

Political Labels and Parties

- Do Now – Take the political philosophy quiz

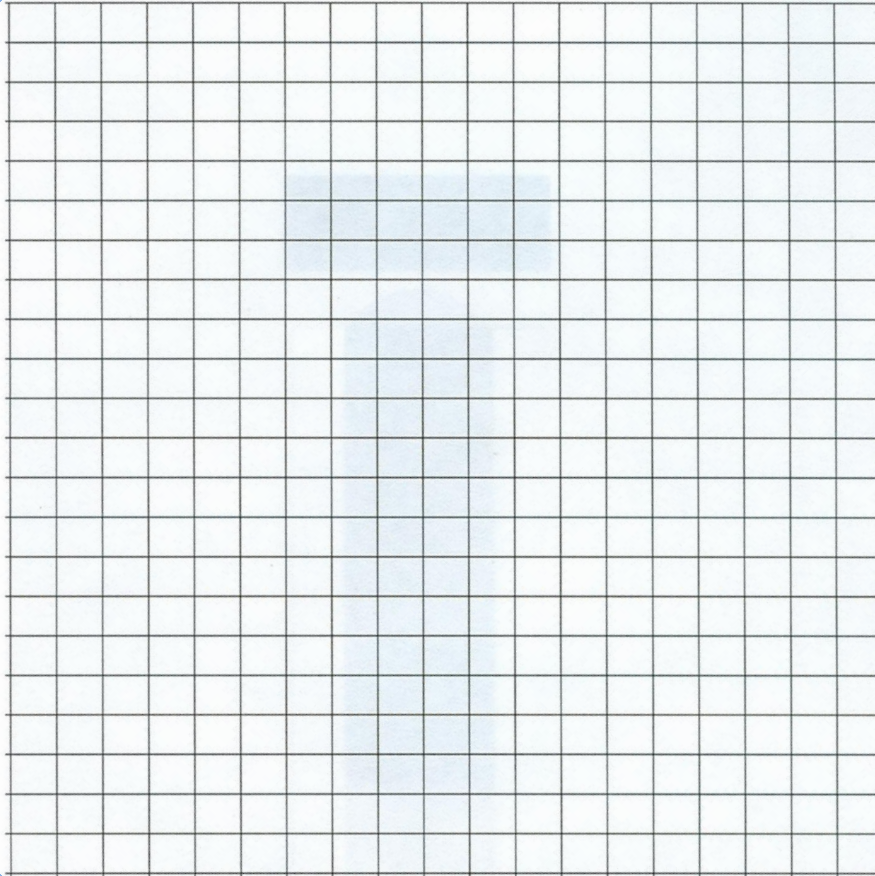
**Political Quiz
Personal Issues**

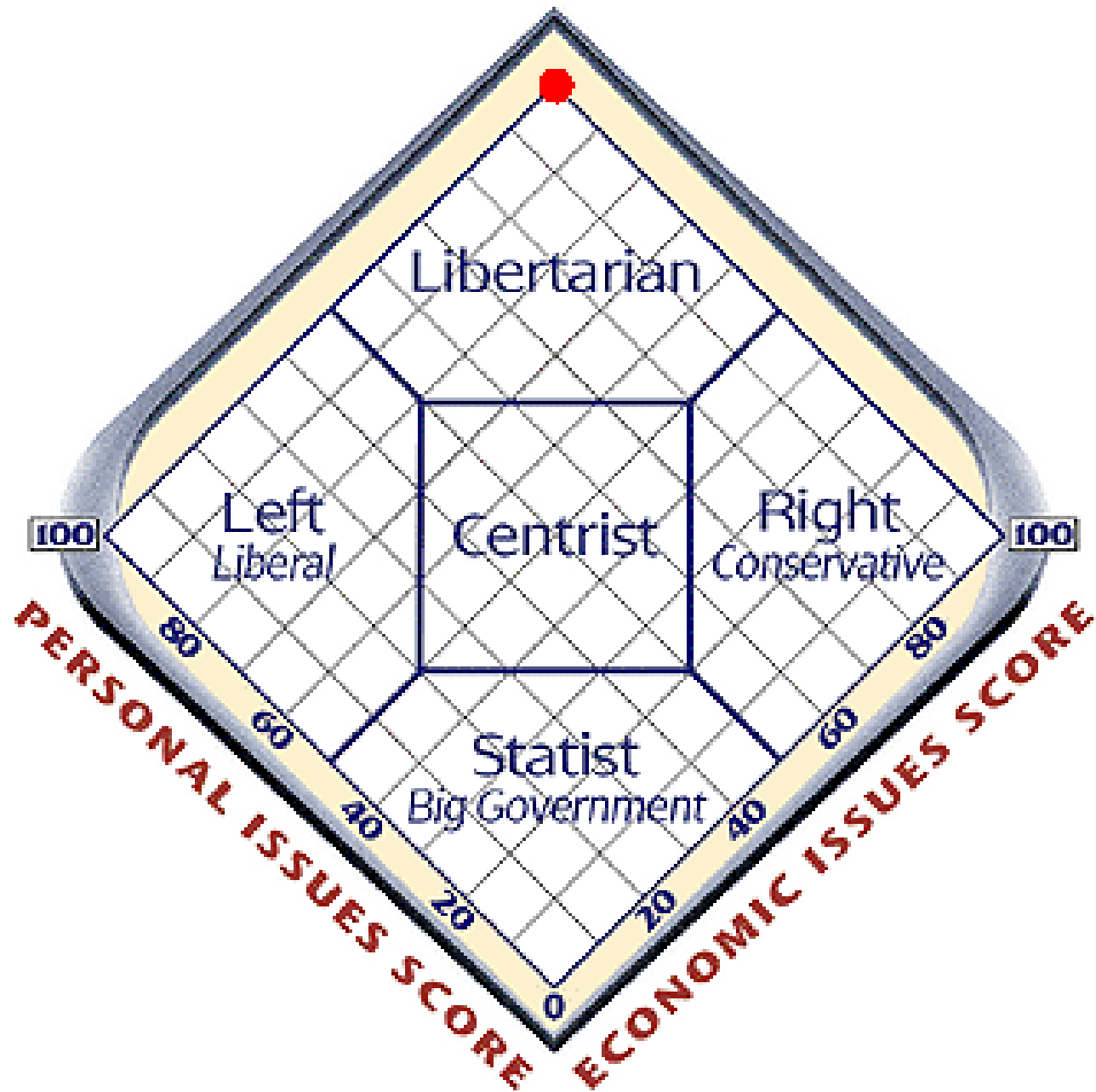
(Rate on a scale of 0 to 10 – Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)

Government should not limit speech or the press	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Men and women should have the same opportunities and roles in the military.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should be no laws prohibiting marriage between consenting adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of Marijuana.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A woman's access to abortion should be legal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People should be able to use public bathrooms designated for the gender with which they identify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should be very few limits on immigration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gambling should be legal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government should be prohibited from monitoring people's internet searches and emails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should be no voter photo ID laws	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Economic Issues

(Rate on a scale of 0-10 – Strongly Disagree to strongly agree.)			
Government should not bail out failing banks or other businesses – big or small.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The government should not restrict trade with tariffs or other barriers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Let people control their own retirement; eliminate Social Security and end social security taxes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government welfare programs should be ended. There should only be private charity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should not be a minimum wage.			
There should not be government run health insurance.			
People should be able to choose what sorts of schools their tax dollars go to – both public and private			
Businesses should be able merge without government interference			
Government should not establish emissions regulations for automobiles			





- Based on what we just did:
- What would you say is the definition of a liberal in today's politics?

Political Labels

	Liberals	Conservatives	Libertarians	Statist
Economic Issues Examples...				
Personal/Social Issues Examples....				

- Are there any issues that don't fall into this model?

Traditionally/Historically

- **Conservatism**

- Want to keep in place the social, political, and economic order → they believe it's fair.

- **Liberalism**

- Belief that the current order protects those that are in power and doesn't allow certain groups to have equal opportunity → want to change the order.

Does this fit in with our definitions today?

Political Labels

Left – Liberal

Right – Conservative

Moderate (Box) – Most Americans

Do you think having labels is useful?

