

4.7 Ideologies of Political Parties

Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy disputes.

1. There is widespread appeal to hearing “rags to riches” stories. We value those that find upward mobility in their hard work. The commonality of American Dream stories in our society suggest that

- a. We all share in a common American political culture
- b. Democratic policies work best for those who need government most
- c. Republicans care for more people in real life ways
- d. Political parties are no longer necessary

2. Which of the following is commonly shared in our unique American political culture?

- a. Autonomy – free to make independent decisions
- b. Equality of results – i.e. income equality
- c. Libertarianism – free from coercive government interference
- d. Government assistance – the best way to advance is through government helps

3. In our *Declaration of Independence* (1776) Thomas Jefferson wrote: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Today these words

- a. Reflect the bedrock of our unique American political culture
- b. Reflect the primary platform of the Democratic Party
- c. Reflect the primary platform of the Republican Party
- d. Reflect the source of our deeply divided political ideologies

4. The difference between political culture and political ideology is best explained by saying

- a. The prior is the “how” and the latter is the “why”
- b. The prior is the “how” and the latter is the “what”
- c. The prior is the “what” and the latter is the “why”
- d. The prior is the “what” and the latter is the “how”

5. Why do our political ideologies often lead to divisive partisanship?

- a. Ideologies too often are malleable
- b. Rigid ideologies find compromise difficult
- c. The American people do not like zero sum games
- d. Democrats and Republicans come from different parts of the country

6. Policy disputes are shaped by the ideologies of our two major political parties. Democrats are generally influenced by

- a. Conservative ideologies
- b. Liberal ideologies
- c. Libertarian ideologies
- d. Communitarian ideologies

7. Policy disputes are shaped by the ideologies of our two major political parties. Republicans are generally influenced by

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- b. Liberal ideologies
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8. Tom prefers a government willing to play the role of the “nanny.” Broad safety nets, put in place by the government, should protect American citizens from personal tragedies. Tom’s ideological home is with

- a. Conservatives and Republicans
- b. Liberals and Democrats
- c. Libertarians and Independent parties
- d. Communitarians

9. Tom is reluctant to give over his health care decisions to government programs. Government, although necessary, often causes more problems than providing solutions. Tom’s ideological home is with

- a. Conservatives and Republicans
- b. Liberals and Democrats
- c. Libertarians and Independent parties
- d. Communitarians

10. Different ideologies, for example conservatism and liberalism, proliferate in American life because of

- a. An authoritarian government that limits our common-sense solutions
- b. Declining efficacy along with a rigid class system
- c. Our fundamental commitment to limiting the number of legal factions
- d. Our fundamental commitment to basic freedoms of expression