



# Becoming a Better Informed Citizen & Voter

Week 2

Understanding Political Cultures

Information Cutoff Date:  
January 2024

# Selected World Country Political Cultures

	Egalitarian		Individualistic		Authoritarian
Selected World Country Political Cultures (2023)	Canada, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, U.S. (2009)	Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, U.K. (2019), U.S. (2010)	Costa Rica, France, Georgia, Israel, India, Spain, U.K. (2023), U.S. (2020)	Hong Kong, Jamaica, Pakistan, Singapore, Tunisia, Turkey	Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia

- ▶ Cultural studies often look at the customs, languages, music, dance, dress, food, religions, history, literature, economics, and politics of countries and societal groups. In its most general sense, culture defines the social conventions surrounding lifestyles, beliefs, and values influencing a country or societal group's pursuit of their goals.

## DEFINING CULTURE





## Theoretical Foundations of Political Cultures

Political Culture Type	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Dominant Rules	Commitment	Directive	Instruction
Dominant Rules Purpose	Create Roles	Provide Specificity, Sanctions	Delineate Principles, Societal Beliefs
Dominant Rules Function	What Have Right or Duty to Do	What Must Do	What Should Do or Think
Dominant Interests	Wealth	Security	Standing, Reputation
Form of Societal Rule	Heteronomy	Hierarchical	Hegemonic
Societal Rule Goals: Foster Good of...	Entire Society	Specific Individuals and Interest Groups	Leaders and Elites

**From Rule-Oriented Constructivism (Onuf, 1989)**

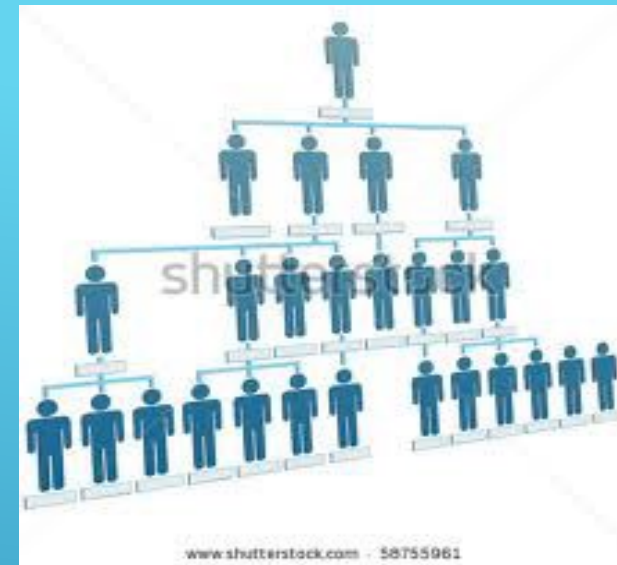
# EGALITARIAN CULTURES



- ▶ Multiple Lateral Networks (very complex societies)
- ▶ Power, resources, communications flow horizontally and vertically across the many interconnected networks
- ▶ Central Concept – the good of the entire society

# INDIVIDUALISTIC CULTURES

- ▶ Hierarchical, Chain-of-Command
- ▶ Power, resources, communications flow up and down within the hierarchy
- ▶ Central Concept – the good of the individuals in the upper hierarchy or interest groups supporting the hierarchy elite



# AUTHORITARIAN CULTURES



- ▶ Authoritarian, Dictatorial, Elite Controlled
- ▶ Power/resources/communications flow from leaders/elite down to rest of society
- ▶ Central Concept – the good of the leaders/elite



## Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures

	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Governing Ideology	Marxist, Liberal	Mixed Liberal-Realist	Realist
Governing Systems	Strong Democracies (Polyarchies), Democratic-Socialists, Full Communists <b>(never existed)</b>	New, Transitional, or Weak Democracies	Autocrats, Oligarchs, Dictators, Fascists, Authoritarian-Socialists
Dominant Religions	Christian Presbyterian, Mixed, No Religious Affiliation	Christian Episcopalian, Hinduism, Judaism	Orthodox Christian, Buddhist, Islamic
Economic and Resource Management	Market, Neoliberal (Free)	Statist, Moderately Regulated (Mostly Free)	Patrimonial, Highly Regulated (Mostly Unfree, Repressed)
Political Rights & Civil Liberties	Free	Partly Free	Not Free
Rule of Law	Strong	Limited	Weak
Elite Accountability	Significant	Some	Little
Corruption	Incidental (Low)	Institutional (Moderate)	Systemic (High)
Civic Engagement and Social Capital	High	Moderate	Low

Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Governing Ideology	Marxist, Liberal	Mixed Liberal-Realist	Realist
Governing Systems	Strong Democracies (Polyarchies), Democratic-Socialists, Full Communists <b>(never existed)</b>	New, Transitional, or Weak Democracies	Autocrats, Oligarchs, Dictators, Fascists, Authoritarian-Socialists

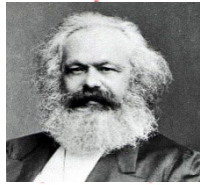
Measurement: Categorized By Various Sources

# The Left vs. Right Political Spectrum

Left Wing



Fantasy Land



Communism



Socialism

**Democratic-Socialism**



Liberalism

**Progressives**

**Constitutional Monarchism**



Conservatism



**Absolute Monarchism**

**M.A.G.A.**



Nazism

Right Wing



**Dictators**

Fascism

**Authoritarian-Socialism**

Worldviews:

Marxist

Liberal

Realist



Cultures:

Egalitarian

Individualistic

Authoritarian



Social Capital:

