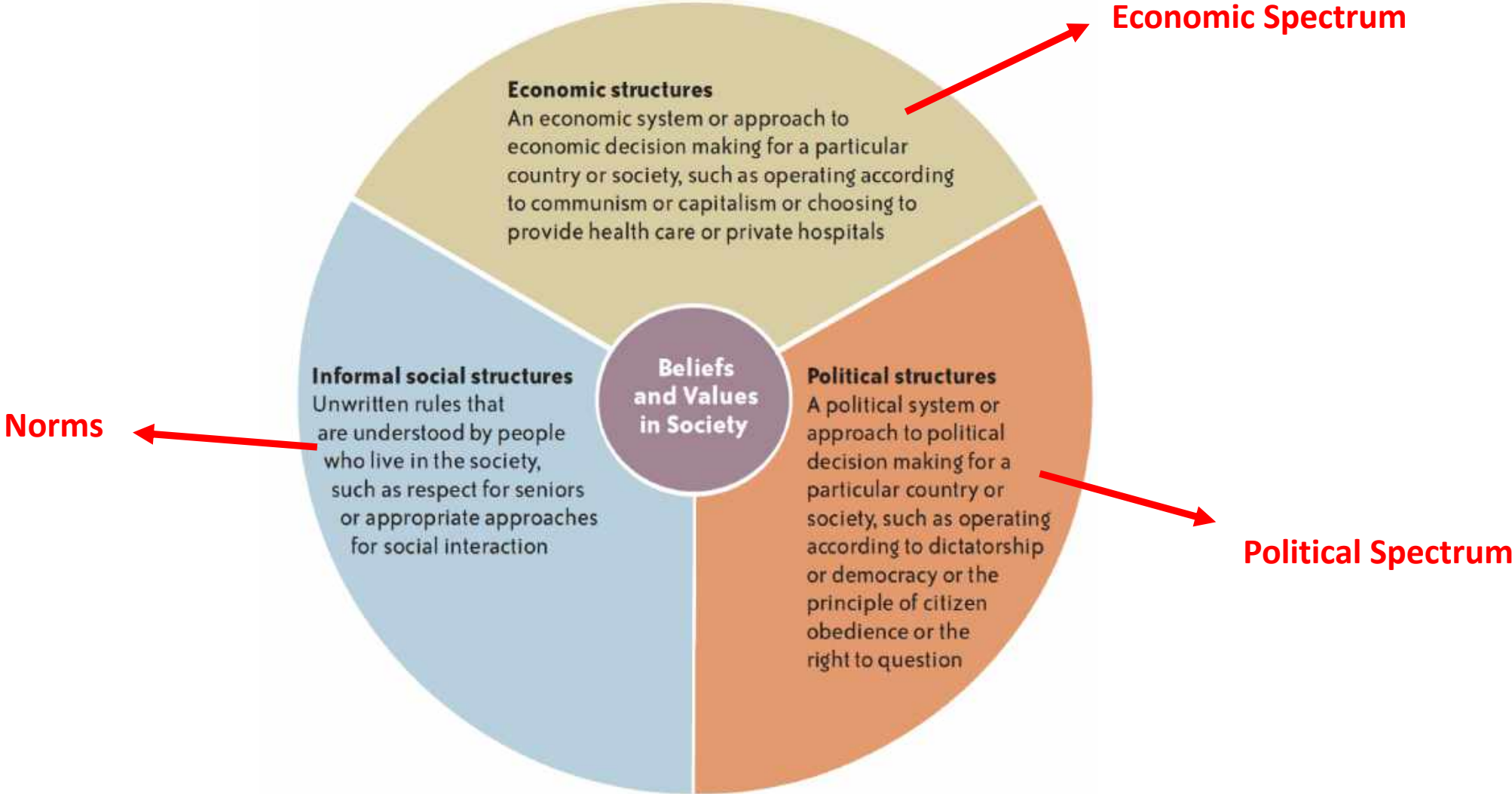


# Economic and Political Spectrum

Social Studies 30-1

# Beliefs about the Structure of Society



# Economic Structures of Society

The salaries that people earn, what work they do, and who benefits from their work can tell a great deal about the beliefs and values of a society.

