

YOU MIGHT BE A(N)

Anarchist

Socialist

Communist

if...

You might be an -

ANARCHIST

if you believe:

That a society without a National or State government is best for society. In short, Anarchists reject mandated hierarchy. Anarchists believe that each individual should be able to decide for themselves, without the intervention of authority figures, how they live their lives. Anarchists do believe in community and accountability they just believe it should happen via community values vs. state obligation. Anarchists are also anti-Capitalists since Capitalism creates authority figures who rule over others.

"If there is a State, there must be domination of one class by another and, as a result, slavery; the State without slavery is unthinkable—and this is why we are the enemies of the State." (Bakunin 1873)

You might be an -

ABOLITIONIST

if you believe:

That there are specific institutions in society that cause harm and those institutions need to be abolished in order to start anew. Abolitionism can be specific to a cause such as the prison industrial complex or a general belief system.

Abolition can be used as a tool to rebuild a new and more equitable government or it can be used as a tool to rebuild community without a national government.

Due to historical context



Abolitionist is a term tied to freedom from slavery and though it has evolved over time it is still more common in BIPOC communities than elsewhere.

You might be a -

COMMUNIST

if you believe:

That the gains produced by one's labor should be distributed among the laborers themselves. Communists believe the Utopic goal of society is to rid themselves of class and have all wealth distributed equally among it's citizens. They believe the means of production should be owned not by business or government but by the workers themselves and profit should go to everyone according to their needs. State Communists believe a government is necessary to ensure equity. Social Communists, aka Marxists, believe a government is not necessary but instead reinforces inequity in power.

"From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" -Karl Marx

You might be an -

ANTI-CAPITALIST

if you believe:

That billionaires shouldn't be allowed to hoard excessive wealth while others die of poverty. Anti-capitalists start from a fundamental rejection of Capitalism. *Capitalism is a political and economic system based on the protection of an individual's right to the private ownership of property/business/industry and the use of these things for private profit.* Anti-Capitalists do not believe that any one person has the fundamental right to hoard resources that everyone needs to live.

The United States is a Capitalist Democracy. The elected government serves to protect Capital and those who own it.

You might be an -

ANTI-FASCIST

if you believe:

That Fascism is dangerous and we each have a responsibility to make sure our communities are free of it. Fascism is a belief in Nationalism over individual citizens. As such it does not allow for disagreement with the government. It centers conservative right-wing values, bigotry and racism. Anti-fascists fight for equality and want to radically protect their communities from state-sanctioned bigotry both in policy and on the individual level. Antifa is an example of organized antifascists who fight fascism at the individual level (ex: challenge local N*zis) and politically (ex: black bloc protests).

Caution: being against Antifa means supporting Fascism.

You might be a -

SOCIALIST

if you believe:

That the government's primary responsibility is to make sure it's citizens are well, including the most marginalized.

Socialists are not anti-government, they just believe that a government's primary duty should be to serve it's citizens and not it's own interests. As a result Socialist communities put a great deal of money into healthcare, childcare, education, worker protections, social housing and etc.. Socialist governments tend to tax the rich and limit private control of resources.

"Socialist Countries" repeatedly score higher on Quality of Life surveys than Capitalist countries.

You might support -

DECOLONIZATION

if you believe:

That Indigenous people should have Sovereign rights over their own territories. People who believe in Decolonization believe that Indigenous people should be able to govern their lands and that colonial values should not govern the lives of all national residents. Decolonization does not call for everyone to return to their Homelands but rather that Indigenous people govern property and resources instead of the current government.

#LANDBACK

You might be a -

LEFTIST

if you believe:

That Liberalism enables a harmful government to continue operating. Leftism is socially defined by having political views anywhere Left of Liberal. You might not know where you fit precisely in the Leftist paradigm but you know that you believe our current government isn't working for the benefit of all it's citizens. Leftists believe that a new, more humanitarian, government must be formed... or that community should carry on without government altogether.

All Power to All People!

You might be a -

LIBERAL

if you believe:

That our most productive path toward a healthy society is by "Voting Blue No Matter Who". Liberals believe that our current government can be healthy if we just vote the right people in to run it. Liberalism is often tied to a 'harm-reduction' narrative: meaning the goal is simply to do the least amount of harm within the current paradigm. Even if the current paradigm is rooted in harm. A common Liberal saying is "vote for the lesser evil". By very definition Liberals are then advocates of slow-form change. Anything beyond that is considered radical.

