

# Unit 4:

## American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

### DC TRIPS

Room 2B

*American political beliefs are shaped by founding ideals, core values, and the changing demographics of the citizenry. The beliefs about government, politics, and the individual's role in the political system influence the creation of ideological trends that span decades impacting public policies.*

#### MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:

1. Citizens' beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change. (Methods of political analysis)
2. Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions. (Methods of political analysis)
3. Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics. (Competing policy-making interests)



"The egg timer is pinging. The toaster is popping. The coffeepot is perking. Is this it, Alice? Is this the great American dream?"

*What happens to a dream deferred?/Does it dry up/Like a raisin in the sun?/Or fester like a sore--/And then run?/Does it stink like rotten meat?/Or crust and sugar over--/like a syrupy sweet?/Maybe it just sags/like a heavy load./Or does it explode?*

Langston Hughes

## Time to Assess How We are Doing.

After each DC TRIP assess how your voyage is going. Use the following guidelines.

Self-Assessment					
<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
How did I do today?					

5 – Fully completed/observable collaboration
4 – Solid progress/collaborated well
3 – Solid progress/did not collaborate
2 – Little progress/collaborated well
1 – Little progress/did not collaborate
0 – Did not complete

- 4.1** Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.2** Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.3** Describe the elements of a scientific poll.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.4** Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.5** Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.6** Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g. values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.7** Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.8** Explain how political ideologies vary on the government's role in regulating the marketplace.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.9** Explain how political ideologies vary on the role of government in addressing social issues.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

- 4.10** Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues.

5                      4                      3                      2                      1

#### 4.1 Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials



Different interpretations of core values, including individualism, equality of opportunity, free enterprise, rule of law, and limited government affect the relationship between citizens and the federal government and that citizens have with each other.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. How important is trust in a relationship? Is trust in government a core value? Are governments inherently untrustworthy?

#### 4.1 Describe the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.

Different interpretations of core values, including individualism, equality of opportunity, free enterprise, rule of law, and limited government affect the relationship between citizens and the federal government and that citizens have with each other.

		Conservative Examples	Liberal Examples
Core Values	Define		
Individualism	Define		
Equality of Opportunity	Define		
Free Enterprise	Define		
Rule of Law	Define		
Limited Government	Define		

**What do you think is the proper role or function of the federal government? Are you a conservative or a liberal**

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Citizens' beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change (Methods of political analysis).*

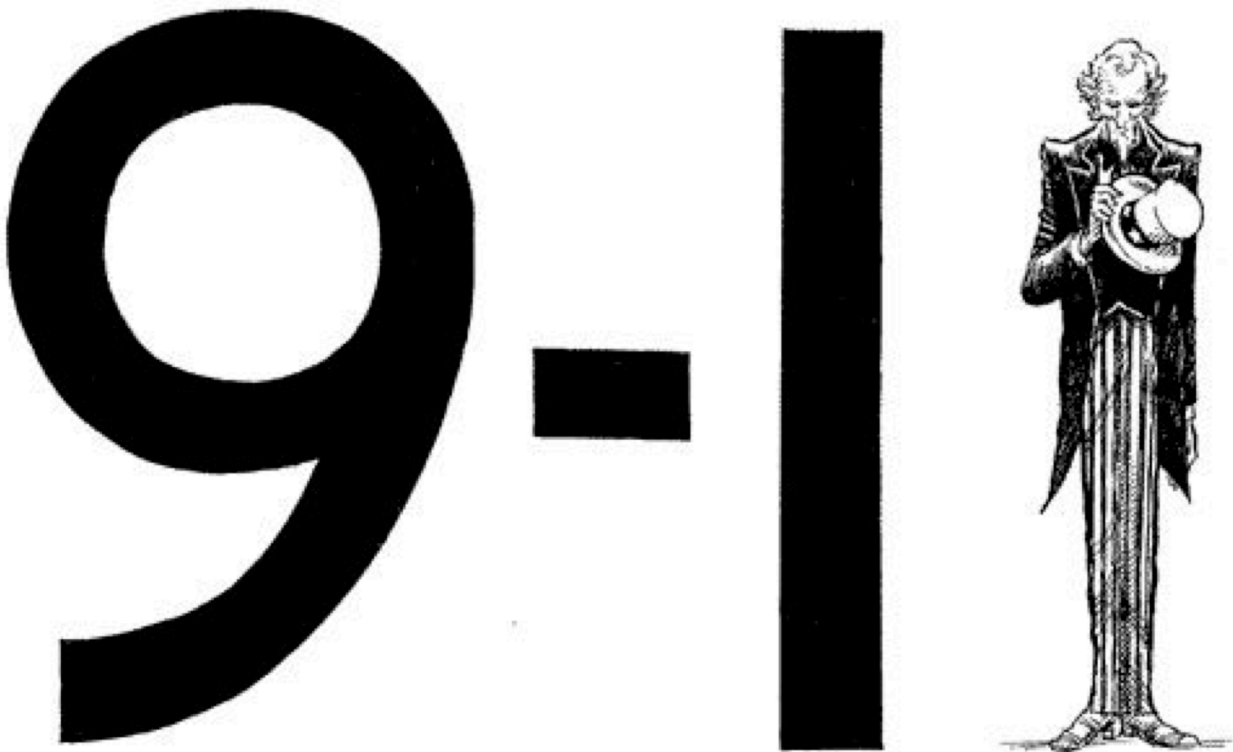
**4.2 Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Family, schools, peers, media, social environments (including civic and religious organizations) contribute to the development of an individual's political attitudes and values through the process of political socialization.
2. The relative importance of major political events to the development of individual political attitudes is an example of political socialization.
3. Generational and lifecycle effects also contribute to the political socialization that influences an individual's political attitudes.
4. As a result of globalization, U.S. political culture has both influenced and been influenced by the values of other countries.