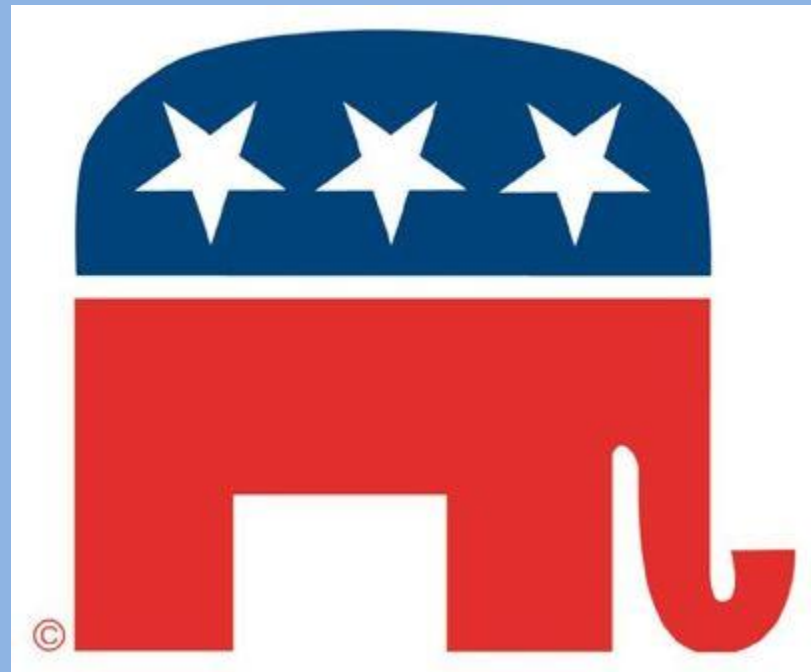
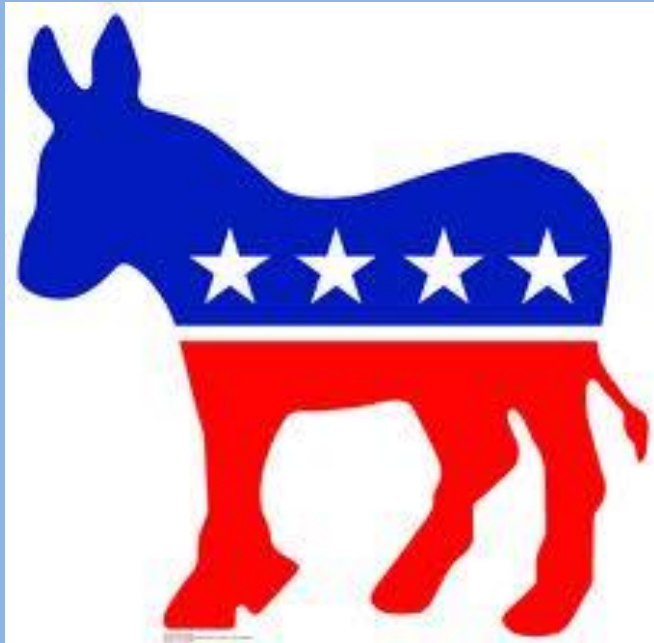
What is the danger of having political labels?

Political Labels

	Liberals	Conservatives
Economic Issues Examples....		
Personal/social issues Examples.....		

Aim: Are political parties good or bad for democracy?

- Do Now: What is a political party?



What is a political party?

- Organization of people united by common ideological principles that seeks to
 - Run candidates for office
 - Win elections
 - Control government

George Washington on Parties

"However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion."

Are parties good or bad for democracy?

BAD

James Madison – Federalist 10
- Parties/factions put self-interest above the national interest

George Washington –
Farewell Address –
unprincipled people will
use parties as a vehicle to
gain power

Patronage and Cronyism –
giving jobs to certain
groups of supporters to
maintain support

GOOD

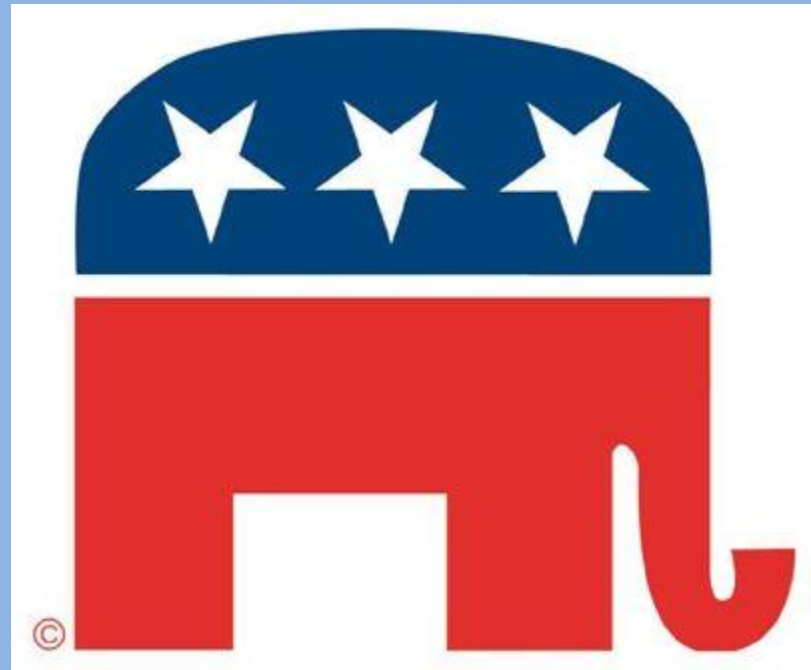
- Clarify choices for voters
- Get people involved in political process
- Provide a vehicle for people to have like-minded people win elections and control government

How many political parties are there?

