

# 50 Politics: ideology

**Capitalism:** the economy is owned and run by companies and individuals, not the state. In Britain, capitalism is **associated with the Conservative Party** (called **Conservatives or Tories**), which tends to favour the **status quo** and is opposed to **radical change**.

**Socialism:** the economy of a country is **partly** controlled by the state, and there is a belief that **wealth** should be **distributed** equally. In Britain, **socialists** are usually **left-wing**, but not **extremists**. Socialism is usually associated with the **Labour Party**, although the party has generally favoured a **moderate** form of socialism.

**Liberalism:** this is a belief in personal and economic freedom, supporting gradual social and political change. In Britain, many **liberals** vote for **centre parties**, the most **prominent** being the **Liberal Democratic Party**.

**Communism:** a **communist** system is based on **common ownership** of the **means of production**, and everyone is supposed to share the wealth it creates.

## GLOSSARY

<b>ideology</b>	a set of ideas that an economic or political system is based on <b>ideological</b> <i>adj</i>	<b>distribute</b>	share sth among a number of people <b>distribution</b> <i>n</i>
<b>associated with sth/sb</b>	connected with sth/sb <b>associate</b> <i>v</i> ; <b>association</b> <i>n</i>	<b>left-wing</b>	strongly supporting the ideas of socialism OPP <b>right-wing</b> strongly supporting the ideas of capitalism ALSO <b>on the left / on the right</b>
<b>favour</b>	support and agree with sth/sb <b>favour</b> <i>n</i> ; <b>be in favour (of sth/sb)</b>	<b>extremist</b>	a person whose political views are generally not considered to be normal or reasonable <b>extreme</b> <i>adj</i> OPP <b>moderate</b> <i>n, adj</i>
<b>status quo</b>	the existing situation: <b>maintain the status quo</b>	<b>centre party</b>	a political party that is neither left-wing nor right-wing: <b>in the centre</b>
<b>opposed to sth/sb</b>	disagreeing strongly with sth/sb <b>oppose</b> <i>v</i> ; <b>opposition</b> <i>n</i> . <b>The Opposition</b> is the main political party that is opposed to the government.	<b>prominent</b>	important or famous
<b>radical</b>	in favour of complete political or social change	<b>ownership</b>	the state of owning something: <b>public/private ownership</b>
<b>partly</b>	in part but not completely <b>SYN to some extent</b>	<b>means</b> (of sth / doing sth)	an action, object or system by which a result is achieved; a way of doing sth: <b>the means of production</b> (= the materials and equipment needed to produce things); <b>a means of transport</b> ; <b>a means of identification / of contacting sb</b>
<b>wealth</b>	a large amount of money that a person or country owns <b>wealthy</b> <i>adj</i>		

## SPOTLIGHT Suffixes -ism and -ist

The suffix **-ism** is often associated with beliefs and ideologies, and the suffix **-ist** is often used for both the person and adjective derived from these beliefs.

▪ <b>capitalism</b>	<b>capitalist</b>
▪ <b>socialism</b>	<b>socialist</b>
▪ <b>communism</b>	<b>communist</b>
▪ <b>extremism</b>	<b>extremist</b> (BUT the adjective is <b>extreme</b> .)
▪ <b>conservatism</b>	<b>conservative</b>
There are exceptions.	
▪ <b>liberalism</b>	<b>liberal</b>

1 **Mark the stress on these words. Use the  to help you.**

ideology	ideological	capitalism	conservative	status quo	oppose
opposition	extremism	associate	association	distribute	distribution

2 **Complete the table.**

NOUN	PERSON	VERB	ADJECTIVE
ideology	-	-	.....
conservativism	.....	-	.....
socialism	.....	-	.....
.....	.....	-	liberal
.....	-	associate	.....
.....	extremist	-	.....
.....	-	distribute	-

3 **True or false? Write T or F, then change one word to make the false sentences true.**

- 1 A capitalist economy is owned by the people and run by the state. ....
- 2 People associate liberals with personal freedom. ....
- 3 Socialists believe that wealth should be shared equally. ....
- 4 A liberal believes in economic freedom and radical political change. ....
- 5 The Conservative Party in Britain believes in socialism. ....
- 6 Socialists believe that everyone should own the means of production. ....
- 7 Extremists tend to have moderate beliefs. ....
- 8 Capitalism and communism are ideologies with different beliefs. ....

4 **Complete the sentences with the opposite meaning to the first half of the sentence.**

- 1 He's left-wing, but she's ..... .
- 2 I'm poor, but he's ..... .
- 3 He's in favour of it, but she's ..... .
- 4 He wants change, but she prefers to maintain the ..... .
- 5 She has extreme views, but his are quite ..... .
- 6 They're on the left and right, but I'm ..... .
- 7 They were in government, but now they're ..... .
- 8 He's a capitalist, but I'm a ..... .

5 **Complete the sentences.**

- 1 I believe in the equal ..... of wealth.
- 3 I'm in ..... of reducing the age at which young people can vote.
- 5 Do you believe that water should be in public or private ..... ?
- 4 I don't ..... the Conservative Party with radical change.
- 5 Is it important to ..... the status quo?
- 6 The US is an extremely ..... country, and yet many people there are very poor.
- 7 I agree with their policies to some ..... .
- 8 Angela Merkel was the most ..... politician in Western Europe from 2000 to 2020.
- 9 It may not be completely the government's fault, but they are ..... responsible.
- 10 He may not be an actual member of the Labour Party, but does he have any ..... with it?

6 **ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY** Write answers to the questions, or ask another student.

- 1 What are the main political parties in your country? Are they right-wing, left-wing or centre parties? ....
- 2 Would you describe yourself as quite radical or fairly moderate in your views? ....
- 3 Do you generally favour the status quo? ....
- 4 Are you often opposed to the policies of the government? ....
- 5 Would you describe yourself as quite liberal in many of your views? ....
- 6 Do you usually carry any means of identification with you? ....
- 7 What means of transport operate in your town? ....

