

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

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

- **capitalism** **capitalist**
- **socialism** **socialist**
- **communism** **communist**
- **extremism** **extremist** (BUT the adjective is **extreme**.)
- **conservatism** **conservative**

There are exceptions.

- **liberalism** **liberal**

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	-	-	
conservatism		-	
socialism		-	
.....		-	liberal
.....	-	associate	
.....	extremist	-	
.....	-	distribute	-

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

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

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

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

5 Complete the sentences.

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

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



TEST YOURSELF