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1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. 9/11 is an historical event for you. What does 9/11 mean to you? How do you suppose 9/11 has changed America and its core values?

Double Check

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Political socialization is how we learn to think politically. Certain demographic factors give us a political bent. Complete chart.

	Democrats Liberals	Republicans Conservatives
Example GENDER	Females – more likely	Males – more likely
AGE		
RELIGION		
RACE		
EDUCATION		
OCCUPATION		
ECONOMIC STATUS		
RELIGION		
REGION:  NEW ENGLAND SOLID SOUTH MIDWEST – RUST BELT WEST WEST COAST		

Define CROSS-CUTTING CLEAVAGES:

List POSITIVES and NEGATIVES about GLOBALIZATION:

Margaret Thatcher nicknames globalization TINA. Explain.

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Citizens' beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change (Methods of political analysis).*

**4.3 Describe the elements of a scientific poll.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials



Public opinion data can impact elections and policy debates is affected by such scientific polling types and methods as:

- Type of poll (opinion polls, benchmark or tracking polls, entrance and exit polls)
- Sampling techniques, identification of respondents, mass survey or focus group, sampling error
- Type and format of questions



**“Instead of calling in a specialist, couldn’t we just conduct an opinion poll among all the hospital’s doctors?”**

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Is there a difference between “expert” opinion and “public” opinion? In a democracy what is better?

*Double Check*

#### 4.3 **Describe the elements of a scientific poll.**

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- Type and format of questions

What is the difference between opinion polls, tracking polls and exit polls?

#### **PROPERLY ASSESSING PUBLIC OPINION POLLS – USE THE FOLLOWING CAUTIONARY STEPS:**

Below you will find the KEY cautionary steps to take when analyzing a public opinion poll.

1. **Identify the Subject of the Poll.**
2. **Identify the Source of the Poll.**
3. **Determine the Sampling Method.**
4. **Identify the Sample Size.**
5. **Consider the Margin of Error.**
6. **Examine the Wording of the Questions.**
7. **Examine the Answer Categories.**
8. **Evaluate the Results.**

Find three (3) polls online. Evaluate each by applying the cautionary steps above.

POLL #1

POLL #2

POLL #3

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions. (Methods of political analysis)*

**4.4 Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

The relationship between scientific polling and elections and policy debates is affected the:

- Importance of public opinion as a source of political influence in a given election or policy debate
- Reliability and veracity of public opinion data



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. How can we know if a story or poll result is trustworthy? How can we guard against being influenced by “fake” news and/or unreliable polling data?

*Double Check*

#### 4.4 **Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.**

The relationship between scientific polling and elections and policy debates is affected the:

- Importance of public opinion as a source of political influence in a given election or policy debate
- Reliability and veracity of public opinion data

Define “bandwagon effect.” Explain the psychology of this phenomenon. [Quote from an expert].

**DO POLLS AFFECT VOTING BEHAVIOR?** [Preparing an argument]

**YES.** Write a claim statement. Find three (3) substantive arguments that support your claim. [One must include data]. Cite your sources.

