

Unit 4 AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND BELIEFS

4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics

Room 2B HIVE

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RULE of Law...

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? [Write your response like a claim statement]
2. Is the “rule of law” a bipartisan issue? Explain.

A French tourist, Alexis de Tocqueville, objectively published his observations after traveling here in 1831. His book, **American Democracy**, continues to shed light on America’s unique core beliefs, values and norms both then and now.

For each of these excerpts, restate in your own words. According to de Tocqueville, what made American democracy successful?

1

I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers; in her fertile fields and boundless prairies; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great...

2

There is not a country in the world where man takes possession of the future more confidently, or feels with more pride that his intelligence makes him master of the universe, which he can reshape to his liking. It's movement of mind that can only be compared to the one that brought about the discovery of the New World three centuries ago. In fact, one could say that America is being discovered a second time.

3

Town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and how to enjoy it. A nation may establish a free government, but without municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty.

American Political Core Values

For each of the following core values, define in your own words; list three (3) examples from contemporary political life in America.

Individualism

Equality of opportunity

Free enterprise

Rule of law

Limited government

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

% Who say the economic system in this country...Unfairly favors the powerful interests

	2014		2016		2018	
Democrats	71	70	73	76	82	84
Republicans	51	54	54	54	46	36

% Who say the economic system in this country...Is generally fair to most Americans

	2014		2016		2018	
Democrats	27	26	24	22	17	15
Republicans	45	42	43	44	50	57

Pew Research Center

Use the information graphic to answer the questions.

- Identify the political party that recognizes that American equality of opportunity is working.
- Describe a similarity or difference between the economic outlook of Democrats and Republicans, and draw a conclusion that explains the similarity or difference.
- Explain how party platforms reflect the economic views of their relative constituents.