High

Medium

Low



- ▶ Three main theoretical approaches govern how politics and economics function, i.e., the dominant worldviews start with the theory or ideology

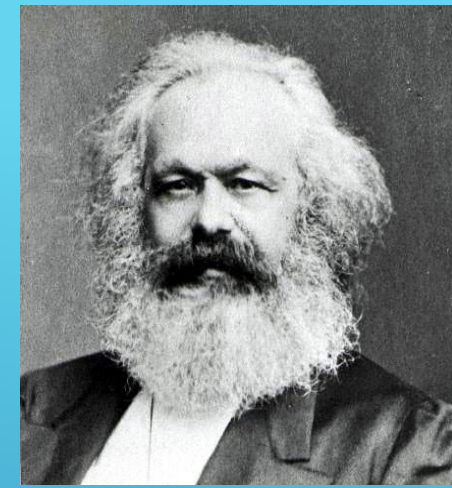
- ▶ Marxist Theory
- ▶ Liberal Theory
- ▶ Realist Theory

Left  
To  
Right



THEORIES OF HOW THE WORLD WORKS  
DRIVE DIFFERING POLITICAL CULTURES

# MARXISM: LAYER CAKE APPROACH



**Karl Marx**  
1818-1883



## **Basic Assumptions:**

Top Layer: political, social, cultural, religious, etc., institutions—The Superstructure

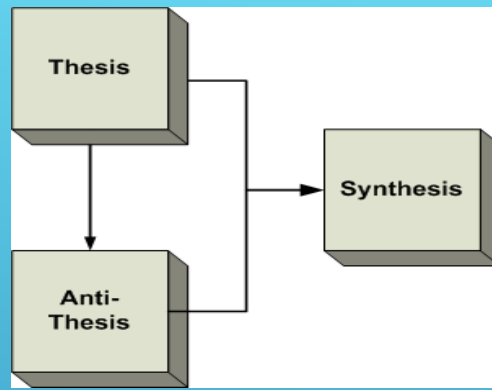
Bottom Layer: The Structure of the Economy (Production)—The Base

According to Marx, the structure of the Economy drives all other societal institutions

Critical Theory is a modern-day update grounded in Marxism and theorizes an improved world order based on Social Justice and “Democratic- Socialism.”

Capitalism

Socialism



Democratic-Socialism?

G.W.F. Hegel's Dialectic

Superstructure

Base

<b>Political System</b>	<b>Primitive Communism</b>	<b>Basic Gov. to Facilitate Slave Control</b>	<b>Aristocracy (Authoritarian)</b>	<b>Democracy</b>	<b>Communism</b>
Economic System	Hunters & Gatherers	Slavery	Feudalism	Capitalism	Socialism

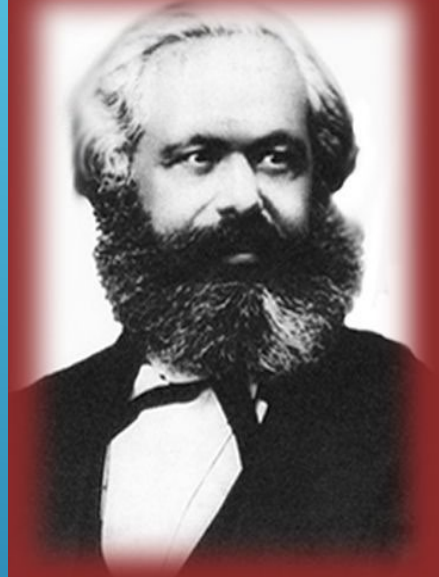
← World Today → Future World (Theorized)

# MARX'S ANALYSIS USING HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

# MARX'S THEORY OF CAPITALISM

- ▶ **Bourgeoisie**—owners (controllers) of the means of production (raw materials, finance, factories, transportation, communications)
- ▶ **Proletariat**—workers who extract raw materials & work in factories, banks, transportation, and communications or provide other services to the Bourgeoisie and workers
- ▶ Bourgeoisie make their fortunes from the “**surplus value**” created by not paying the workers or service providers enough for their labor (i.e., they **exploit** the workers)