**NO.** Write a claim statement. Find three (3) substantive arguments that support your claim. [One must include data]. Cite your sources.

[What do you really think? What evidence is most persuasive?]

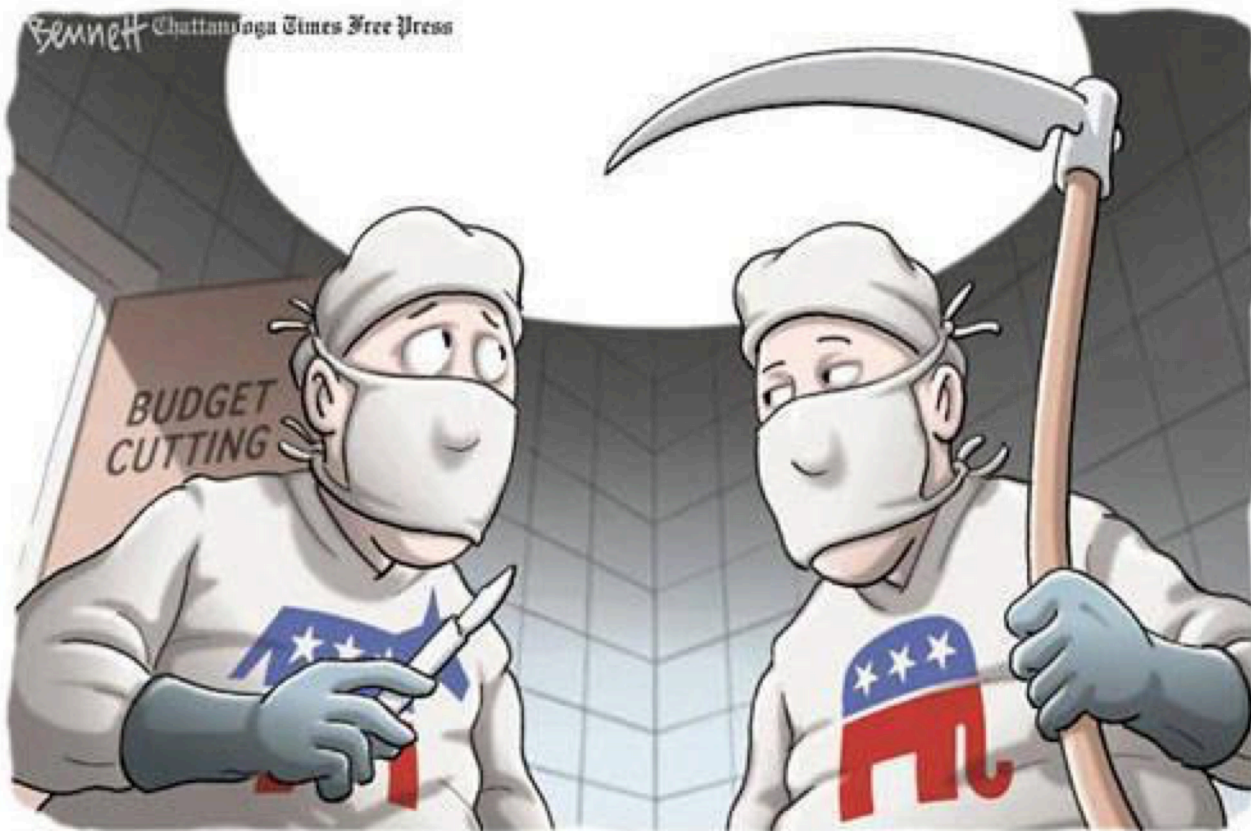
**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions. (Methods of political analysis)*

**4.5 Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

The Democratic Party (D or DEM) platforms generally align more closely to liberal ideological positions, and the Republican Party (R or GOP) platforms generally align more closely to conservative ideological positions.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What does this cartoon say about core differences between conservatives and liberals? Provide specific examples of each position.

*Double Check*

**4.5 Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates.**

*The Democratic Party is generally influenced by liberal ideology and the Republican Party is generally influenced by conservative ideology.*

Differentiate between POLITICAL IDEOLOGY and POLITICAL CULTURE:

Circle the best answer:

**I AM A . . .**

**LIBERAL DEMOCRAT**

**CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN**

Explaining your answer above:

List your DEMOGRAPHIC characteristics that help to explain your “political bent”

Consider gender, age, race, education, religion, region, and economic-status

Investigate on the WEB

FIND two DEMOCRATS (any level of government) on the WEB and assess their policy views by looking at specific examples. Compare these views to the self-assessment you made above. If you are a DEMOCRAT do you agree? If you are a REPUBLICAN do you disagree?

