

Liberal 1790-1824

Thomas Jefferson spokesman; Favored farmers; Best government is the least government; Advocated states' rights; Opposed National Bank; Supported low taxes/tariffs; Supported reduced army & navy; Laissez-faire

Liberal 1824-1840

Personal Liberty, weak government; Free competition, egalitarian opportunity; Anti-National Bank, anti-tariffs; States should fund roads, canals, etc; Supported Andrew Jackson

Liberal 1840 to 1865

Pro-union, Antislavery; Favored national program of roads/canals; Opposed westward expansion; Opposed extending slavery into territories; Opposed secession

Liberal 1865-1900

Supported Radical Reconstruction; Wanted honest government; Supported Reform Darwinism; Anti-imperialist; Expanded money supply (paper, silver); Supported government regulations of business; Wanted low tariffs

Liberal 1900-1940

Government intervention in society; Progressive social & labor reforms; Regulations & limitations of trusts; Collective security (League of Nations); Promoted consumer protection; Presidents: TDR, Wilson & FDR; Direct government relief/welfare in 1930s; Square Deal, New Deal; Low tariffs

Liberal 1940-1960

Government should regulate economy; Government responsible for people's welfare; Deficit spending acceptable; US accepts international role; Communism a challenge at home & abroad; Supported organized labor; Embraced federal support of racial justice & equality; Encouraged flexible military response

Liberal 1960-1968

Expanded role of government in society; Wanted Vietnam to be a limited war; Racial justice was national priority; Protected the environment; Women's rights important; US should end domestic poverty; Youth culture tolerated & celebrated; New Frontier/Great Society; Counter-Culture

Liberal 1968-1975

Withdraw from Vietnam; Promoted Equal Rights Amendment for women; Nixon & Watergate a threat to liberty; Great Society must be maintained; Blacks' gains must expand with busing & affirmative action; Nixon should be impeached; Counter-Culture

Liberal 1975-1985

Maintain Great Society; Insisted on human rights in foreign policy; Avoid future Vietnams; Detente with USSR; Promoted affirmative action; Supported ERA, Conservation of energy & abortion rights (Roe v. Wade); Counter-Culture

Conservative 1790-1824

Alexander Hamilton; Favored commercial, mercantile groups; Government should be strong; Wanted centralized government power; Favored National Bank; Believed that tariffs were necessary; Strong national Defense

Conservative 1824-1840

Supported compact theory of government; Weak presidents; Pro-National Bank; National governments should fund roads, canals, etc.; Whigs--opponents of Jackson; Supported Henry Clay

Conservative 1840-1865

States' rights; Proslavery; Opposed national program of roads/canals, favored western expansion; Favored extending slavery into territories & secession

Conservative 1865 to 1900

Resisted Radical Reconstruction; Tolerated spoils system; Supported Social Darwinism; Expansionist; Supported god standard; Laissez-faire; High tariffs; Gospel of Wealth

Conservative 1900-1940

Old Guard Republicans; Extremely favorable to business interests; Isolationism; Leaders: Taft, Lodge, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover; Rugged Individualism; Normalcy in 1920s; Best government is least government; No direct relief or welfare; High tariffs

Conservative 1940-1960

Government should be limited in society; Promoted individual responsibility for welfare; Wanted a balanced budget; Communism was a great domestic threat; Limited overseas involvement but contained communism with force; Reconsidered much of the New Deal; States should handle their racial issues; Encouraged massive retaliation

Conservative 1960-1968

Government should be limited in society; Total military victory in Vietnam; States handle racial problems; Restore law & order in cities; Upheld sexual/gender roles; Defended traditional family values; Youth culture deplored

Conservative 1968-1975

Wanted limited government in society; Peace with honor in Vietnam; Maintained traditional gender roles; "Silent Majority" should be heard; Watergate not so important; Repealed some of Great Society; No special treatment for minorities to achieve equality; Nixon is no more corrupt than previous presidents

Conservative 1975 to 1985

Wanted limited government in society; Cut taxes; Increased defense spending; Acted aggressively overseas; USSR viewed as an "evil empire"; Limited federal role in civil rights; Maintained family values; Stressed finding new sources of oil; Prolife (anti-abortion)

Old Paradigm

Political Shift

Modern Paradigm