

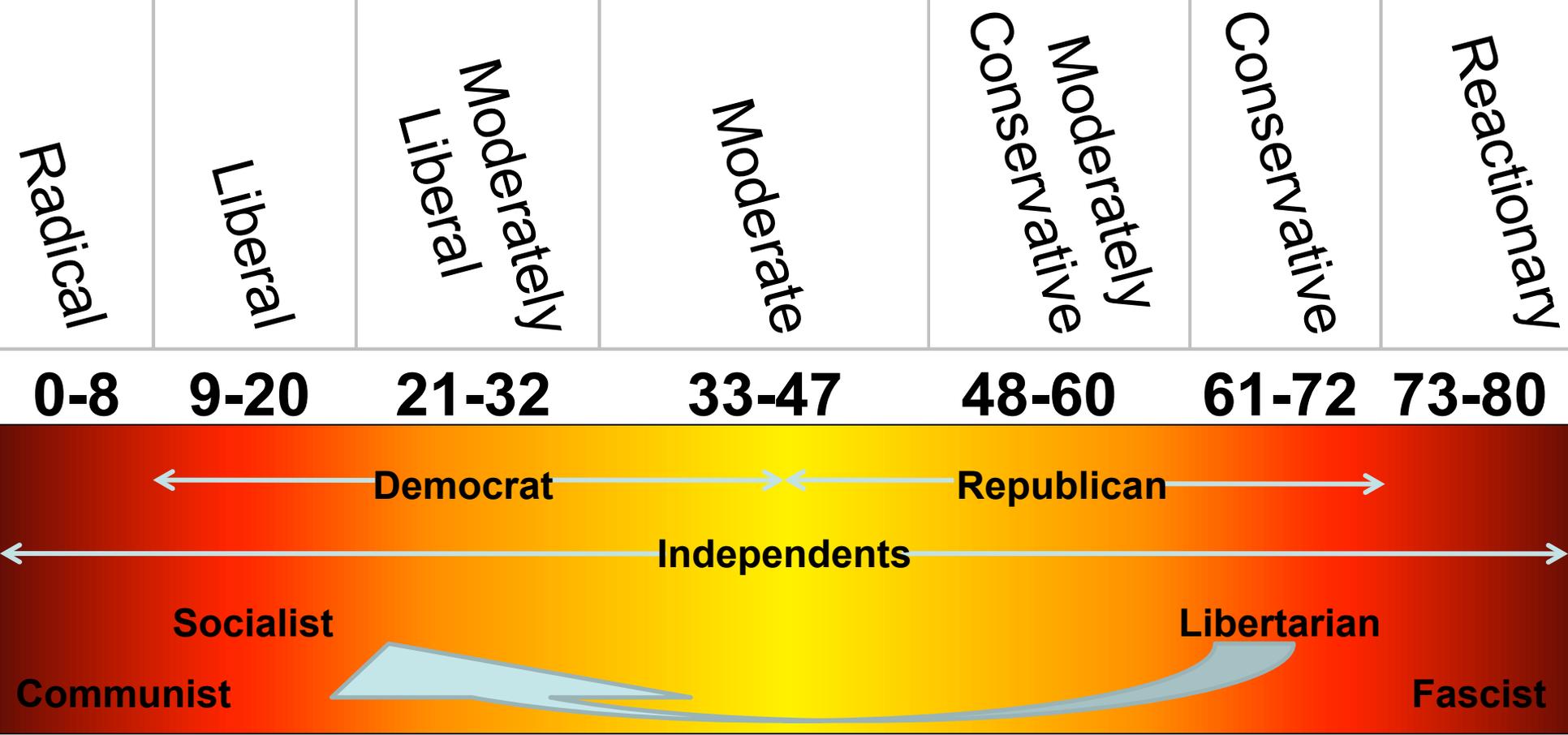
July 9, 2015
Political Spectrum

**Do you think you are a Democrat,
Republican or Independent?**

Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

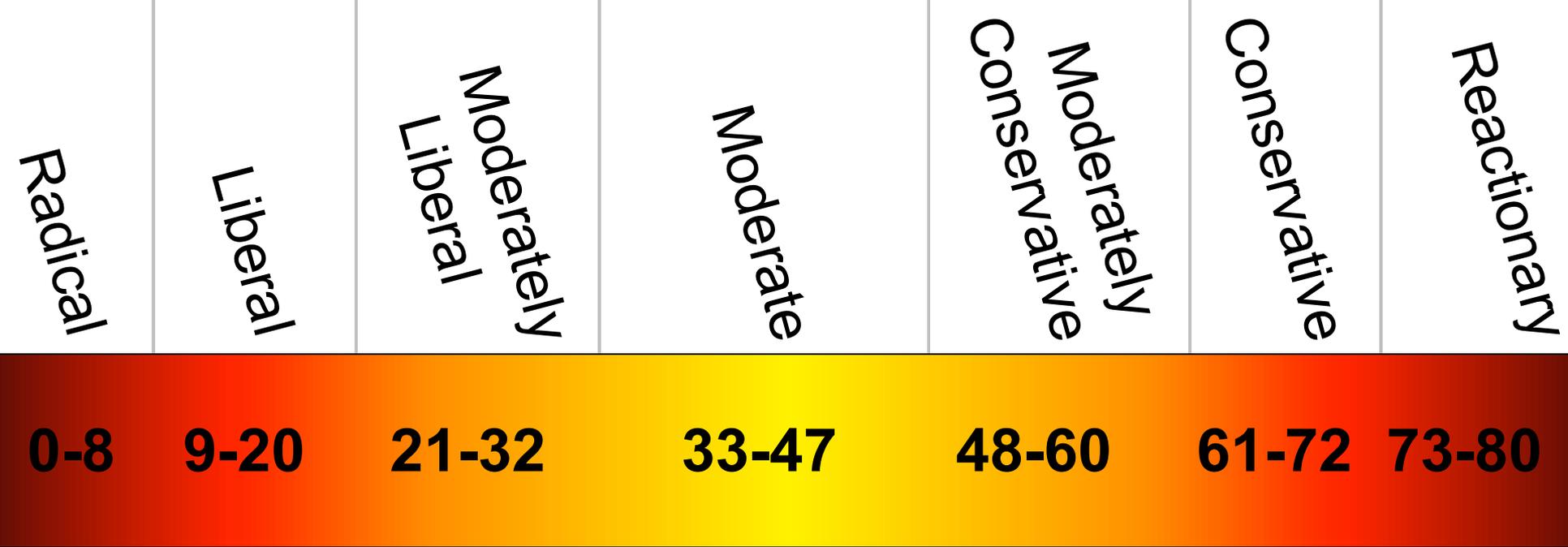
Why do you think this?

What do you think these mean?