Write down your findings here

FIND two REPUBLICANS (any level of government) on the WEB and assess their policy views by looking at specific examples. Compare these views to the self-assessment you made above. If you are a REPUBLICAN do you agree? If you are a DEMOCRAT do you disagree?

Write down your findings here

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics (Competing policy-making interests).*

**4.6 Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g. values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Because the U.S. is a democracy with a diverse society, public policies generated at any given time reflect the attitudes and beliefs of citizens who choose to participate in politics at that time.
2. The balancing dynamic of individual liberty and government efforts to promote stability and order has been reflected in policy debates and their outcomes over time.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What makes changing minimum wage laws so difficult? Are we a plutocracy?

Double Check

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Contrast the AMERICAN CREED with what came before: Provide definitions with examples

Liberty	Statism
Individualism	Communitarianism
Egalitarianism	“Noblesse oblige”
“Laissez-faire”	“Mercantilism”

Certain political movements have challenged and changed the AMERICAN CREED over time. Define each and provide examples:

POPULISM:

PROGRESSIVISM:

*PUBLIC POLICY STORY-TIME:* Investigate the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (1996). This conservative public policy was passed under a Democratic president. Explain how this happens.

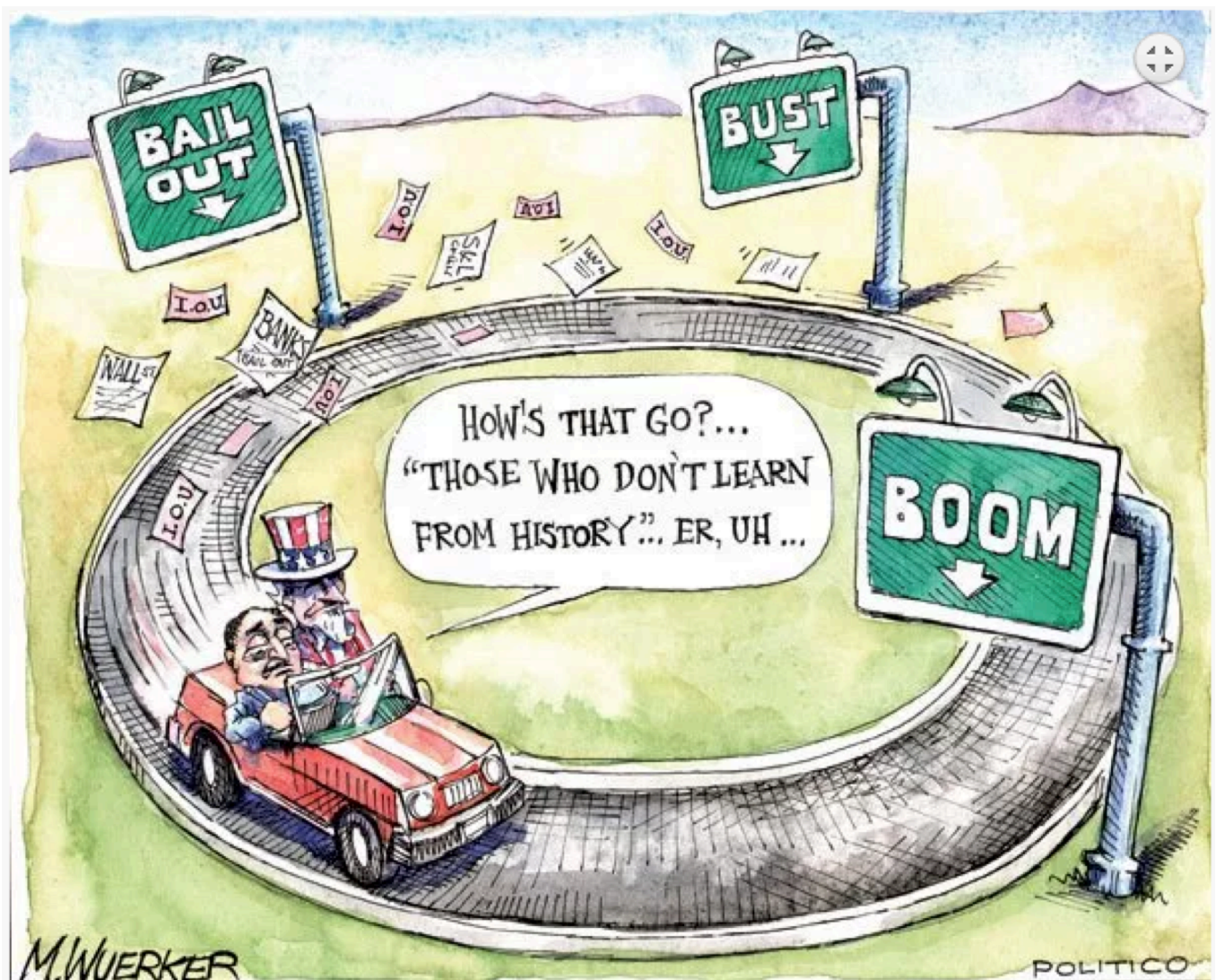
**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics (Competing policy-making interests).*

