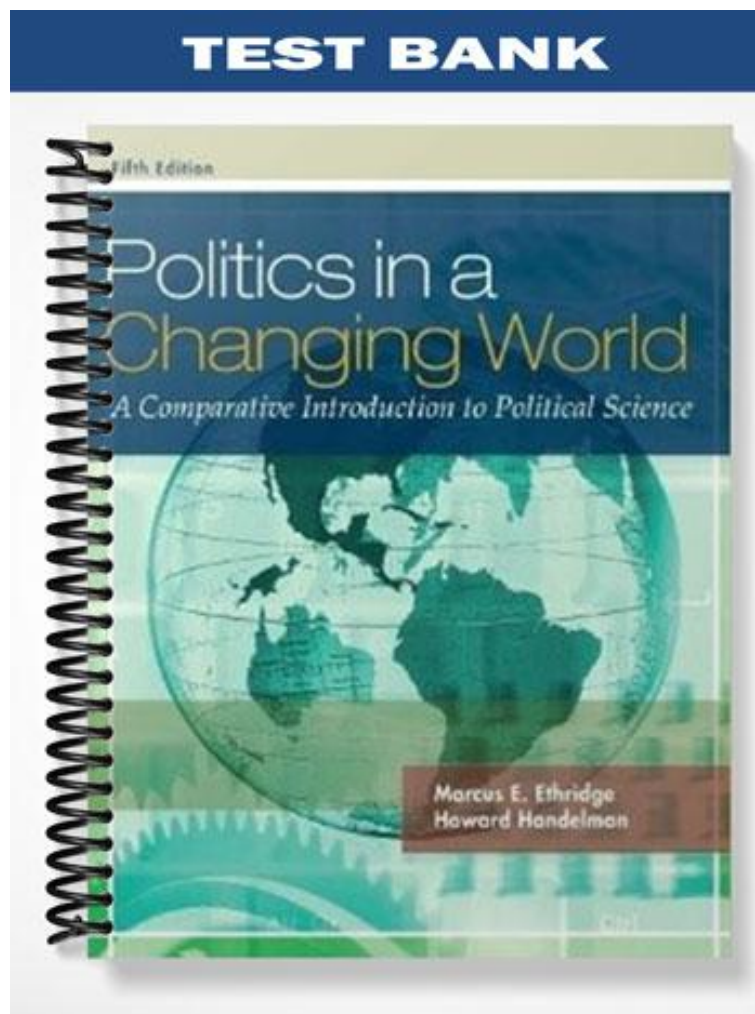


**TEST BANK**



Fifth Edition

Politics in a  
Changing World

*A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*

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CHAPTER 2

IDEOLOGIES: IMAGES OF POLITICAL LIFE

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***Abstract***

People normally think about political life from a particular viewpoint or approach that we call an ideology. An ideology is a more or less coherent system of political thinking. Some ideologies are very elaborate and systematic (Marxism, for example), while others are simply vague tendencies to look at political matters from a consistent perspective. Some people have rather rigid ideologies, while others incorporate new and even radically different ideas into their ways of thinking about politics. Ideologies are important in that they define what people expect from government, how they think government should operate, and their reasons for supporting government. By studying ideology, we are able to understand more fully the behavior of some political systems, and we also gain insights into how each of us feels about political issues themselves.

*Liberalism* has a long and complex history. The key ideas hold that individuals should be free from forces and limits that keep them from achieving their potential and enjoying a fulfilling life. In earlier times, liberalism focused on removing religious or governmental restraints on individual choices, seeing these as the primary limits on human liberty. More recently, liberalism has emphasized active government policies designed to remove the economic and social limits that work against genuine human freedom. In short, liberalism contains a strong measure of tolerance for diversity and attacks all limits on human freedom, whether official or private, cultural or economic. Conservatism emphasizes the benefits to society of traditional values. For conservatives, social disorder and decay arise not from inadequate government spending, but from a decline in moral standards, including the work ethic.