Democrats
Republicans
Green
Libertarian
Constitution
Socialist
Democratic-Socialist
Communist

Conservative
Liberal
Civic UNION

Why do we have a “Two Party” system?



Reason 1 – District representation



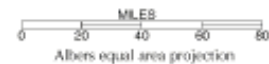
nationalatlas.gov
Where We Are

NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
113th Congress (January 2013-January 2015)

The Constitution prescribes Congressional apportionment based on decennial census population data. Each state has at least one Representative, no matter how small its population. Since 1941, distribution of Representatives has been based on total U.S. population, so that the average population per Representative has the least possible variation between one state and any other. Congress fixes the number of voting Representatives at each apportionment. States delineate the district boundaries. The first House of Representatives in 1789 had 65 members; currently there are 435. There are non-voting delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

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| 13 | 27 |
| 14 | |



U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

The National Atlas of the United States of America®



District Representation

- People elect individual representatives to represent their geographic area
- Winner takes all – in other words, you get nothing for finishing in second or third place.

(People don't want to waste vote on someone who doesn't have a chance of winning. They sometimes will vote for a candidate who is not their top choice but who has a chance to win.)

Countries with multi-party systems typically have **Proportional Representation**

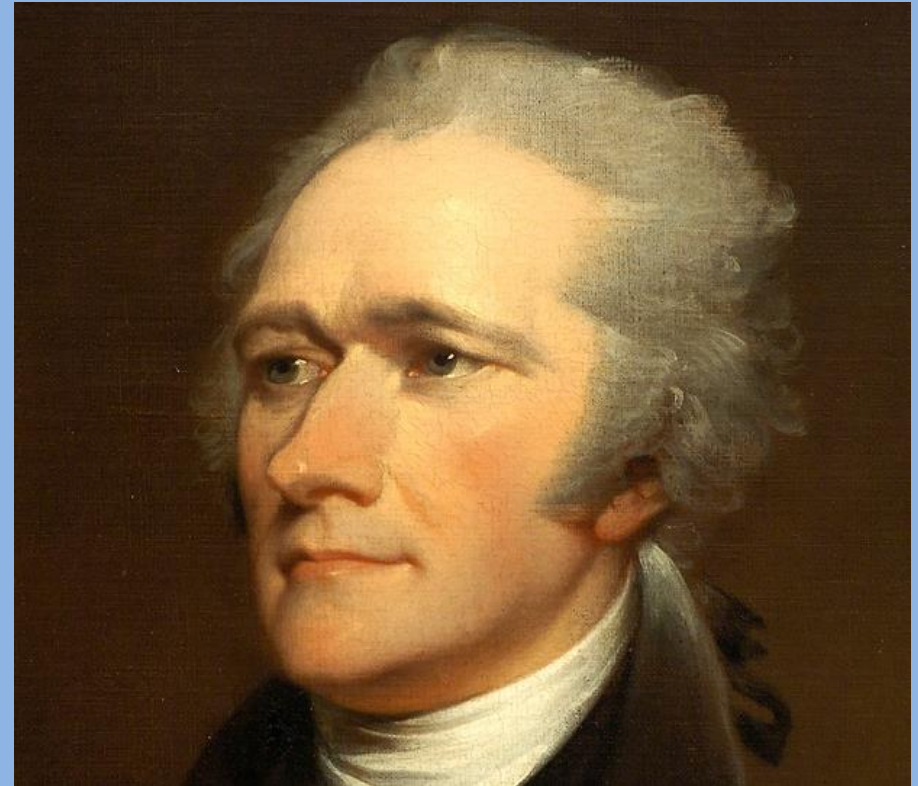
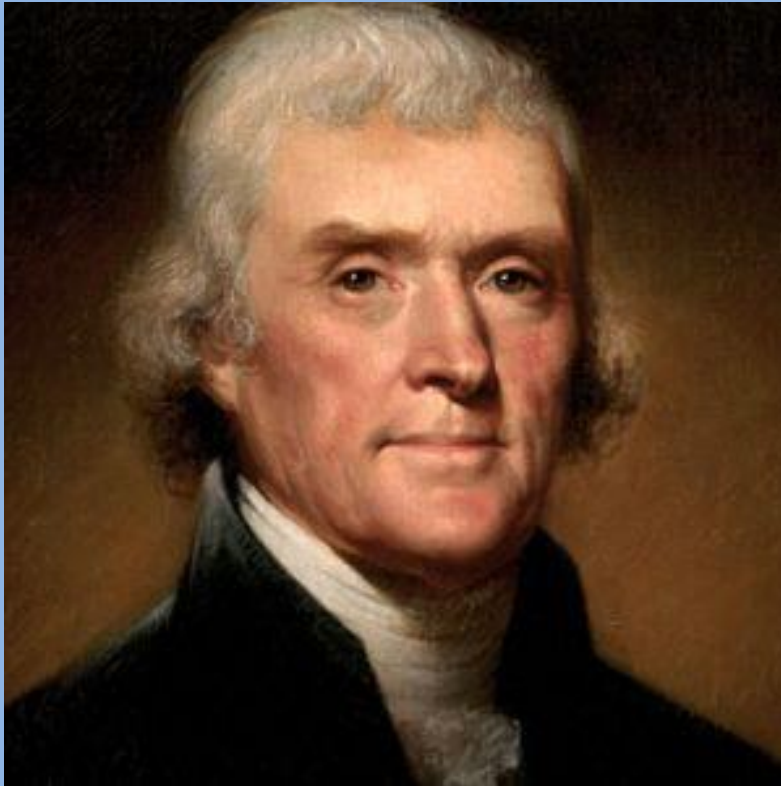
- People vote for a party to represent their ideology rather than someone to represent their geographic area
- The party gets a number of seats based on % of vote it receives