**Karl Marx**



## **Das Kapital**

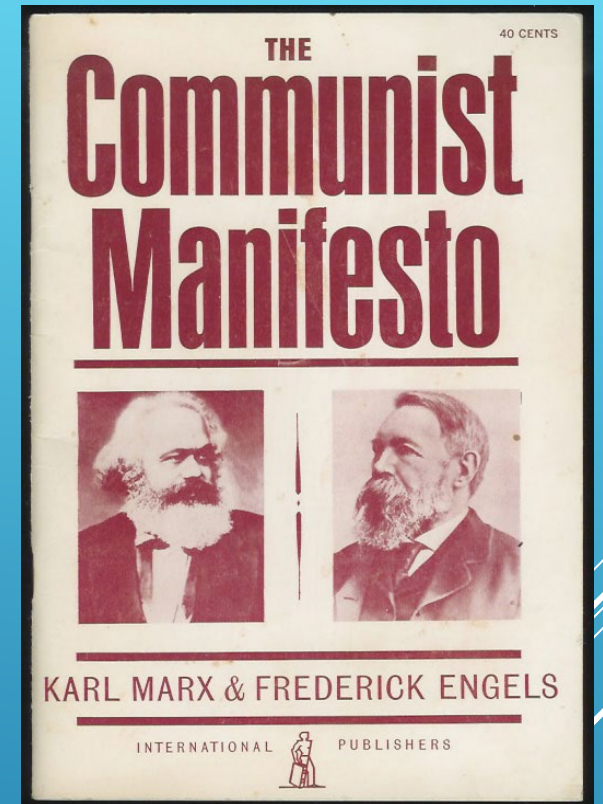
**Volume 1: 1867**

**Volumes 2 & 3**

**published from his  
notes in 1885 & 1894**

# BASICS OF SOCIALISM

- ▶ **Socialism**— Marx's theory calls for social ownership of the means of production and exchange, with a goal of equal distribution of wealth by eliminating private property and ending exploitation of workers by the ruling class. Marx saw societies transitioning from democracy/capitalism to socialism and eventually communism. To speed up this transition, Marx & Engels published the *Communist Manifesto*.
- ▶ Many flavors of socialism exist:
  - ▶ **Marxist-Socialism**—Has never existed anywhere except some Hippie-Communes.
  - ▶ **Authoritarian-Socialism**—State owns all (or most) property, corporations, and businesses, and are ruled by authoritarians. (Soviet Union, China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and more).
  - ▶ **Democratic-Socialism**—Adopt some ideals of socialism within a democratic system. See capitalism as incompatible with the ideals of liberty, equality, and solidarity. Encourage private property ownership. (Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and France (somewhat)).

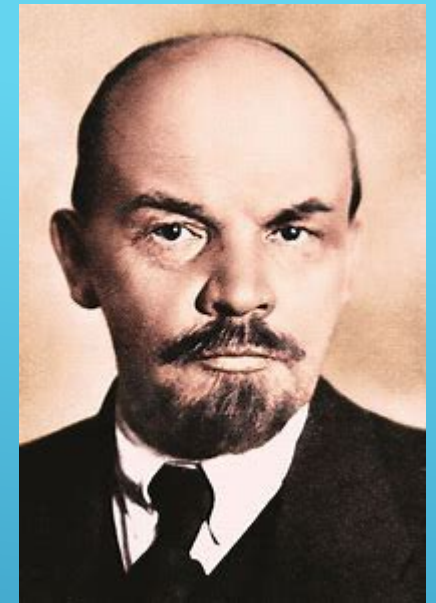


Published 1848

“The proletarians [workers] have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Workingmen of all countries, unite.”



- ▶ Vladimir Lenin created first Authoritarian-Socialist country (Soviet Union) in 1917. He also took Marx's ideas to the international level by:
  - ▶ Equating rich (mainly Western) countries to the Bourgeoisie, who own the means of production and exploit the:
  - ▶ Proletariat or non-rich, developing countries by taking their raw materials and labor at below market values. Imperialism was a manifestation of the rich countries exploiting the non-rich.
- ▶ Lenin offered there would be international conflict as long as the inequality among countries continued.



Vladimir Lenin  
1870-1924

## MARXISM-LENINISM



# LIBERALISM: COBWEB APPROACH



**Security View:** The stronger the “web” the more likely there will be peace

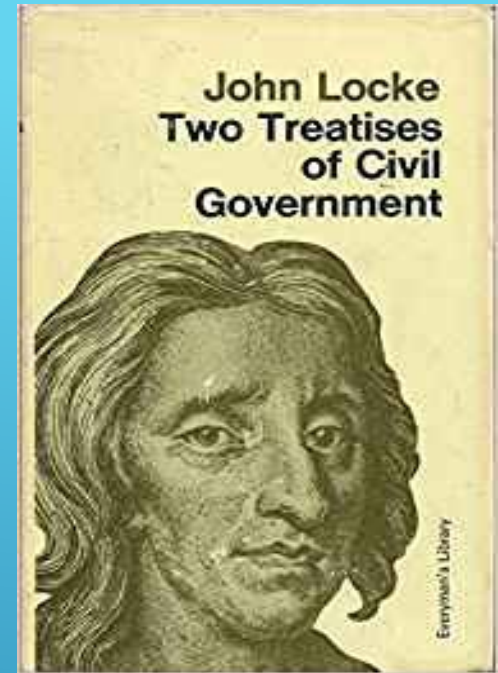
## **Basic Assumptions:**

Institutions (states, organizations, etc.) and people make up nodes (where webs cross)

Nodes have multiple connections (relations) with other nodes

Strength of relationships are based on frequency and nature of interactions, laws, rules, regulations, treaties, etc.

Theories tend to be normative (how world should or ought to work)





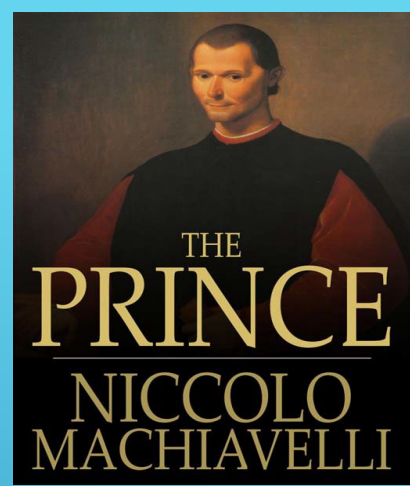
## Liberal New World Order (Globalism)

Began forming during and after World War II and strengthened over next 70 years. Today in disarray

- ▶ Spread of Democracy (not everyone ready for it)
- ▶ Free Trade (remove trade barriers)
- ▶ Globalization (communications, economic, financial, political, public health, transportation)
- ▶ Environmental Stewardship (added recently)



