

TALKING  
POLITICS

Welcome to  
Politics!

Conservatives



Are

Neat

Freaks

*LIBERALS*



ARE

SLOBS

# How do people think?

L/O:

- To examine the different ways that people think about political issues.
- To apply this to a real life situation.



YOU'RE EITHER A FEMINIST  
OR YOU'RE A SEXIST.

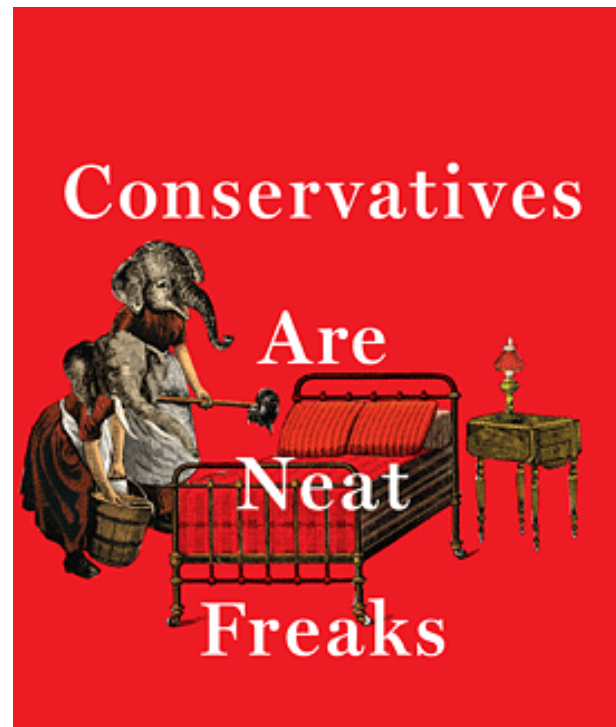
**SOCIALISM**



Spreading the Wealth  
since 1917

# Political ideas

- Understanding the core values and ideas of an ideology.
- Exploring key debates about different political ideas.
- Analysing the foci of different political thinkers.
  
- Core ideologies:
  - Liberalism
  - Conservatism
  - Socialism
  - Feminism (non-core)