Liberalism ignores that a government based on counting votes reduces the voice of the most marginalized in society to a whisper.

You might be a -

CONSTITUTIONALIST

if you believe:

That a nation should establish a document in writing that lays out basic laws and rights for it's citizens, and that this Constitution should be strictly adhered to.

Constitutionalists believe that the government should be limited by Constitutional law. This limits the power of the government and grants rights to citizens. Many Constitutionalists believe in Democracy but some believe that this can also happen in a Monarchy.

This political system relies on the belief that whoever writes & upholds the Constitution has the best in mind for all people, not just a select few. However, many Constitutions have been written/upheld to favor only those in power . Additionally, this philosophy requires Authoritarianism in order to gain, or force, compliance.

You might be a -

CENTRIST

if you believe:

That choosing between Liberal and Conservative narratives isn't for you. Centrists do not have radical beliefs, they may or may not want to dramatically change the system we live under, but they do refuse to choose between the Left and the Right, Democratic and Republican. They make choices based on their own moral center and not based on party lines. When elected officials campaign for votes they are predominately appealing to Centrists since they haven't yet chosen a side.

Since Centristism is neither Left nor Right, it focuses primarily on slow and incremental change...nothing radical. In this way it often lends itself to harm as thousands die awaiting said change. Often neither the Left nor Right will ally with Centrists because the feeling is they cannot be trusted, that they will flip-flop.

You might be a -

CONSERVATIVE

if you believe:

That the capacity of the government should be limited to it's most critical pieces and that society itself should be built around traditional family values. Conservatives believe in a limited scope of the government, in favor of stark individualism. It is believed that many social programs are unnecessary as it is an over-reach of the government into private lives. "Traditional" family values are honored **but typically only when traditional holds the same definition as the predominant religion** in the area.

This doesn't lend itself well to diversity.

Conservatives don't typically extend themselves to aiding those who struggle. Each person is expected to overcome the barriers that block their ability to fit into these values, however difficult.

You might be a -

CAPITALIST

if you believe:

That a society works best when each person is valued by their individual contributions to it's economic system.

Capitalism is a belief that individuals, more than governments or communities, should be able to own property and affect the economy through private business. The United States is considered a Capitalist Democracy. A primary role of the government is to ensure the people's right to Capitalism. Under Capitalism, those who "have more" receive better care than those who "have less".

Under Capitalism those who are born with less ideally have the same opportunity to "have more" through businessbut those in power are already those who "have more" and thus have little interest in making it possible for those born with less to share part of their profits.

You might be a -

MANARCHIST

if you believe:

That the principles of Anarchy are correct without needing the inclusion of feminism or theories of anti-oppression.

Manarchist is not a formal term. It is a socio-political term that refers to a particular type of Anarchist, typically men, who believe in a society without a State government but do not include an anti-prejudice framework within their beliefs. Often Manarchists rely on their privilege as men to practice Anarchy, without making these spaces available to Women, Non-Binary, Disabled, or Cultural communities.

Manarchists often use social justice language to be part of Leftist communities without having to be accountable to how they take up space within them.

You might be a -

LIBERTARIAN

if you believe:

That the State should have as little investment in the personal lives of it's citizens as possible, or simply not exist at all. Libertarians value personal liberty above all else and as such believe that the government should not be involved in the private lives, or private business affairs, of it's citizens. While this is similar to Anarchism, Libertarians believe in Free-Market Capitalism while Anarchists do not. Libertarians aren't as concerned about equity as they are about personal freedom.

Many Libertarians do claim to believe in equity but when asked how one would achieve this in a Capitalist society, without checks on the most wealthy, they fail to produce a sound argument.

You might be a -

NATIONALIST

if you believe:

That the interests of one's nation, and those who exult their nation-state, should be paramount to everything else.

Nationalists are Patriots, they believe that a strong nation-state is important for the security and well being of it's citizens. Nationalists are also often Supremacists believing that their nation, and their identity as a "true" member of that nation, is superior to that of others. As a result Nationalism often leads to war and hate crimes.

Since Nationalists believe their identity and nation is "Superior" to others they don't often welcome diversity. In fact Nationalism has become synonymous with White Supremacy in common culture.

You might be a -

NEO-NAZI

if you believe:

That some cultures are “correct“ while others are harmful, or that some cultures are more deserving than others.

Neo-Nazi's are modern day Supremacists. They believe that their own nationality, race, or religion is correct. Moreso, they believe others are wrong and should then receive less rights unless they assimilate as closely as possible to the “right way“ of being. Neo-Nazis often use their historical advantages in society to block others from achieving those same advantages.