#### 4.7 Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Liberal ideologies favor more government regulation of the marketplace, conservative ideologies favor fewer regulations, and libertarian ideologies favor little or no regulation of the marketplace beyond the protection of property rights and voluntary trade.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Do you think the federal government is responsible for our economic progress and prosperity?

Double Check

4.7 **Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace.**

*Liberal ideologies favor more government regulation of the marketplace, conservative ideologies favor fewer regulations, and libertarian ideologies favor little or no regulation of the marketplace beyond the protection of property rights and voluntary trade.*

Define <b>FISCAL POLICY</b>	Define <b>MONETARY POLICY</b>
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Contrast <b>DEMAND-SIDE ECONOMIC POLICY</b>	Contrast <b>SUPPLY-SIDE ECONOMIC POLICY</b>
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Describe with examples <b>DEMOCRAT – ECONOMIC POLICY</b>	Describe with examples <b>REPUBLICAN – ECONOMIC POLICY</b>
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How do LIBERTARIANS compare to the above positions?

A common American maxim: **PEOPLE VOTE THEIR POCKETBOOKS.**

Do you agree or disagree? Explain. Find evidence including data.

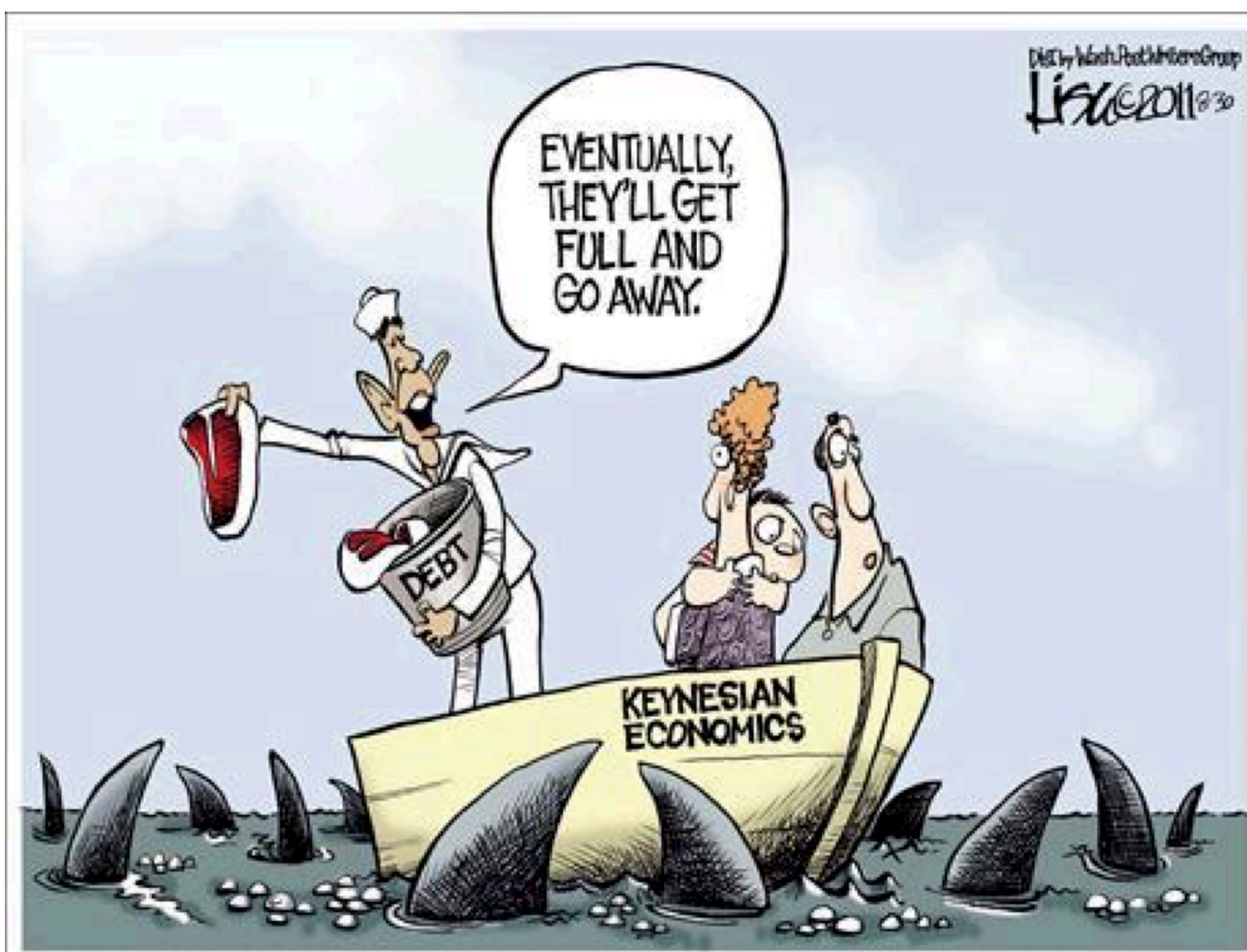
**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics (Competing policy-making interests).*