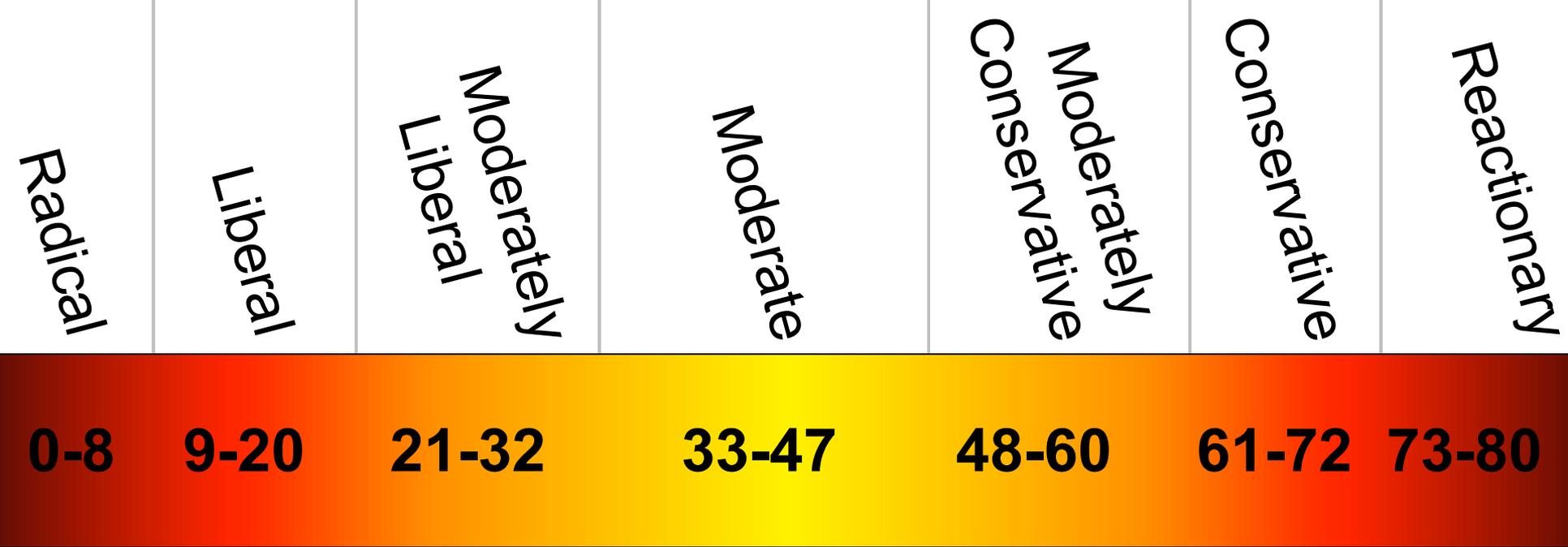


THE MONKEY BUDDHA'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM

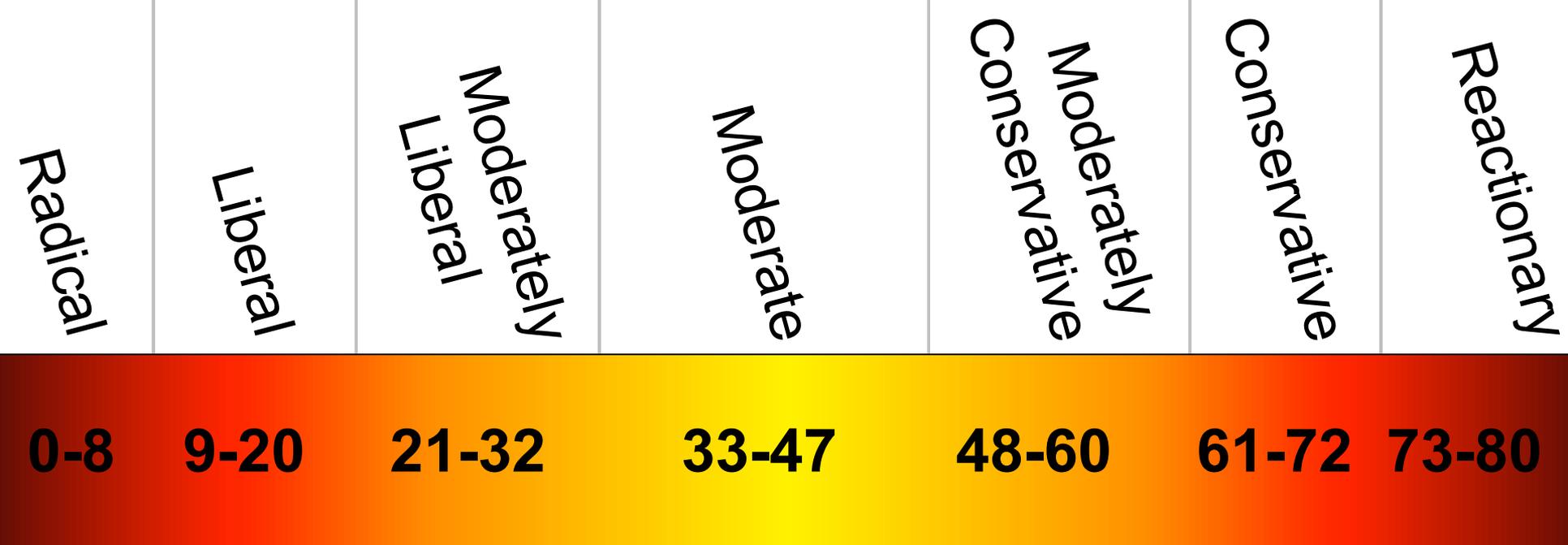




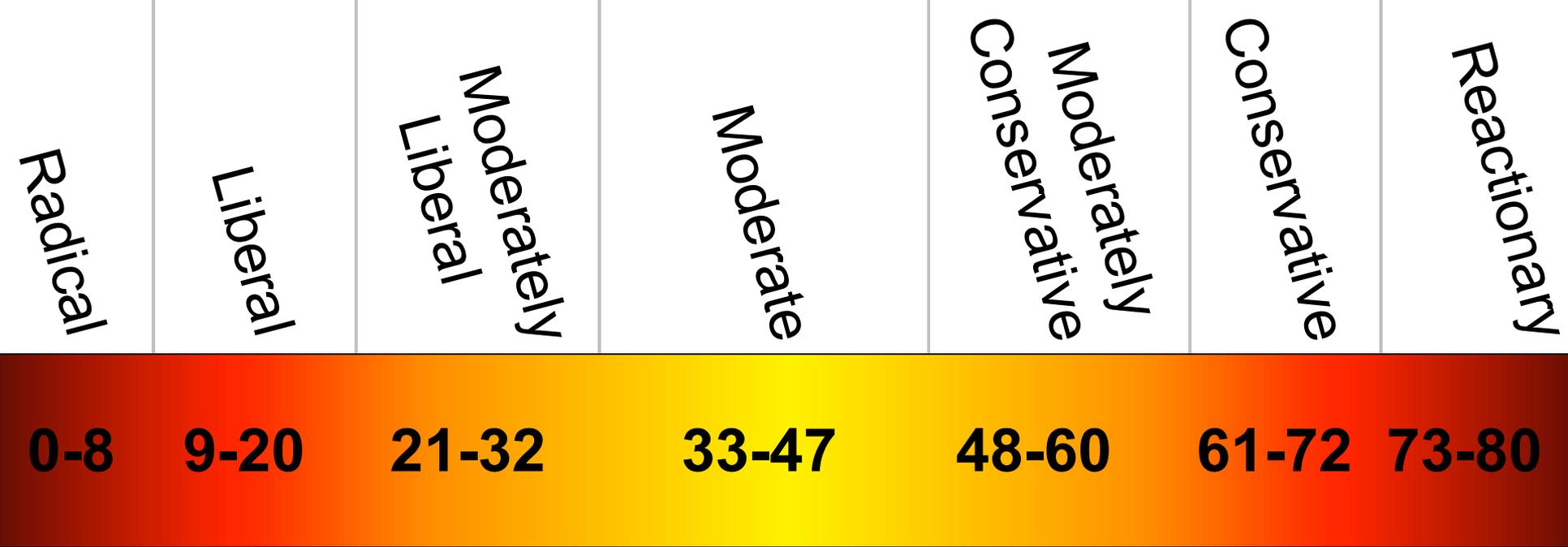
Radical: Seen as being on the far left of the political spectrum, radicals call for wide-sweeping rapid change in the basic structure of the political, social, or economic system. They may be willing to resort to extreme methods to bring about change, including the use of violence and revolution.



