

Liberal & Conservative in American History

Keep in mind that political parties CHANGE and that in certain eras a party might be more liberal, while in others it might be conservative! Also, an idea that is liberal in one era might be conservative in the next.

Liberal = Examine & challenge existing ideas and behaviors – CHANGE IS GOOD

Conservative = Embrace the traditional wisdom of their time – CHANGE SHOULD BE LIMITED

	Liberal	Conservative	Distinctions
1790 – 1824	Thomas Jefferson, spokesperson	Alexander Hamilton, spokesperson	Democratic-Republicans Favored commerce/industrial economy Favored farmers Federalist James Madison John Adams <i>Laissez-faire</i> Low taxes/tariffs Opposed National Bank Reduced army & navy Strong federal govt. Strong state/local govt. Stronger national defense Supported high tariffs Supported National Bank
1824 – 1840	Andrew Jackson & followers	Henry Clay & Followers	Anti-National Bank & anti-Tariffs Daniel Webster Democrats Federal funding for internal improvements (ex: roads, canals, etc.) Local/private funding for internal improvements (ex: roads, canals, etc.) Martin Van Buren National Republicans → Whigs Pro “free competition” economically Pro “personal liberty”/ weak govt. Pro-National Bank

1840 - 1865	Pro-Union	Pro- States Rights	Anti-slavery Favored extending slavery into territories Favored National program of roads/canals Favored Westward expansion Opposed extending slavery into territories Opposed national program of roads/canals Opposed Secession Opposed Westward expansion Pro-slavery Supported Secession
1865 – 1900	Supported Radical Reconstruction	Resisted Radical Reconstruction	Anti-imperialist High tariffs <i>Laissez-faire</i> Low tariffs Pro- Gospel of Wealth Pro-Government Regulation of business Pro-imperialism/ expansion Pro-Social Darwinism Supported expanded money supply (bimetallism) Supported Gold Standard Supported the Spoils System Wanted reform of government
1900 - 1940	Presidents: T. Roosevelt, Wilson, F.DR	Leaders: Taft, HC Lodge, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover	“Normalcy” in the 1920s Collective Security (League of Nations) Direct relief (1930s) High tariffs Isolationism Low tariffs No direct relief/ welfare Pro- Business interests Pro- Consumer protection Pro- Govt. intervention into society Progressive social and labor reforms Regulate trusts Rugged Individualism Small government Square Deal, New Deal
1940 - 1960	Government should regulate economy & be responsible for people’s welfare	Government should be limited Individuals should responsible for their own welfare	Balanced budget Communism is a big domestic threat (Red Scare) Contain communism w/ force Deficit spending acceptable Embrace international role of US Federal support for racial justice Pro- Organized labor States should handle racial issues Want to roll back the New Deal programs

1960 - 1968	Expanded role of government in society	Limited role of government in society	Defend the traditional family values Pro – Great Society/ anti-poverty programs Pro- Women's rights Protect the environment Racial justice = national priority States handle racial problems Total military victory in Vietnam Uphold sexual/ gender roles Want to restore "law and order" to cities Wanted Vietnam to be a limited war Youth culture disliked Youth culture tolerated and celebrated
1968 - 1975	Great Society must be maintained	Wanted to limit government's role in society	"Silent Majority" should be heard Maintain traditional gender roles Nixon & Watergate are a threat to liberty Nixon should be impeached No special treatment for minorities Peace with honor in Vietnam Pro- Busing and Affirmative Action Promoted the ERA Repeal Great Society laws Watergate is not that important Withdraw from Vietnam
1975 - 1985	Great Society must be maintained	Wanted to limit government's role in society	Acted aggressively overseas Anti-Abortion/Prolife Avoid future Vietnams Cut taxes Détente Human rights are important in foreign policy Increased defense spending Limited federal role in Civil Rights Maintained family values Pro – abortion rights Pro – energy conservation Pro- Affirmative Action Promoted the ERA USSR = Evil Empire

	Liberal	Conservative	Distinctions
1790 – 1824	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Jefferson, spokesperson • James Madison • Favored farmers • Strong state/local govt. • Opposed National Bank • Low taxes/tariffs • Reduced army & navy • <i>Laissez-faire</i> • Democratic-Republicans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Hamilton, spokesperson • John Adams • Federalist • Strong federal govt. • Supported National Bank • Supported high tariffs • Stronger national defense • Favored commerce/industrial economy 	
1824 – 1840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Jackson & followers • Pro “personal liberty”/ weak govt. • Pro “free competition” economically • Anti-National Bank, anti-Tariffs • Local/private funding for internal improvements (ex: roads, canals, etc.) • Martin Van Buren • Democrats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Clay & Followers • Pro-National Bank • Federal funding for internal improvements (ex: roads, canals, etc.) • Daniel Webster • National Republicans → Whigs 	
1840 - 1865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-Union • Anti-slavery • Favored National program of roads/canals • Opposed Westward expansion • Opposed extending slavery into territories • Opposed Secession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro- States Rights • Pro-slavery • Opposed national program of roads/canals • Favored Westward expansion • Favored extending slavery into territories • Supported Secession 	
1865 – 1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Radical Reconstruction • Wanted reform of government • Anti-imperialist • Supported expanded money supply (bimetallism) • Pro-Government Regulation of business • Low tariffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resisted Radical Reconstruction • Supported the Spoils System • Pro-Social Darwinism • Pro-imperialism/ expansion • Supported Gold Standard • <i>Laissez-faire</i> • High tariffs • Pro- Gospel of Wealth 	
1900 - 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidents: T. Roosevelt, Wilson, F.D.R • Pro- Govt. intervention into society • Progressive social and labor reforms • Regulate trusts • Collective Security (League of Nations) • Pro- Consumer protection • Direct relief (1930s) • Square Deal, New Deal • Low tariffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders: Taft, HC Lodge, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover • Pro- Business interests • Isolationism • Rugged Individualism • “Normalcy” in the 1920s • Small government • No direct relief/ welfare • High tariffs 	

1940 - 1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should regulate economy & be responsible for people's welfare • Democrats • Deficit spending acceptable • Embrace international role of US • Pro- Organized labor • Federal support for racial justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should be limited • Individuals should responsible for their own welfare • Republicans • Balanced budget • Communism is a big domestic threat (Red Scare) • Contain communism w/ force • States should handle racial issues • Want to roll back the New Deal programs 	
1960 - 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded role of government in society • Wanted Vietnam to be a limited war • Racial justice = national priority • Protect the environment • Pro- Women's rights • Pro – Great Society/ anti-poverty programs • Youth culture tolerated and celebrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited role of government in society • Total military victory in Vietnam • States handle racial problems • Want to restore "law and order" to cities • Uphold sexual/ gender roles • Defend the traditional family values • Youth culture disliked 	
1968 - 1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Society must be maintained • Promoted the ERA • Withdraw from Vietnam • Nixon & Watergate are a threat to liberty • Pro- Busing and Affirmative Action • Nixon should be impeached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanted to limit government's role in society • Peace with honor in Vietnam • Maintain traditional gender roles • "Silent Majority" should be heard • Watergate is not that important • Repeal Great Society laws • No special treatment for minorities 	
1975 - 1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Society must be maintained • Human rights are important in foreign policy • Avoid future Vietnams • Détente • Pro- Affirmative Action • Promoted the ERA • Pro – energy conservation • Pro – abortion rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanted to limit government's role in society • Cut taxes • Increased defense spending • Acted aggressively overseas • USSR = Evil Empire • Limited federal role in Civil Rights • Maintained family values • Anti-Abortion/Prolife 	