

Origins of Political Ideologies



- **Classical Liberalism**

- Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations*
- major changes in Europe...
 - Industrial Revolution
 - Urbanization
- which results in the creation of the **middle class** which has no political power but has lots of money
- middle class begins to challenge traditional authority and revolts against the government (1789 French Revolution)
 - **liberals** see this as justified, they support Smith’s ideas and oppose absolutism – they later split into our modern day “liberals” and “conservatives
 - **conservatives** don’t like this challenge to the traditional authority, they resist change
- 1980s - Iron Lady, Ronny, Boy from Baie Comeau

- **Reform Liberalism**

- John Maynard Keynes (and others)
- focused on freedoms in life
 - pot, porn, gay rights, etc...
 - “*The State has no business in the bedrooms of the nation.*”
- more democratic, interventionist in economics
 - trying to guarantee a minimum standard of living
- more eager to provide collective goods via the state
 - UI, CPP, redistribution of wealth by progressive income tax, etc.

- rose out of the concerns for the new working class of the Industrial Revolution
- today, growth of large corporations and reduction in the number of competitors in key markets are of concern

- **Conservative Principles**
 - reverence for the past (e.g. Queen)
 - organic conception of society (e.g. societies are greater than the sum of their parts)
 - constitutional continuity
 - opposition to revolution
 - cautious reform
 - religious basis of state
 - divine source of legitimate authority
 - priority of *duties* to *rights*
 - loyalty
 - common sense and pragmatism
 - economic orientation – market economy

 - examples
 - Lord's Prayer at school
 - Sunday shopping
 - women covered in Muslim states
 - class system
 - the "American Dream"
 - slavery in the southern United States

- Neo-Conservatism
 - mainly economics
 - rising out of rising debts, growing size of government and taxes

- **Socialism**
 - emerges in the 19th century as a response to the horrors of the Industrial Revolution
 - working conditions
 - living conditions
 - lack of response by the liberal governments
 - “a political and economic theory in which the means of production and distribution are owned, managed, or controlled by a central, democratically elected authority”
 - based on some form of “Utopian” vision
 - planning by government, public ownership, equality of outcome, collectivism

 - Utopian Socialists
 - create ideal societies (communes) so all can see the benefits
 - democratically created institutions

 - Revolutionary Socialists
 - appeal to action
 - went beyond economics to sociology – alienation
 - aka _____