Communists believe that the government has an obligation to step in and make sure that all its citizens are provided for. Capitalism creates a society with big differences between high and low income earners and this is not fair, and that, therefore, the government should help distribute resources so that everyone has the basics.

A capitalist believes that individuals are responsible for themselves, that they should be self-reliant, and that they should be free from government restrictions. In capitalism, people are motivated to work hard because of money and the pursuit of profit.



# Socialism VS Communism

These terms are often used interchangeably, even though there exist big differences between them.

## SOCIALISM

- SOCIALISM suggests that contribution is made from everyone according to their ability but they get back according to the size of their contribution.

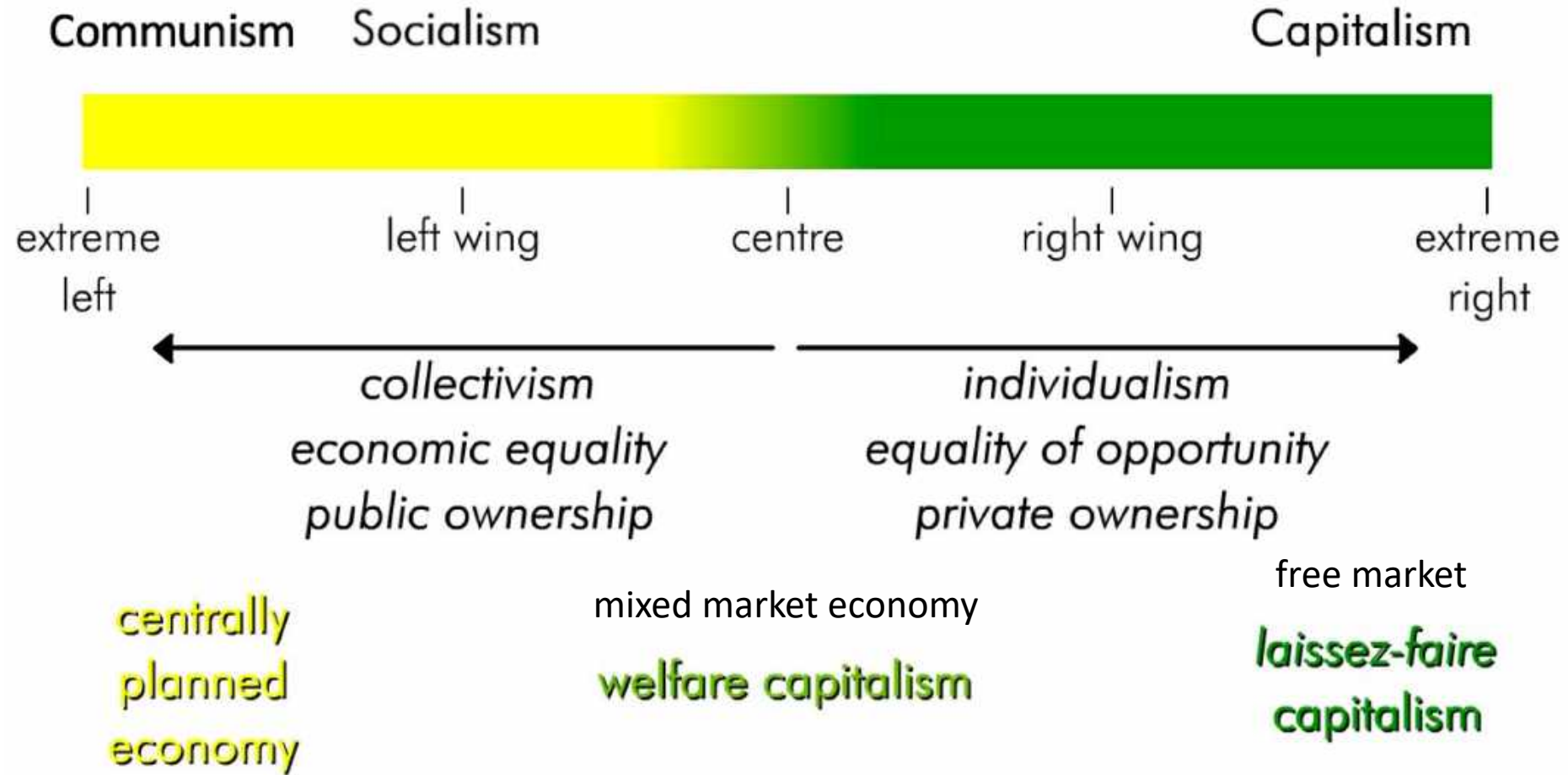
From each according to his ability, to each according to his contribution