EXAMPLE 200 seats in legislature

- Conservative Party - 40% of vote –
- Liberal Party – 35% of vote –
- Socialist Party – 13% of vote –
- Nationalist Party – 12% of vote -

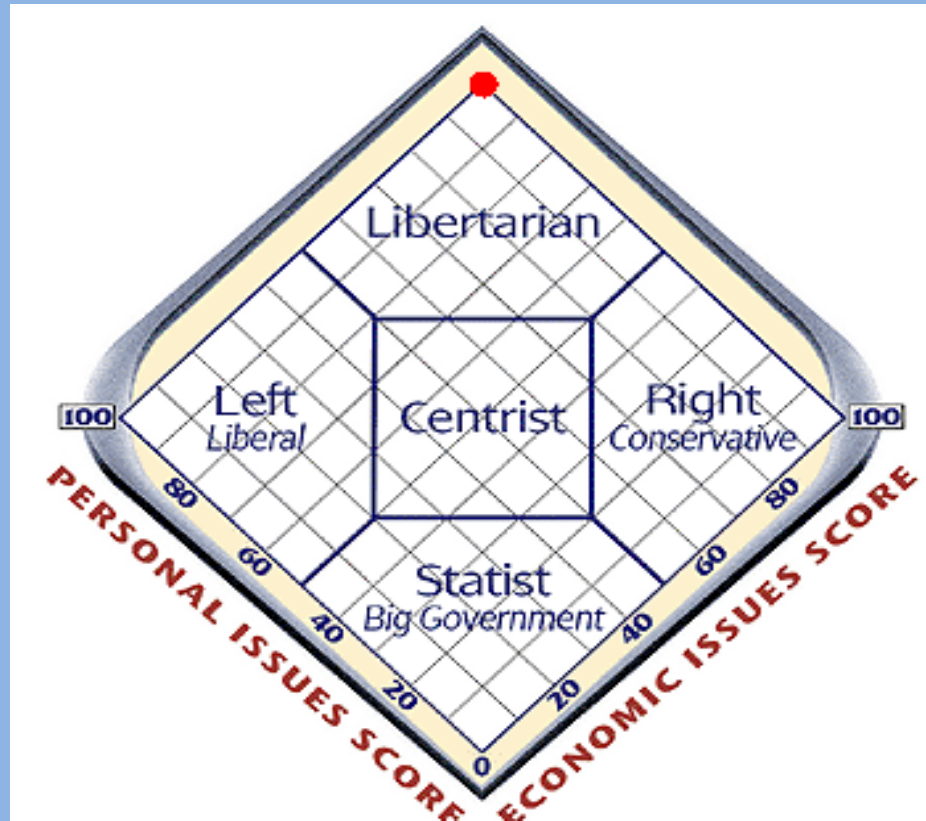
2nd Reason

- Tradition – from country's origins have had a two party system – one representing “conservative” ideology, the other “liberal”



3rd Reason

- U.S.A. tends to be a politically centrist or moderate country as you guys demonstrated the other day in the political quiz



Political Parties and Region

<https://www.270towin.com/>

Democrat or Republican?



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Who is likely to vote Democrat or Republican?

[2016 exit polls](#)

Democrat

Republican