# The Political Spectrum

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*Left Wing*

*Right Wing*

*Conservatism*

*Liberalism*

*Socialism*

*Feminism*

*Fascism*

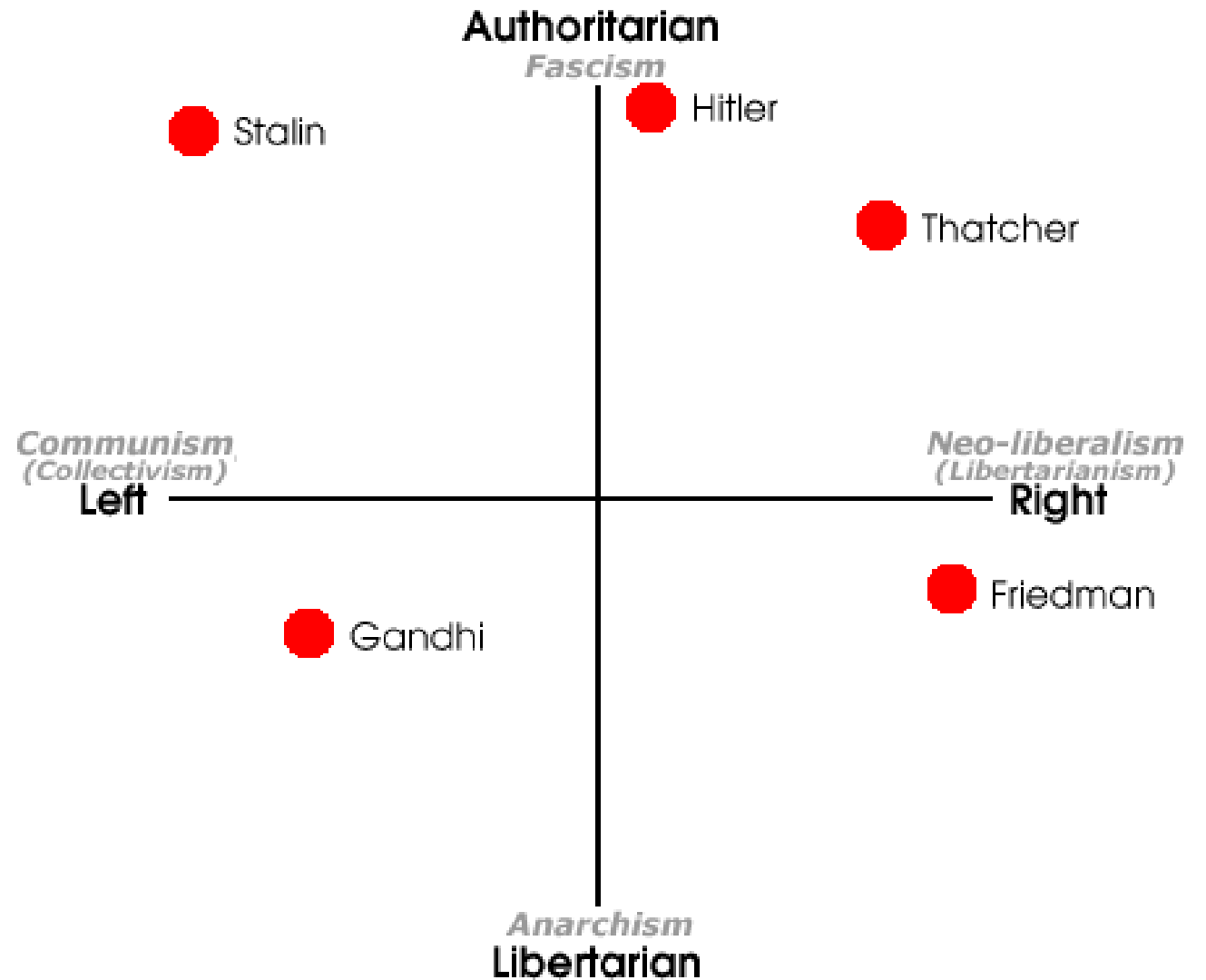
*Communism*

# Political philosophy today...

- Traditionally, the left-right political compass is essentially a line that shows economic positions. In this way:
  - Stalin/Mao/Pol Pot are all hard left (totally controlled economy).
  - Gandhi/Mugabe are all less extreme left.
  - Thatcher would be well on the right.
  - General Pinochet would be on the furthest right (ultimate free markets).
- BUT it ignores the social dimension of the political spectrum and makes assumptions that authoritarian leaders are 'right wing'.
- AND it ignores the fact that most ordinary people slide between different ideologies on different issues.

A different  
perspective...

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>



# What is freedom?

- Liberty – freedom.
- Positive liberty – the state intervenes in your life to help you to attain this freedom.
- Negative liberty – the state leaves you alone so that you can be free and help yourself.

Read through the extract from J. S. Mill (a liberal thinker) and identify his arguments about freedom.

What do you think? Do you agree with what he has to say? Why might people agree/disagree with him?

Freedom from the tyranny of oppressive rulers is not enough. Freedom is needed from the tyranny of prevailing opinion and the ideas of the ascendent class. The object of this essay is to assert the simple principle that the liberty of any man should be restricted only to prevent harm to others. His own good is his own concern.

Restrictions on liberty of thought and expression rob humanity of the chance to find truth, to either prove existing ideas wrong or to throw them into sharper focus by revealing their contraries. Christians tend to forget that their faith was founded by dissenters.

Individual liberty of action, as long as it harms no-one else, allows different modes of life to be practiced so that we may all learn from them. Genius must be allowed to flower, unlike, for example, in China where the control of custom is complete.

Foolish people may be warned or ignored, but it is not the business of society to put them right, we have no right to force others to be civilized. Unless, of course, they are children or savages.

Some Applications: In honest trade or competitive exams society admits no right to those who are disappointed other than to protect them from fraud, force or treachery. Poisons should be freely sold, but properly labeled: just as it is right to warn someone of a dangerous bridge, but not to physically stop them from crossing it. Idleness is no crime, but if it affects a man's family he may be forced to work. Gambling and drink might be restricted, but never prevented. Government should restrict itself to supervising local administrations.

A state which treats its people as fools will be a foolish state.

How far do you agree with JS Mill's views on freedom?