## 4.8 Explain how political ideologies vary on the government's role in regulating the marketplace.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Ideological differences on marketplace regulation are based on different theoretical support, including Keynesian and supply-side positions on monetary and fiscal policies promoted by the president, Congress, and the Federal Reserve.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What is the essence of Keynesian economics? What is the alternative? Where do the two major political parties stand on Keynesian theory?

Double Check

4.8 **Explain how political ideologies vary on the government's role in regulating the marketplace.**

*Ideological differences on marketplace regulation are based on different theoretical support, including Keynesian and supply-side positions on monetary and fiscal policies promoted by the president, Congress, and the Federal Reserve.*

**Discovering economic policy-making and policy-makers**

Assess how each engage in economic policy-making

The **PRESIDENT**. Find three (3) examples of how our current president attempts to impact the economy. Contrast with his/her predecessor. How do partisan differences help to explain the differences?

The **CONGRESS**. Find three (3) examples of how our current Congress attempts to impact the economy. Contrast with previous legislatures. How do partisan differences help to explain the differences?

**FEDERAL RESERVE**. Find three (3) examples of how our current Federal Reserve attempts to impact the economy. Contrast with previous Federal Reserve policy. Who is our current Federal Reserve Chairman? Who appointed him/her? Is this a partisan appointment? Explain.

Which policy-maker has the greatest influence on our economy? Explain. Any player left out?

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics (Competing policy-making interests).*

#### 4.9 Explain how political ideologies vary with regard to how the government addresses social issues.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Liberal ideologies favor less governmental regulation of personal privacy and more involvement in promoting social and economic equality; conservative ideologies favor more government of personal privacy and less governmental involvement to ensure social and economic equality; libertarian ideology opposes any governmental regulation of personal privacy or social/economic equality beyond the protection of individual liberties and private property.



garyvarvel.com

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Which political party holds to traditional values? Why? What are advantages and disadvantages of this?

Double Check

- 4.9 **Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in addressing social issues.**  
**Explain how political ideologies vary with regard to how the government addresses social issues.**

Liberal ideologies favor less governmental regulation of personal privacy and more involvement in promoting social and economic equality; conservative ideologies favor more government of personal privacy and less governmental involvement to ensure social and economic equality; libertarian ideology opposes any governmental regulation of personal privacy or social/economic equality beyond the protection of individual liberties and private property.

Explain how HEURISTICS and LABELS assist in our political habits:

Define each term. Explain their view on the proper role of government. Find specific social issues they favor.

CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL	COMMUNITARIAN	LIBERTARIAN

Do you think ZIP CODE is destiny?

Are we still a government “of the people, by the people and for the people”? Explain with examples.