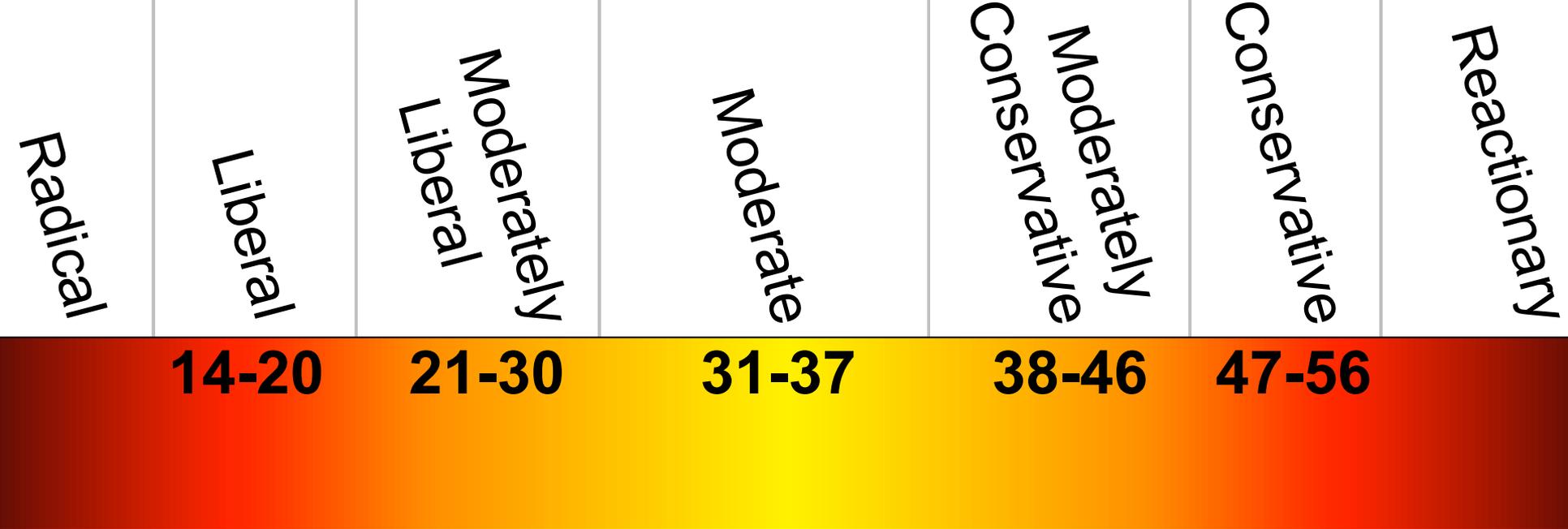
Liberal: Liberals believe that the government should be actively involved in the promotion of social welfare of a nation's citizens. Liberals usually call for peaceful, gradual change within the existing political system. They reject violent revolution as a way of changing the way things are, often called the status quo.



Moderate: Moderates may share viewpoints with both liberals and conservatives. They are seen as tolerant of other people's views, and they do not hold extreme views of their own. They advocate a "go-slow" or "wait-and-see" approach to social or political change.



Conservative: People who hold conservative ideals favor keeping things the way they are or maintaining the status quo if it is what they desire. Conservatives are usually hesitant or cautious about adopting new policies, especially if they involve government activism in some way. They feel that the less government there is, the better. They agree with Jefferson's view that "the best government governs least."



Reactionary: Sitting on the far right of the ideological spectrum, reactionaries want to go back to the way things were—the “good ol’ days.” Often reactionaries are willing to use extreme methods, such as repressive use of government power, to achieve their goals.

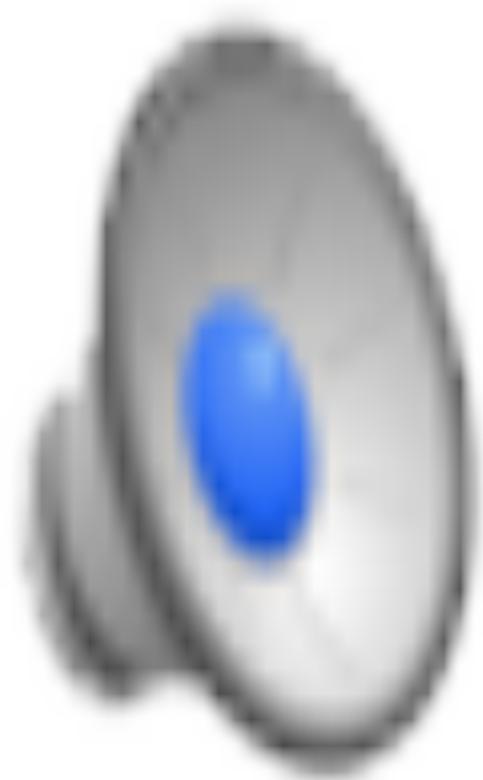
| | Radical | Liberal | Moderately Liberal | Moderate | Moderately Conservative | Conservative | Reactionary |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | 0-8 | 9-20 | 21-32 | 33-47 | 48-60 | 61-72 | 73-80 |
| IDEOLOGY | Radical | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative | Reactionary | | |
| Government involvement | More | More | Some involvement | Less | Less | | |
| Speed of changes in government | Rapid | Gradual | Slow to no change | No Change | Rapid Return to the past | | |
| Political Parties | Com. Social Dem. Centrists Rep. Tea Party Nazi ← Independents → | | | | | | |

