Political Spectrum
Left of Moderate

Liberal – (Left) – Believe that the government should actively promote social reform to increase individuals’ well being. Favor change but work peacefully within the existing political system. (Democrats, Green Party)
Right Side of Moderate

**Conservative** – (Right) – Government should stay out of the lives of citizens and businesses, except on moral issues. Favor the status quo, (the way things are). Hesitant to change. Will work peacefully within the existing political system. (Republicans, Reform)
Moderate – (Middle) – Moderates are people who have opinions between liberal and conservative and may include some of both. They are generally tolerant of many viewpoints. They generally don’t hold any extreme viewpoints.
Far Left Side of the Spectrum

Radical – (Far Left) – Favor a rapid, fundamental change in the existing social, economic or political order. Will use extreme measures including violence to achieve their goals. (Communist)
Far Right of the Spectrum

Reactionary – (Far Right) – Advocate a return to a previous state of affairs, often a social, political or economic order that existed earlier in history. Will use extreme measures to achieve their goals including violence. (Dictatorships, Monarchies, Oligarchies (Taliban))
Liberal

Change
Tradition
Problems are circumstantial
Problems are individual
Gov’t is responsible for social reform
Gov’t needs to be less involved
Freedom – personal choices
Equality – fairness – level the playing field
Human rights
Property rights
Moral Absolutes
Relative Values

Conservative
Democrat vs. Republican

Liberal vs. Conservative
Ideology applied to issues

Change
- Pro-choice
- Gay marriage
- Flag burning

Tradition
- Pro-life
- Heterosexual marriage
- Flag burning amendment
Problems in society

circumstantial

Welfare programs
Health care for all
Drug rehabilitation programs

Individual

Welfare limits
Private health care
Tough on crime
The role of government in society

Gov’t is responsible
For social reform
- Education funding
- Assistance programs
- Environmental protection

Gov’t should be
less involved
- School vouchers
- Charity tax deductions
- De-regulation
Equality - Freedom

Social equality
- Anti-discrimination
- Gender equity
- Affirmative action programs

Individual freedom
- The right to hire
- Merit pay
- Competition
The people’s rights

- Human rights
  - Environment
  - Assistance programs
  - Crime Prevention – rehabilitation

- Property rights
  - Pro-business
  - Tax cuts
  - Tough on crime
    - Death penalty

- Human rights
- Property rights
Morality

Relative Values
- Pro-choice
- Gay rights
- Legalize drugs

Moral absolutes
- Pro-life
- Traditional Family
- Criminalize drugs
Rex Tugwell, an advisor to president FDR, said that different attitudes toward change characterize adherents to different political philosophies. He wrote that if a community needed a new train station, or education reform, crime control, etc.

- **liberal** would like to rebuild the train station while the train is running;
- **radical** prefer to blow up the train station and forgo service until the new structure is built.
- **conservative** would prefer to keep the old station, being satisfied with it,
- **reactionary** would abandon the station entirely since they do not approve of trains in the first place.