The political goal of the Neo-Nazi is not equality in justice or liberation but to maintain their advantages in society.

You might be a -

ZIONIST

if you believe:

That people of the Jewish Faith deserve their own Nation State. Zionists believe Judaism should be tied to a Nationality as well as a faith and culture. The goal of Zionism is to establish a Nation-State run by and for people of Jewish faith. Many Zionists believe that Palestine, an already occupied nation, should be the homeland for this Nation-State because of its historical ties to the Jewish community and because of its religious significance.

Ultimately Zionists believe in their cause so much that they are willing to forcefully displace thousands of people from their ancestral homelands in order to claim the region for themselves.

You might be a -

FASCIST

if you believe:

That a nation thrives when it is ruled by Authoritarian power. Fascists are more concerned with constructing a national identity than they are with personal liberty. If an individual is not able to, or refuses to, align themselves with that national identity they will often be persecuted and/or displaced from society. A key component of Fascist ideology is use of the State, it's courts and it's military, to force citizens to comply with particular social expectations.

Fascism differs from Nationalism in its extremism. While they certainly share similar belief systems they differ in what means they are willing to take in order to achieve their goals. Politically speaking, all Fascists are Nationalists but not all Nationalist are Fascists (yet).

What About...

DEMOCRATS &

REPUBLICANS ?

How do these political affiliations relate to voting?

The United States already has an operating government, for better or worse, and how we decide leadership within that government is through financial contributions and voting. While the United States has multiple political parties one can vote for in elections, only two typically achieve success in higher positions within the government - Democrats and Republicans.

Democrat

Democratic voters tend to be **Liberals**. Democrats generally believe in a strong government whose job is to regulate business and resources as well as provide social services for its citizens.

Republican

Republican voters tend to be **Conservatives** & really anyone in the “Right-Wing” political spectrum. Republicans generally believe in a limited government and broad support for private business.

Third Party

Third Party voters **span the political spectrum**. Third party voters are hopeful that we can use the current system to create change but with new types of representatives and philosophies.

Independent

Independent voters are **undeclared, undecided or Centrist**. Independents vote according to their moral compass, per issue, instead of voting according to Party lines.

Conscientious Objector

Conscientious Objectors are usually **Leftists** who believe that voting rarely works to gain sustainable rights and is instead an act of participation in a tyrannical government.

Political Self-Assessment

There are no right answers. These questions are designed to help you think about where you land on the political spectrum and why.

- 01 How sure are you that a National government is necessary in maintaining a well society?

- 02 To what extent is it ethical for the government to be involved in the personal affairs of it's citizens?

- 03 What degree of rights should citizens have to challenge, or even change, their government to their own benefit?

- 04 Who in society should determine what is ethical and normal for it's citizens? And... how strictly should that be enforced?

- 05 What should happen to people who break the rules of society? Who should be in charge of that?

- 06 To what degree of significance should Personal Liberty have in society? Should it come before Nation? Community Well-Being?

- 07 How important is a shared National Identity for the safety and well-being of society?

- 08 To what degree does the government have a responsibility to represent the minority?

- 09 Should a 'Bill of Rights' last generations or should it change with time? Who should be responsible for changing it?

- 10 In what way should a government be chosen? And by Whom?

Political Self-Assessment

There are no right answers. These questions are designed to help you think about where you land on the political spectrum and why.

11 Who should own the means of production? (The resources that enable a society to function: factories, farms, raw minerals, oil)

12 Who in your nation should be allowed to own property? Are there limits?

- The Government?
- Tribes?
- Individuals?
- Non-Profits?
- Churches?
- Corporations?

13 Who should control labor in the country to ensure a healthy economy?

14 Whose responsibility is it to maintain social equity in society?

15 To what degree of significance should religion play in the role of government and societal values?

16 To what degree does the government have a responsibility to secure the happiness of it's citizens?

17 Who counts as a citizen in society? Do people outside your borders count? In jails? Should non-Citizens also have rights?

18 To what degree does nature, and/or animal life, have rights in society? Are they citizens or non-citizens?

19 How necessary do you believe it is to maintain a military? Does it need to be the most powerful in the nation?

20 What makes a government legitimate? Can a government non-Indigenous to a Nation be both legitimate and non-tyrannical?

Nothing in this zine is intended to spread hate, this was created for educational purposes through the lens of an Indigenous woman.

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