

## Political Ideology

- **Political Ideology** – A more or less consistent set of views as to the policies government ought to pursue.
  - Conservatives – small government
  - Liberals – bigger government

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## Political Culture

- **Political Culture** – A distinctive and patterned way of thinking about how political and economic life ought to be carried out.
  - Shared common beliefs
    - It does not matter which party you belong to.
  - Political culture in the U.S. takes place at two levels.
    - Political Level
    - Economic Level

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## Shared Values at the Political Level

- I. Liberty
  - Declaration of Independence
  - Natural Law
- II. Equality
  - Belief in social & political equality, not economic equality
- III. Individualism
  - The individual has rights & responsibilities

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## Shared Values at the Political Level, continued

- IV. Democracy
  - Majority rule
  - Popular sovereignty
- V. Civic Duty
  - **Civic Duty** – A belief that one has an obligation to participate in civic and political affairs.

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## Shared Values at the Economic Level

- At the core is the **American Dream**
  - Liberal Economics
    - Separation between economics and politics
    - Market economy
    - Not everyone is equal economically
      - If you work hard and are innovative you deserve more money.

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## Comparison: U.S. vs. Sweden-Political Level

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|--|---|
| ■ Sweden   | ■ United States                               |
| ■ Defer political decisions to experts           | ■ Citizens get actively involved in decisions |
| ■ Do not challenge political decisions in courts | ■ Challenge political decisions in courts     |
| ■ Community & equality                           | ■ Individualism                               |
| ■ Social harmony                                 | ■ Personal conflict                           |

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## Comparison: U.S. vs. Sweden-Economic Level

- Sweden
  - Equal pay
  - Gov't involvement in the economy
  - High taxes, 50%
- United States
  - Pay based on work
  - Limited gov't involvement in the economy
  - Low taxes

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## Sources of American Political Culture

- I. American Revolution
  - Individual Rights
  - Constitution – protection of the individual
- II. No Official Religion
  - Many religions
  - Pluralism in religion lead to pluralism in politics

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## Sources of American Political Culture, continued

- III. Protestantism
  - Protestant Work Ethic
    - Work hard
    - Save money
    - Obey secular laws
    - Do good works
- IV. Child Rearing Practices
  - These shared values passed on from generation to generation.

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## Class Consciousness

- **Class Consciousness** – People do not look at themselves as being in one class, and thus in competition with another class.
  - Example – workers vs. capitalists

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## Culture War

- **Culture War** – A split in the U.S. reflecting differences in people's beliefs about private and public morality; and regarding what standards ought to govern individual behavior and social arrangements.

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## How Culture War Differs from Political Disputes

- I. The issue is morality not money
- II. No compromise
- III. Intense conflict

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## Opposing Culture War World Views

- I. Orthodox Authority (moral conservatives)
  - Higher moral source guiding us
  - Morality does not change over time
    - Oppose abortion
    - Oppose same sex marriages
    - Supports school prayer
    - Family is the center of social being

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## Opposing Culture War World Views, continued

- II. Progressive Authority (Liberals)
  - Believe orthodox view is outdated
  - Morals should change as society changes
  - Individual freedom
    - Support abortion rights
    - Support same sex marriages
    - Agree with orthodox that family is center of society

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