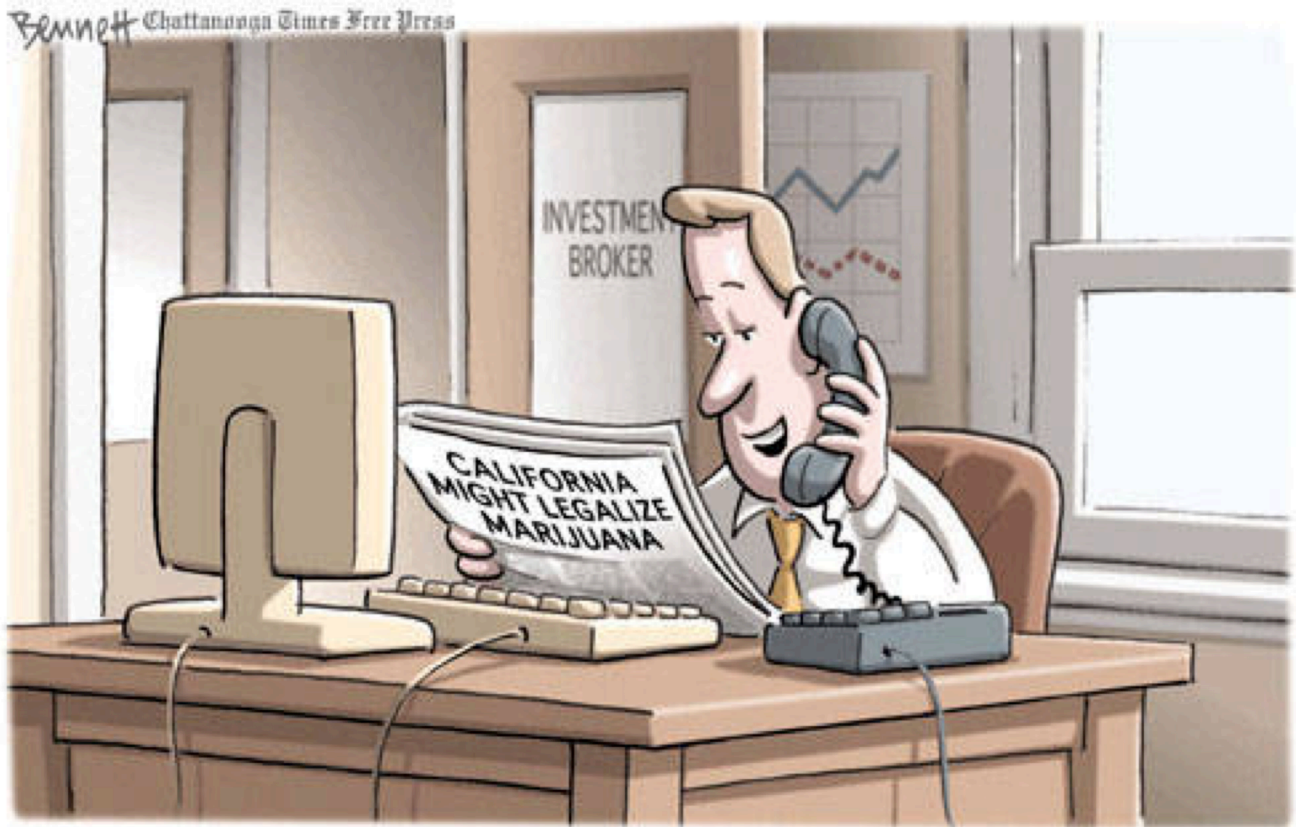
**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics (Competing policy-making interests).*

**4.10 Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of conservative or liberal perspectives in political parties.



'My advice - buy Frito-Lay.'

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What factors drive social policy changes? Is social change easy or difficult? Explain with examples.

4.10 **Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues.**

Policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of conservative or liberal perspectives in political parties.

Pro-life (anti-abortion) is a conservative social stance. *Trace pro-life or pro-choice policies during at least two (2) Republican presidential administrations.* Cite examples. What does the evidence show? Any surprises?

Legalization of marijuana is a liberal social stance. *Trace legalization policies during at least two (2) Democratic presidential administrations.* Cite examples. What does the evidence show? Any surprises?

Find a social policy advocated by LIBERTARIANS. *Trace how our last two (2) presidents have responded to this libertarian social policy.* Cite examples. What does the evidence show? Any surprises?

What political party/idea is best suited to govern over our social norms? What is the federal government's responsibility in building a culture?

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics (Competing policy-making interests).*