# REALISM: BILLIARD BALL APPROACH



## Basic Assumptions:

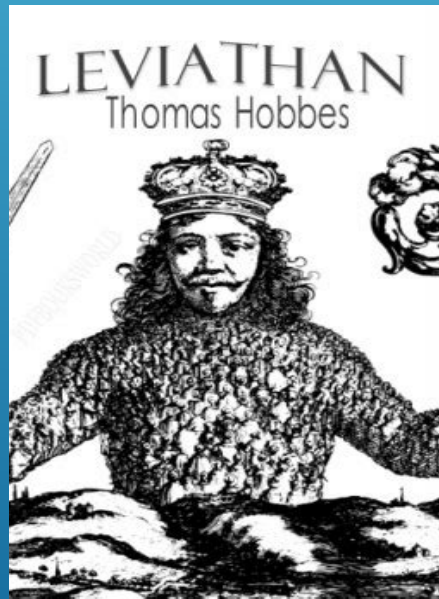
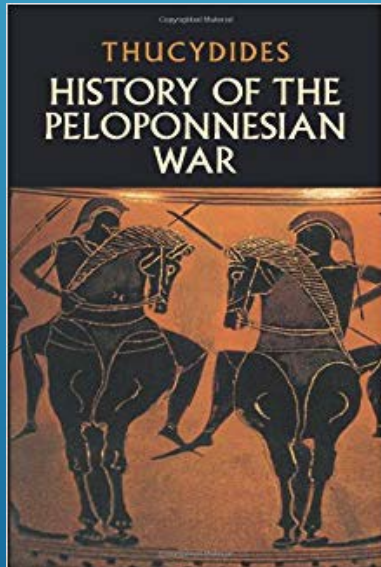
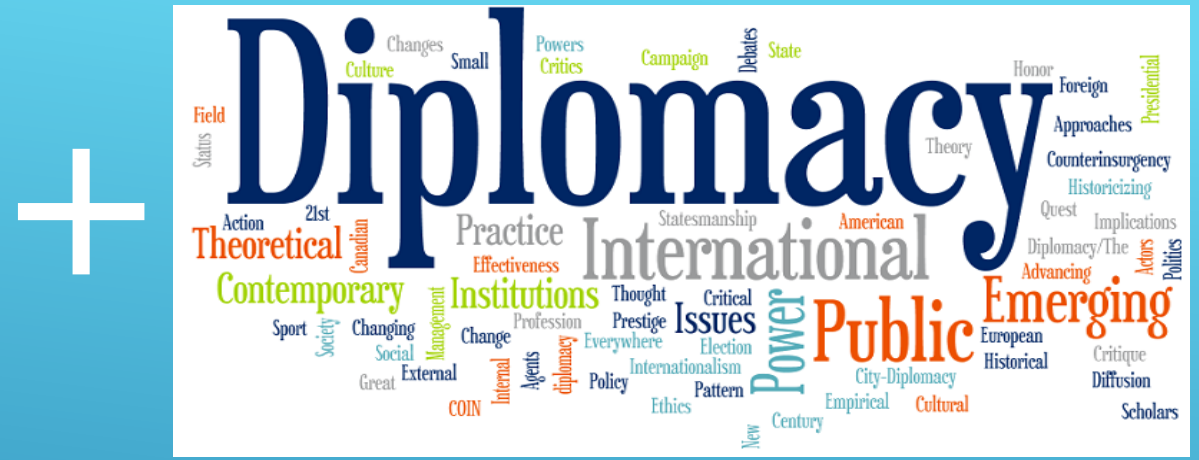
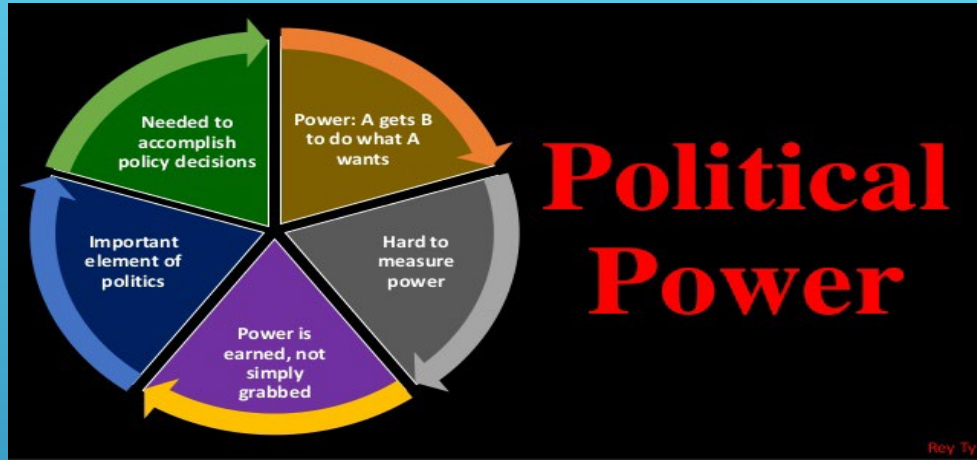
Organizations (states, agencies, etc.) have hard outer shells (internal workings matter less)

Organizations and people constantly bump into each other (frequent interactions)


Organizations and people sometimes form groups (alliances)

Relationships among organizations and people are based on power and negotiations (diplomacy)