## COMMUNISM

- COMMUNISM suggests that everyone in society contributes and works according to their ability, and gets back everything according to their needs.

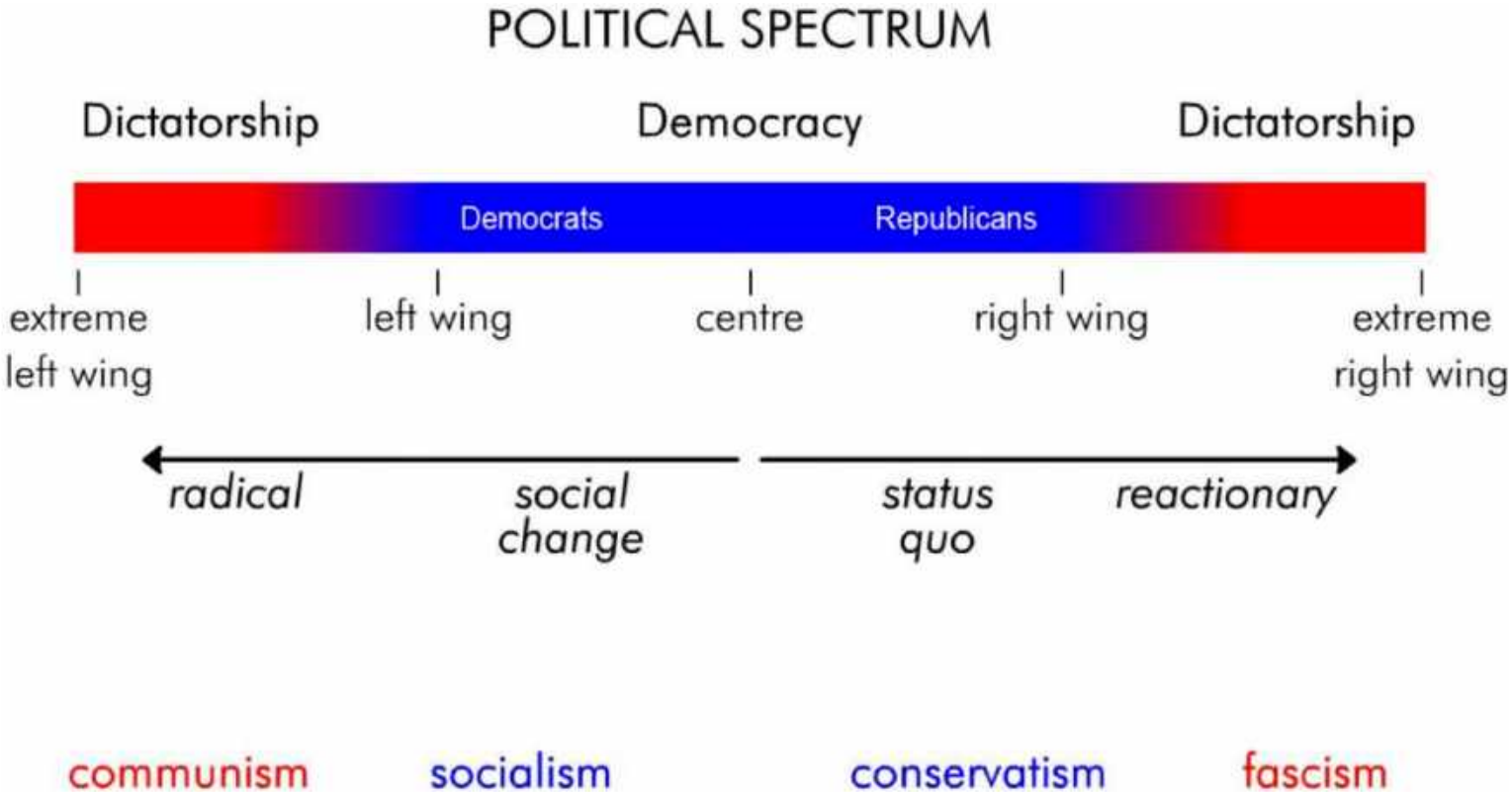
From each according to his ability, to each according to his need

