voters might be influenced by a presidential appeal for support of a civil rights measure in the Congress.

Which one is the most dominant? Public Opinion Report

We read about polls all the time, what are they?

<http://www.rhlschool.com/read6n6.htm>

Polls are surveys of a relatively small number of people compared to the actual number who will vote. They are an attempt to determine who may actually win an election in advance of the final vote.

How are they conducted? How reliable are they? Let's say that 100 million people are expected to vote in the general election. If 100 people are asked for their opinions, each respondent represents a million voters. Obviously, the results of such a poll are not

very reliable. The more people surveyed, the more meaningful are the results. Pollsters have various ways of making their polls more accurate. They try to find a representative variety of people to question. For example, they look for people with similar backgrounds and from similar regions to those of all the voters. Pollsters also ask questions that try to determine how many people who support each candidate will actually vote. If a candidate has a higher percentage of enthusiastic supporters than his opponent, he has a better chance of winning than the simple numbers might suggest. Pollsters may only count those who they consider to be “likely voters.” If we look at polls that are taken over time, we can often detect a trend. We can tell if a candidate is gaining or losing support when we compare the most recent poll to earlier ones. Polls often ask potential (those who could be) voters what they like or dislike about each candidate. The campaigns use those results to help them decide which issues to stress or which positions to clarify. They can also determine which voters to target with their messages. Because no two people are the same, polls can never be perfect predictors of the real vote. But they can give important clues as to where things may be heading. At the very least, if you like politics, polls can be great entertainment

Mass Media What are the five types of the mass media?

Means of communication, such as television, newspapers, movies, books, and the Internet, that influence large audiences.

Media Right now, which one is the most dominant?

Television.

Which one is growing the fastest?

The Internet

Which one is the most reliable? Why? New media, because it is their job to provide the facts not opinions. **Amendment**

Does the government protect the media? How? CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES. **Political Activist**

What is an interest group? A group of people with common goals who organize to influence government. **child advocacy**

Have we always had interest groups? How?

Well not “always” because nothing is ever always or never, but generally speaking, yes we have; because when there is a problem, someone will always speak out.

What three characteristics are there for interest groups to survive?

- Shared interests and goals
- an organizational structure
- a desire to influence public policy

Name two economic interest groups and what they do?

ASIL members for focused activity in particular fields of international law
CIDEM- The Economic Interest Group is an association with legal personality and mercantile nature

Name two social action and equality interest groups and what they do?

FHE- Organised by NATFHE in partnership with the DfES, the Centre for Excellence in Leadership, the Commission for Racial Equality and the UUK Equality Challenge Unit. For experts, practitioners, lecturers, managers and trade unionists to share practice to explore new ways in which concepts of equality and diversity can be embedded into teaching and research. For further details about the event or to express an interest in providing relevant conference material, please contact Sharon Russell.
AAUW-the leading advocate of education and equity for women and girls.

Name two public interest groups and what they do?

Ralph Nader's Public Citizen, Inc. -devotes itself to consumer and public safety issues affecting the general population.
NYPIRG- consumer protection, environment · good government · health · higher education · strapangers campaign ...

What four things do interest groups do? Interest groups help bridge the gap between the citizen and the government. Through interest groups, citizens communicate their "wants," or policy goals, to government leaders--the president, Congress, city council, or state legislators. When lawmakers begin to address the vital concerns of an interest group, its members swing into action.

Lobbying What is lobbying? Then what is a lobbyist?

Lobbying is the direct contact made by a lobbyist in order to persuade government officials to support the policies their interest group favors. Lobbyists are the interest group representative.

Lobbying resources Can you do that for a living and make money? Then what do you do?

Lobbyists generally make big bucks, but it's not always pay for performance.