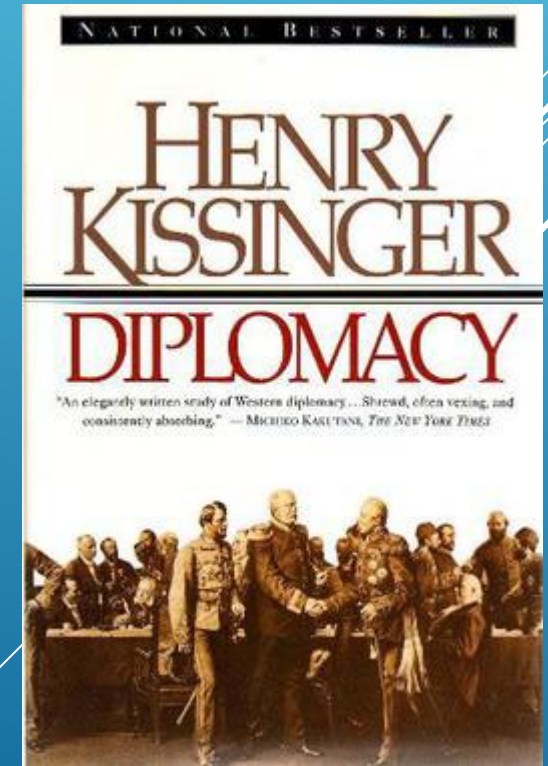
Realism is normally the approach of strong conservative and authoritarian governments.



Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)



- Italian historian and philosopher.
- Best known work *Il Principe* (*The Prince*)
- In order to keep social and political stability, a new prince must be willing to exercise **brute force**, deceit – to act immorally if need be – to maintain control.
- Realist v. Utopian



# REALIST THOUGHT

**TIME FOR A  
10 MINUTE BREAK!**

The image features a solid blue background with a gradient from light blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. On the right side, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines that create a sense of motion or a break in the design.

Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Dominant Religions	Christian Presbyterian, Mixed, No Religious Affiliation	Christian Episcopalian, Hinduism, Judaism	Orthodox Christian, Buddhist, Islamic

## Measurement: Categorized By Various Sources

Christian Presbyterians see interpretation of scriptures, church policies, and control of church activities coming from the members (bottom-up structure). Includes Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Christian, and others. Follow 1500's writings of Martin Luther and/or John Calvin.

Christian Episcopalian see interpretation of scriptures, church policies, and control of church activities coming from the hierarchy of senior clergy (top-down structure). Includes Roman Catholic, Church of England, Mormon, and most Christian Evangelicals.

Orthodox Christians similar to Roman Catholics but rejected the Roman Pope as church leader. Mainly in Eastern Europe.

## Selected List of World Religions

- ▶ Monotheistic Religions (one God)
  - ▶ Jewish, Christian, Islamic
- ▶ Polytheistic Religions (many Gods)
  - ▶ Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, Shinto
- ▶ Other Well-Known Religions
  - ▶ Sikhism, Nature Focused, Syncretic, Non-Believers—and many more



**RELIGION HELPS DETERMINE CULTURE BY HELPING PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND VIEW THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY**



# Root of the Problem with Religious Differences

- ▶ Egalitarian Cultures usually have a common perception that religion is a private matter separate from the larger society or governance.
- ▶ Individualistic and Authoritarian Cultures though often perceive their beliefs, rituals of worship, and spiritual practices are all part of a common life for entire community and not just a private concern, including part of governance.



**MAJOR SOURCE OF MISPERCEPTION  
AND CONFLICT**

Religion # Adherents	Date Started, Sacred Text	Description
Judaism 14 Million	~2000 BCE, Tanakh, Torah (Bible Old Testament)	emerged during the Bronze Age in area of present-day Egypt/Israel/Lebanon (The Levant), emphasis is on relationships between people and between people and God
Christianity 2.2 Billion	After 1 CE, Bible (Old and New Testaments)	follows the teachings of Jesus, who was seen as the divine Son of God, includes Catholics, Protestants (many sects) and Mormons (sacred text is Book of Mormon, plus Old and New Testaments)
Islam 1.6 Billion	After 632 CE, Qur'an & Sharia (ethics)	eternal religion based in writings/teachings of Muhammad who is seen as last Profit of God, <b>extremism forbidden</b> , Sunni & Shia sects differ

# MONOTHEISM (ONE GOD): THE GOD OF ABRAHAM

Religion # Adherents	Date Started, Sacred Text	Description
Hinduism 1 Billion	3300 BCE, Vedas	world's oldest religion, centered around Indus River (India), sees no path to truth is universally valid, umbrella term for many native religions, no single founder
Buddhism 376 Million	405 BCE, Theravada	based on teachings of Gautama Buddha, centered in Tibet, Nepal and Southeast Asia, ethical religion focused on virtuous and exemplary behavior, Dali Lama most visible modern leader
Taoism 394 Million	BCE (no date), Tao Te Ching Zhuangzi	umbrella of Chinese indigenous religions, based on Chinese folk culture that looks at life, society, and a person's place in it, Confucius major philosopher
Shinto 4 Million	6 <sup>th</sup> Century CE, Kojiki & others	umbrella of folk religions in China and Japan, influenced by Buddhism, worship natural phenomenon, commune with nature

## POLYTHEISM (MANY GODS): THE EASTERN (ASIAN) RELIGIONS

Religious Beliefs # Adherents	Description
Sikhism 23 Million	started 1469 CE, monotheistic, founded in Punjab region (India, Pakistan), grew out of Hinduism and Islam, based on teachings of ten Sikh Gurus, very egalitarian and stresses gender equality
Nature-Focused Religions # Unknown	polytheistic folk culture worship of nature and spirits, includes Pagan, Neo-Pagan, WICCA (witches), Druidism, Shamanism—and more
Syncretic (Western Hemisphere) # Unknown	polytheistic blend of African folk culture religions and Christianity, includes Haitian Voodoo, Santeria (Cuba and Caribbean), Candomblé (Brazil)
Non-Believers, Atheism, Agnosticism, 1.1 Billion	those who do not believe in religion (non-believers), do not believe in the existence of gods (atheists) or see that there is no evidence to prove or disprove existence of divine forces (agnostics)