| | 0-8 | | 9-20 | | 21-32 | | 33-47 | | 48-60 | | 61-72 | | 73-80 | |
|-------------|--|--|---------|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|---|--|-------|--|-------|--|
| ISSUES | Radical | | Liberal | | Moderate | | Conservative | | Reaction | | | | | |
| Taxes | High taxes for high level of government services. State control over economy. | | | | Mixture of both sides depending on | | | | Low taxes or large tax cuts. Reduction in government services and regulation. | | | | | |
| Education | Government subsidizes public education through college level. | | | | individual conviction | | | | Government turns control to local agencies. Vouchers OK. | | | | | |
| Defense | Reduce government spending on military. Interventionist foreign policy. | | | | and political expediency. | | | | Increase spending on military readiness. Reduce U.S. involvement in world conflicts. | | | | | |
| Environment | Regulate business to protect natural resources. Steer away from nuclear, coal, oil | | | | | | | | Support exploration of federal land for new energy sources. Reduce government regulation. | | | | | |

Did the political spectrum quiz agree with what you thought originally?

Did anything surprise you?

Where do you get your attitudes/
beliefs?



Political Culture and Political Socialization

- The way political institutions function at least partially reflects the public's attitudes, norms, and expectations.
- **Political culture:** public attitudes toward politics and their role within the political system
- **Political socialization:**
 - how individuals form their political attitudes and
 - collectively, how citizens form their political culture; we conclude by describing the major trends in political culture in the world politics today

Aspects of Political Culture

Examples

System

Pride in nation
National identity
Legitimacy of government

Process

Role of citizens
Perceptions of political rights

Policy

Role of government
Government policy priorities

The Policy Level

- What is the appropriate role of government?
 - Policy expectations vary across the globe.
 - Some policy goals such as economic well-being are valued by nearly everyone.
 - Variation in terms of what is expected relates to a nation's circumstances and cultural traditions.
- One of the basic measures of government performance is its ability to meet the policy expectations of its citizens.
- Expectations regarding the functioning of government: outputs (providing welfare and security) or process features (rule of law and procedural justice)

Consensual or *Conflictual* Political Cultures

- When a country is deeply divided in its political values and these differences persist over time, distinctive **political subcultures** may develop.
 - They have sharply different points of view on some critical political matters, such as the boundaries of the nation, the nature of the regime, or the correct ideology.
 - Sometimes historical or social factors will generate different cultural trajectories.
 - Ethnic, religious, or linguistic identities
 - Migration



Why Culture Matters

Cultural norms typically change slowly and reflect stable values.

- It encapsulates the history, traditions, and values of a society.
- Political culture
 - can build common political community,
 - but it can also have the power to divide.

Political Socialization

- Political cultures are sustained or changed as people acquire their attitudes and values.
- Political socialization refers to the way in which political values are formed and political culture is transmitted from one generation to the next.
 - Most children acquire their basic political values and behavior patterns at a relatively early age.
 - Some attitudes will evolve and change throughout life.

Political Socialization

- Three general points about socialization:
 - Socialization can occur in different ways.
 - Direct socialization
 - Socialization is a lifelong process.
 - Patterns of socialization can be either unifying or divisive.

Agents of Political Socialization

- Individuals, organizations, and institutions that influence political attitudes.
 - Family
 - Schools
 - Religious institutions
 - Fundamentalism
 - Peer groups
 - Social class
 - Interest groups
 - Political parties
 - Mass media
 - Global influence; most people in the world watch television to learn about the world



Direct Contact with the Government

- In modern societies, the wide scope of governmental activities bring citizens into frequent contact with bureaucratic agencies.
- Personal experiences are powerful agents of socialization.

Trends in the Shaping Contemporary Political Cultures

- Democratization?
- Marketization?
 - Greater public acceptance of free markets and private profit incentives, rather than a government-managed economy
- Globalization



Dynamics of Contemporary Political Cultures

- Political culture is not a static phenomenon.
 - Encompasses how the agents of political socialization communicate and interpret historic events and traditional values
 - Important to understand
 - Influences how citizens act, how the political process functions, and what policy goals the government pursues