*Capitalism* is best understood as an economic system, not an ideology. However, we can think of capitalist ideology as a way of thinking that supports the conditions needed for capitalist economics: limited governmental intervention in the economy and preservation of private property rights. Capitalist ideology thus advocates individualism, distrusts centralized power, and sees virtue in the profit motive.

*Marxism* is perhaps the most elaborate ideology. It explains how impersonal economic forces transformed society from a state of "primitive communism" to "feudalism" and to "capitalism." It further explained how capitalism would inevitably fall, to be replaced by a socialist system that would remain in place until "true communism" could begin. The tremendous appeal of this ideology derives from its careful and detailed specification, its

focus on the impersonal forces of "economic determinism," and its ultimately optimistic predictions.

*Socialism* is a much less systematic way of thinking that accepts some of Marxism's criticisms of capitalist society. Socialists focus on the problems associated with private property and the seeking of profits, but most socialists argue that reforms can address these problems, making armed revolution unnecessary. Socialist ideology advocates active, strong government to expand public ownership of key industries and to redistribute income from rich to poor.

Other ideologies include *feminism* (an important family of perspectives ranging from the simple belief that women should have equal rights to more radical ideas advocating more positive recognition of feminine characteristics and approaches to problem-solving), *libertarianism* (the most extreme form of the idea that government power should be limited), and *fascism* (a generally anti-intellectual mixture of highly emotional nationalism and racism). *Islamic Fundamentalism* combines a political ideology and theology in ways that involve an often violent anti-Western perspective.

Taken together, the most widely known ideologies help us to appreciate the wide variety of approaches to politics, while also suggesting why some leaders and parties take the positions they advocate.

## ***Chapter Outline***

### I. LIBERALISM AND CONSERVATISM

- A. Liberalism
- B. Conservatism
- C. The Policy Relevance of Liberal and Conservative Ideology

### II. CAPITALISM

- A. The Elements of Capitalist Ideology
- B. Policy Implications of Capitalist Ideology

### III. MARXISM

- A. Economic Exploitation and Economic Determinism
- B. The Stages of Pre-History
- C. The Political Relevance of Marxist Ideology

IV. SOCIALISM

- A. Socialism: A Confusing Political Term
- B. Fundamental Elements of Socialism
- C. Democratic Socialism and Marxism
- D. The Political Relevance of Socialist Ideology

V. OTHER IDEOLOGIES

- A. Feminism
- B. Libertarianism
- C. Environmentalism
- D. Fascism
- E. Islamic Fundamentalism
- F. Anarchism

VII. CONCLUSION: IDEOLOGY SHAPES POLITICAL COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL CONFLICT

***Examination Questions***

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. **Which of the following was an important contributor to liberal ideology?**
- a. Edmund Burke
  - b. John Locke
  - c. Aristotle
  - d. Plato

Answer: b

2. **Which statement captures the modern liberal's approach to the idea of government power?**
- a. Government is always a threat to individual liberty
  - b. Government is always a positive force, and should be used to stop private oppression
  - c. Government is a positive force, except when it addresses economic problems
  - d. Government can be a threat to liberty when leaders are intolerant, but government is often needed to combat private oppression

Answer: d

3. **Which of the following was an important conservative thinker?**
- a. Edmund Burke
  - b. John Locke
  - c. Karl Marx
  - d. Plato

Answer: a

4. **Which of the following is most centrally associated with conservative ideology?**
- a. belief in religious practices
  - b. support for class distinctions
  - c. support for traditional values
  - d. support for economic growth

Answer: c

5. **If a strong upsurge in conservative ideology had taken place in the years following 1965, what impact would this have had on economic inequality in the US (according to a recent study in the *American Journal of Political Science*)?**
- a. inequality would have increased
  - b. inequality would have decreased
  - c. inequality would have been unchanged
  - d. none of the above

Answer: a

6. **Which of the following statements best captures the capitalist ideologue's opposition to centralized authority?**
- a. Centralized authority wastes society's resources because it is wielded by liberal politicians
  - b. Centralized authority wastes society's resources because it is responsive to profit motives
  - c. Centralized authority wastes society's resources because it is overly driven by competitive pressure
  - d. Centralized authority wastes society's resources because it does not harness the competitive pressures of the market