## OTHER WELL-KNOWN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Economic and Resource Management	Market, Neoliberal (Free)	Statist (Mixed), Moderately Regulated (Mostly Free)	Patrimonial, Highly Regulated (Mostly Unfree, Repressed)

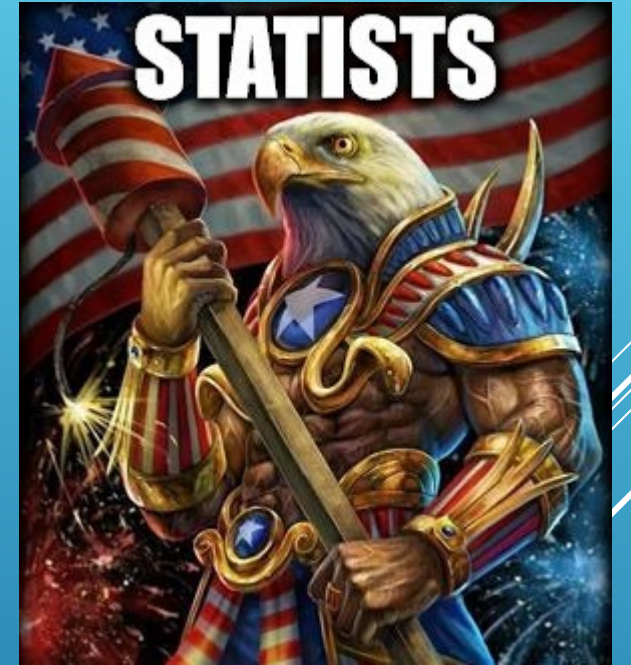
Measurement: Indexes Created by Heritage Foundation, United Nations, World Bank

- ▶ **Market**—current countries with market economies employ free-market capitalism. Marxist socialist economic and resource management systems would also be egalitarian—if they truly existed. Market systems view the main role for the country's government in the economy is to provide public goods the market is unable to provide (monetary and banking systems, public transportation infrastructure, etc.). Market systems enjoy maximum economic transparency and openness, and least corruption.



MARKET SYSTEMS: FREE & EGALITARIAN

- ▶ **Statist (mixed)** economic and resource management systems characterized as moderately regulated capitalism. Statist systems experience moderate government control of a country's economy and government-owned resources. These systems often utilize a mix of patrimonial and free-market mechanisms to manage their economies, while still providing the governing elite ample opportunities for rent seeking (corruption). Knowing their opportunities to accumulate capital are dependent upon their control of the country's resources and economic processes, governing and corporate elite in statist systems strive to ensure they play key decision-making roles in economic and country resource management.



STATIST SYSTEMS: MOSTLY FREE & INDIVIDUALISTIC

- ▶ **Patrimonial** economic and resource management systems are characterized by repressed economic systems—often called planned or command economies. Patrimonial systems foster maximum government control by limiting which classes of citizens (normally only the governing elite) have access to material resources. In these systems the small governing elite tightly control the economy and decide, often capriciously, how government-owned resources are distributed. Patrimonial systems are usually not transparent and provide almost unlimited opportunities for rent seeking (corruption).

PATRIMONIAL SYSTEMS: MOSTLY UNFREE  
OR REPRESSED & AUTHORITARIAN





Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Political Rights & Civil Liberties	Free	Partly Free	Not Free

Measurement: Indexes Created By Freedom House  
NGO and Several IGOs

# The Universal Declaration of HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.



No one has the right to hold you in slavery.



No one has the right to torture you.

You have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.

You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.


No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.



You have the right to a fair and public trial.

Everyone is innocent until PROVEN guilty.

You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home or correspondence.



You can travel wherever you want.



You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own country.

Everyone has the right to a nationality.



Everyone has the right to a nationality.

All adults have the right to marriage and to raise a family.



**WE ARE ALL BORN FREE AND EQUAL**  
**EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THESE RIGHTS**  
 NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY  
**EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY**



*You have the responsibility to respect the rights of others*

**NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY ANY OF YOUR RIGHTS**

You have the right to own property.

Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.



Freedom of Expression: You have the right to free thought and to voice your opinions to others.

Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.

You have the right to help choose and to take part in governing your country, directly or through chosen representatives.




You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social and cultural help from your government.

Workers' rights: Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage and to join a trade union.

You have the right to leisure and rest from work.

Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.

Everyone has the right to education.



Your intellectual property as an artist or scientist should be protected.

We are all entitled to social order so we can enjoy these rights.

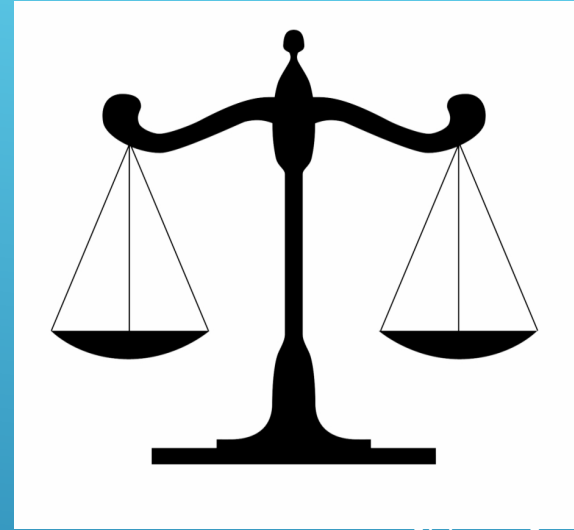
<b>Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures</b>			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
<b>Rule of Law</b>	Strong	Limited	Weak
<b>Elite Accountability</b>	Significant	Some	Little
<b>Corruption</b>	Incidental (Low)	Institutional (Moderate)	Systemic (High)

