Social 30-1 Notes: Dominant Ideologies of the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century

Contents

Communism
Democratic Socialism
Democratic Capitalism
Fascism
Left or Right Wing?
Spectrum Diagram

Communism

**Why is communism considered a “collectivist” ideology?**

Under communism, all major property is owned collectively by the people, who are represented by the government. No one owns a business or his or her own house. Everyone is a “worker” and everyone works for the government. All the necessities of life are provided by the government.

**What makes communism different from democratic socialism?**

Individualism is less tolerated under communism. There's no ownership of private business and only one political party. An individual who suggests these policies should be changed could be thrown in prison.

**What countries would provide a good example of this ideology of communism?**

The former Soviet Union is probably the classic example. Communist China and Cuba could also be used.

Democratic Socialism

**Why is democratic socialism considered a "collectivist" ideology?**

Countries that practise democratic socialism typically have:

- a high level of government ownership of business, particularly "key" industries like utilities, transportation, and natural resources

- highly developed social welfare programs (government provides health care, dental care, elder care, post-secondary education, etc.)

- high taxes on high incomes to pay for the services government offers. This is a way of distributing wealth so that all people have a good standard of living.
How is democratic socialism economically different from communism?

Democratic socialism advocates the partial ownership of business and property by government. People are still allowed to own property and run businesses. Communism advocates complete state ownership of the means of production. Ownership of private property is forbidden.

How is democratic socialism politically different from communism?

Democratic socialism still practises democracy. People can vote out a socialist government if they so choose. Individual rights are protected by the government. Communist governments typically ban the existence of other political parties so if there are elections, the people have no real choice. Individuals who criticize the government may be imprisoned or worse.

What countries practise social democracy?

Sweden, Denmark, and Norway are often used as examples of functioning social democracies. Many other countries have social democratic parties too.

Is democratic socialism considered a left wing or right wing ideology?

Democratic socialism is typically labelled left wing but is still considered a moderate ideology.

Democratic Capitalism

Why is democratic capitalism associated with individualism.

Individual rights and freedoms are considered to be very important. Included in these freedoms are economic freedoms— the right to own property, run a business, and buy and sell goods at whatever price you want.

Does the government have a role in the economy?

Government may set up rules to regulate businesses and keep them fair. In some cases, where it is seen as beneficial to business, the government may run certain services, for example, the postal system.

What makes democratic capitalism different from democratic socialism?

The government may provide some services to the people in a democratic capitalist nation. However, typically there are far fewer services than in a socialist country. Individuals are expected to be more self-reliant under democratic capitalism.

What would be a good example of this ideology in practice?

The United States, particularly from the late 1800s to the late 1920s, is a prime example.
Fascism

How does fascism differ from communism?

Fascism still allows private ownership of property and the buying and selling of goods. Communists want everyone to be equal (all workers). Fascists say people are not equal; some people are superior to others.

How are fascism and communism similar?

Both ideologies typically require the people to conform to principles laid out in the ideology. Individualism, especially individual thought or expression that is critical of government, is usually not allowed. That said, in most other ways communism and fascism are completely opposed to one another.

What would be a good example of fascism in practice?

Italy and Germany from the 1930s to the mid-1940s are the classic examples of fascist governments.

Left or Right Wing?

- Communism, democratic socialism, democratic capitalism, and fascism all reflect attitudes toward change, so they can all be labelled as left, right, or moderate.

- Communism, because it advocates massive change to social and economic systems, is a far left wing ideology.

- Social democracy advocates some change to social and economic systems, so it is labelled left-wing ideology.

- Democratic capitalism, at least in the forms that existed during the industrial revolution in Britain and the U.S. during the early twentieth century, would be labelled moderately right wing.

- Fascism, in part due to a tendency to want to return the nation to a time of previous greatness and imperial power, is typically labelled a far-right ideology.

Click here to see a diagram
Far Left Extremism

- communism
- democratic socialism
  - associated with liberalism

Moderate Ideologies

- democratic capitalism
  - associated with conservatism

Far Right Extremism

- fascism