Answer: d

7. **The “Academic Bill of Rights” is associated with which ideology?**
- a. modern liberalism
  - b. capitalism
  - c. Marxism
  - d. conservatism

Answer: d

8. **Who said: “It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but, on the contrary, their social existence determines their consciousness”?**
- a. Karl Marx
  - b. Edmund Burke
  - c. Thomas Jefferson
  - d. Adam Smith

Answer: a

9. **What does “economic determinism” mean?**
- a. economic conditions are determined by political choices
  - b. economic conditions determine which candidate for public office is likely to win an election
  - c. economic factors determine the nature of politics and society
  - d. economic factors are determined by ideology

Answer: c

10. **Why, according to Marx, was there no slavery or economic exploitation during the stage of pre-history known as "primitive communism"?**
- a. agricultural productivity was so low that each person had to consume all he or she produced, leaving nothing for anyone to exploit
  - b. the idea of one person "owning" another had not yet emerged
  - c. pre-modern humans were, for Marx, possessed of a pure innocence
  - d. in pre-modern times, there was no scarcity of resources, and everyone had enough of the necessities of life, making exploitation unnecessary

Answer: a

11. **Which of the following is a “contradiction” of capitalism, according to Marxist ideology?**
- a. capitalism inevitably falls where there are constitutional democracies
  - b. capitalism exploits workers while simultaneously bringing them into close contact with one another
  - c. capitalism makes workers in different countries compete, causing wars
  - d. capitalism produces a materialistic culture, eroding the unifying impact of religion

Answer: b

12. **What did Lenin add to Marxist thinking?**
- a. an appreciation for the importance of capital
  - b. the idea of class conflict
  - c. an appreciation for the importance of political culture
  - d. the idea of “imperialism” to explain why advanced capitalist systems had not been overthrown

Answer: d

13. **Which of the following leaders was considered an advocate of the “Third Way?”**

- a. John Kerry
- b. Bill Clinton
- c. Nancy Pelosi
- d. Newt Gingrich

Answer: b

14. **Islamic Fundamentalism**

- a. Combines religion and politics in an often violent ideology
- b. Advocates Marxist principles
- c. Combines libertarian ideology with a religious foundation
- d. Advocates socialist principles

Answer: a

15. **Which statement best illustrates the difference between libertarian and conservative ideology?**

- a. libertarians are concerned only about economic issues, while conservatives focus on moral concerns
- b. libertarians are less concerned about economics than conservatives are
- c. conservatives are more likely to support government restrictions to strengthen traditional values than are libertarians
- d. conservatives are more likely to support government restrictions to strengthen economic rights than are libertarians

Answer: c

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

1. Compare the policy implications of conservative and liberal ideology.
2. Identify the stages of "pre-history" in Marxist theory and briefly explain how economic factors account for them.
3. Explain the key elements in socialist ideology, and compare them to Marxism.



4. Discuss the relationship between feminism and liberalism.
5. Compare fascism and conservatism.

### ***Ideas and Resources for Class Discussion***

Although it can be tricky, a class discussion of Islamic Fundamentalism is certain to stimulate student interest. A good place to start is a recent essay by David Bukay, "The Religious Foundations of Suicide Bombings," *Middle East Quarterly*, Fall 2006 (InfoTrac article number A151548036). Victor Davis Hansen wrote a characteristically controversial essay, "Challenge Upon Challenge: As our Enemies Get More Capable, So Must We," *National Review*, August 28, 2006 (InfoTrac article number A156055370).

Feminist ideas serve as a good basis for class debates. Although it is a bit long and advanced for most beginning college students, the following essay contains some excellent ideas that may be helpful: Robert C. Ellickson, "Unpacking the Household: Informal Property Rights Around the Hearth," *Yale Law Journal*, Nov 2006 (InfoTrac article number A155919020).