**Measurement: Indexes Created By:**

**Rule of Law/Elite Accountability – World Justice Project**

**Corruption: Transparency International & World Bank**

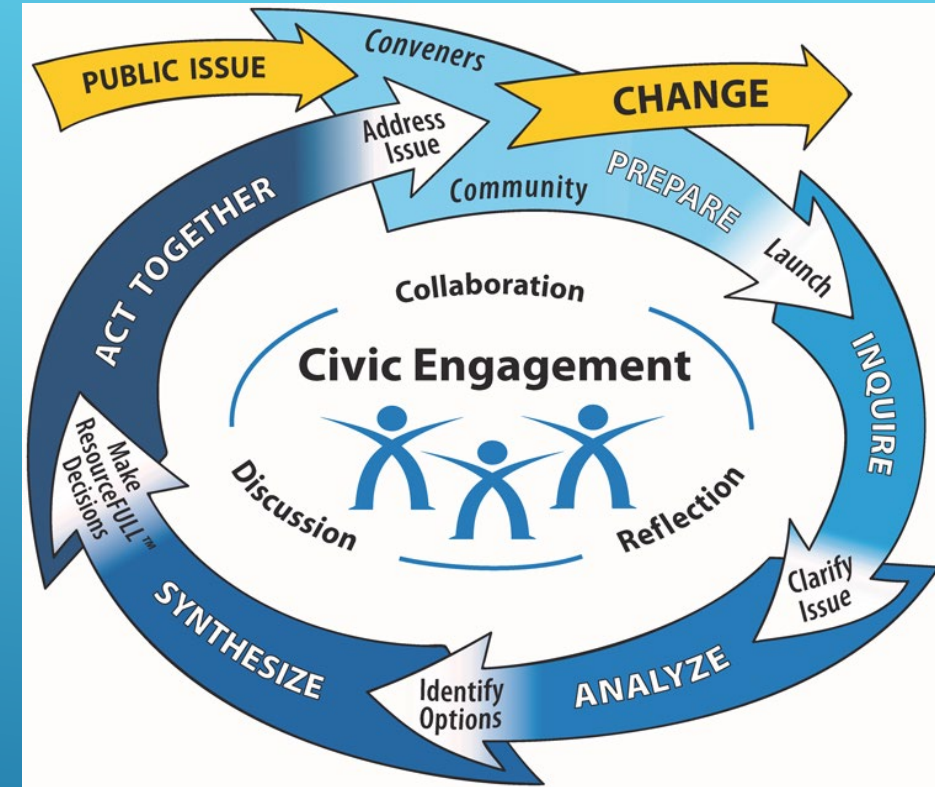
- ▶ **Rule of Law** refers to conditions where people and institutions, both in the public and private sectors, are subject and accountable to constitutions, laws, regulations, formal rules, and informal rules (norms); and these are applied fairly to both the elite and masses.
- ▶ **Elite Accountability** concerns measures of rule of law as to how a country or society's elite are held accountable. Ideally, leaders and elites, both those politically connected and the wealthy, should be treated equally under the law as do other members of the country or society.
- ▶ **Corruption** is defined as the “abuse of public office for private gain” (World Bank). Corruption is limited to relationships between politics, government-owned resources (money, property, positions, etc.), and corporate or business interests. Same actions in just private sector is called “fraud.”



Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Civic Engagement and Social Capital	High	Moderate	Low

**Measurement: Indexes Created By Various U.S. Academic Researchers and IGOs**

- ▶ Civic Engagement = Individual and collective (community) actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern.
- ▶ Found in many forms, civic engagement fosters electoral participation, organizational involvement, volunteer work, and a myriad of other civic activities.
- ▶ Further, civic engagement is the ability of individuals and societal groups to jointly solve problems and achieve community political, economic, and social goals. Community engagement generates norms (informal rules) of reciprocity.



**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT = BEING A BETTER CITIZEN**

# SOCIAL CAPITAL



- ▶ Assess by analyzing:
  - ▶ Social Networks & Interactions
  - ▶ Social Norms (Rules for Interactions)
  - ▶ Social Trust (Reciprocity Expectations)
- ▶ Two Types:
  - ▶ Bonding Social Capital (within group)
  - ▶ Bridging Social Capital (with other groups)

Higher Social Capital leads to better education and children's welfare, safer and more productive neighborhoods, improved economic prosperity, increased health and happiness, and stronger democracies. (Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (2000))

