

## Dominant US ideologies and political parties, Khan University

The two major political parties in the United States, the Democratic and Republican Parties, correspond closely with liberal and conservative ideologies, respectively. These ideologies influence US policy debates, which often concern the appropriate amount of government intervention in the economy or in social behavior.

Although there's a strong correlation between an individual's ideology and their party choice, Americans hold a range of opinions on economic and social issues that don't always fit neatly onto a simple "left-right" continuum. For this reason, some political scientists have proposed a political "spectrum" that charts individual beliefs on multiple dimensions.

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Term	Definition
<b>conservative ideology</b>	Conservatives tend to believe that government should be small, operating mainly at the state or local level. They favor minimal government interference in the economy and prefer private sector-based solutions to problems. "Social conservatives" believe that government should uphold traditional morality, and therefore should impose restrictions on contraception, abortion, and same-sex marriage. Conservatives are said to fall on the "right wing" of the axis of political beliefs, a convention that dates from the place where conservatives sat in assembly during the French Revolution.
<b>Democratic Party</b>	One of the two main political parties in the United States. Founded in 1828 by supporters of Andrew Jackson, the Democratic Party is the world's oldest active political party. Although its platform has transformed many times over the years, today the core values of the Democratic Party align with liberal ideology.
<b>liberal ideology</b>	The definition of liberalism has changed over time, but modern-day liberals tend to believe that government should intervene in the economy and provide a broad range of social services to ensure well-being and equality across society. Liberals usually believe that the government should not regulate private sexual or social behaviors. They are said to fall on the "left wing" of the axis of political beliefs, a convention that dates from the place where supporters of the revolution sat in assembly during the French Revolution.
<b>progressive ideology</b>	'Progressive' is used interchangeably with 'liberal' by many today; others argue that the two terms are distinct. Those who consider the terms separate may say that liberals believe in protecting previously disadvantaged groups from discrimination, while progressives believe it's the government's job to address past wrongs and reform the systemic issues that caused those disadvantages in the first place.
<b>Republican Party</b>	One of the two main political parties in the United States. Founded in 1854 by anti-slavery activists, the Republican Party's platform has also transformed over the years to address issues of concern to its constituents. Today, the core values of the Republican Party align with conservative ideology

### Other ideologies and parties

Term	Definition
<b>communitarian</b>	Communitarians tend to support legislation that emphasizes the needs of communities over the rights of the individual. They are likely to be economically liberal, but socially conservative.
<b>Green Party</b>	The fourth-largest party in the United States. Founded in 2001, the Green Party favors a strong federal government. Its candidates often run on a platform of grassroots democracy, nonviolence, social justice, and environmentalism.
<b>Libertarian Party, libertarian ideology</b>	The third-largest party in the United States. Founded in 1971 by people who felt that the Republican and Democratic parties no longer represented the libertarian intentions of the Founders; libertarians favor limited government intervention in personal, social, and economic issues.
<b>nationalists</b>	Nationalists tend to promote the interests of their nation, and often believe in the superiority of their nation over others.