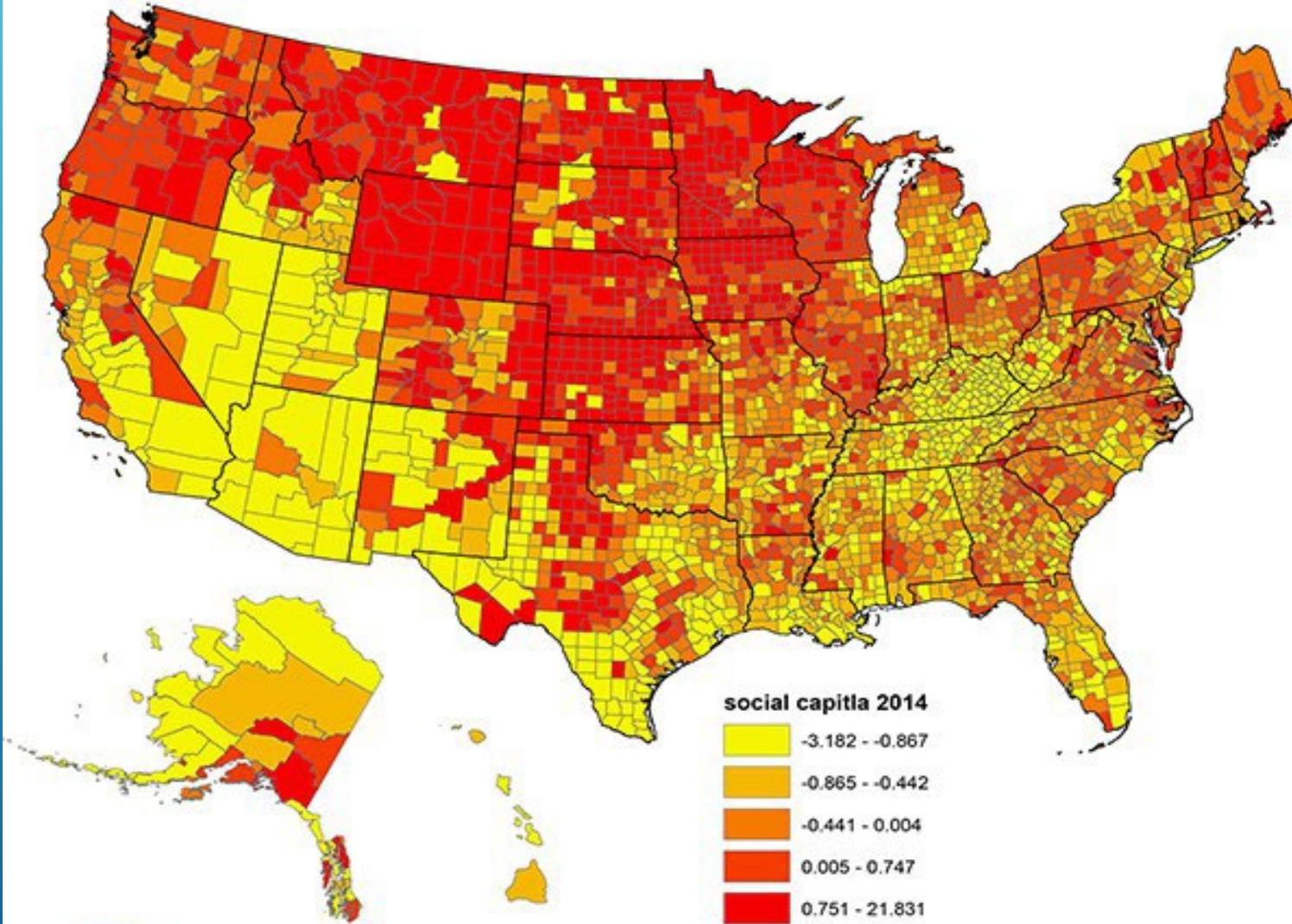


# SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE UNITED STATES

Source: Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (2000)



## County-level Social Capital Levels, 2014



Copyright 2014, The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, all rights reserved.

Lessons:

Social Capital does not change rapidly, see 2001 (last slide) and 2014 comparisons (left)

Within U.S. states, Social Capital can vary widely among towns, cities, and counties

# Selected World Country Political Cultures

	Egalitarian		Individualistic		Authoritarian
Selected World Country Political Cultures (2023)	Canada, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, U.S. (2009)	Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, U.K. (2019), U.S. (2010)	Costa Rica, France, Georgia, Israel, India, Spain, U.K. (2023), U.S. (2020)	Hong Kong, Jamaica, Pakistan, Singapore, Tunisia, Turkey	Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia

Empirical Conditions Correlating with Political Cultures			
	Egalitarian	Individualistic	Authoritarian
Governing Ideology	Liberal, Marxist	Mixed Liberal-Realist	<b>Realist</b>
Governing Systems	Strong Democracies (Polyarchies), Democratic-Socialists, Full Communists	New, Transitional, or Weak Democracies	<b>Autocrats, Oligarchs, Dictators</b> , Fascists, Authoritarian-Socialists ( <b>Benevolent Dictators</b> )
Dominant Religions	Christian Presbyterian, <b>Mixed</b> , No Religious Affiliation	Christian Episcopalian, Hinduism, Judaism	Orthodox Christian, <b>Buddhist</b> , Islamic ( <b>31%</b> )
Economic and Resource Management	<b>Market, Neoliberal (Free)</b>	Statist, Moderately Regulated (Mostly Free)	Patrimonial, Highly Regulated (Mostly Unfree, Repressed)
Political Rights & Civil Liberties	Free	<b>Partly Free</b>	Not Free
Rule of Law	<b>Strong</b>	Limited	Weak
Elite Accountability	<b>Significant</b>	Some	Little
Corruption	<b>Incidental (Low)</b>	Institutional (Moderate)	Systemic (High)
Civic Engagement and Social Capital	High	Moderate	<b>Low (Little Bridging Capital)</b>

Example:

Assessing Singapore

Island/City-State

283 Square Miles

5,917,600 Population

Ethnic Groups:  
Chinese, Malay,  
Indian, plus Others

Wealth from  
International Finance  
and Banking

Highest GDP Per  
Capita in World

Mixed Individualistic-  
Authoritarian Political  
Culture

IN WEEK 3 WE REVIEW THE PROCESSES OF  
FINDING AND ASSESSING INFORMATION  
AND LOGIC AND HOW THESE AFFECT  
GOVERNANCE