# ECONOMIC SPECTRUM

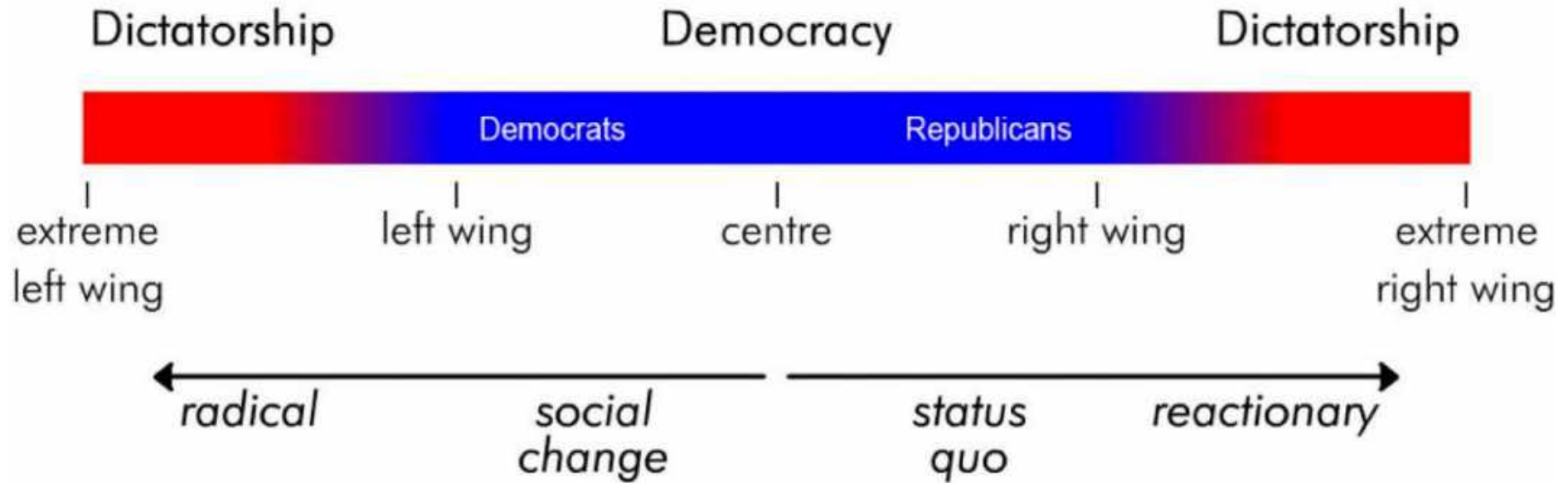


# Political Structures of Society

All societies are organized so that the people who live in and are governed by them know how to behave “properly.” Different societies define “proper” behaviour differently. We regulate our political structure through government and the law.



# POLITICAL SPECTRUM



## Liberalism

desire the greatest amount of freedom for individuals within a state that exercises its powers in the interests of the common good

## Libertarian

embrace negative rights emphasizing freedom from government

## communism

creating a society based on equality

## socialism

equality and social justice through the power of the state

## conservatism

defend the importance of tradition, the stability of the status quo and the privileges of economic success

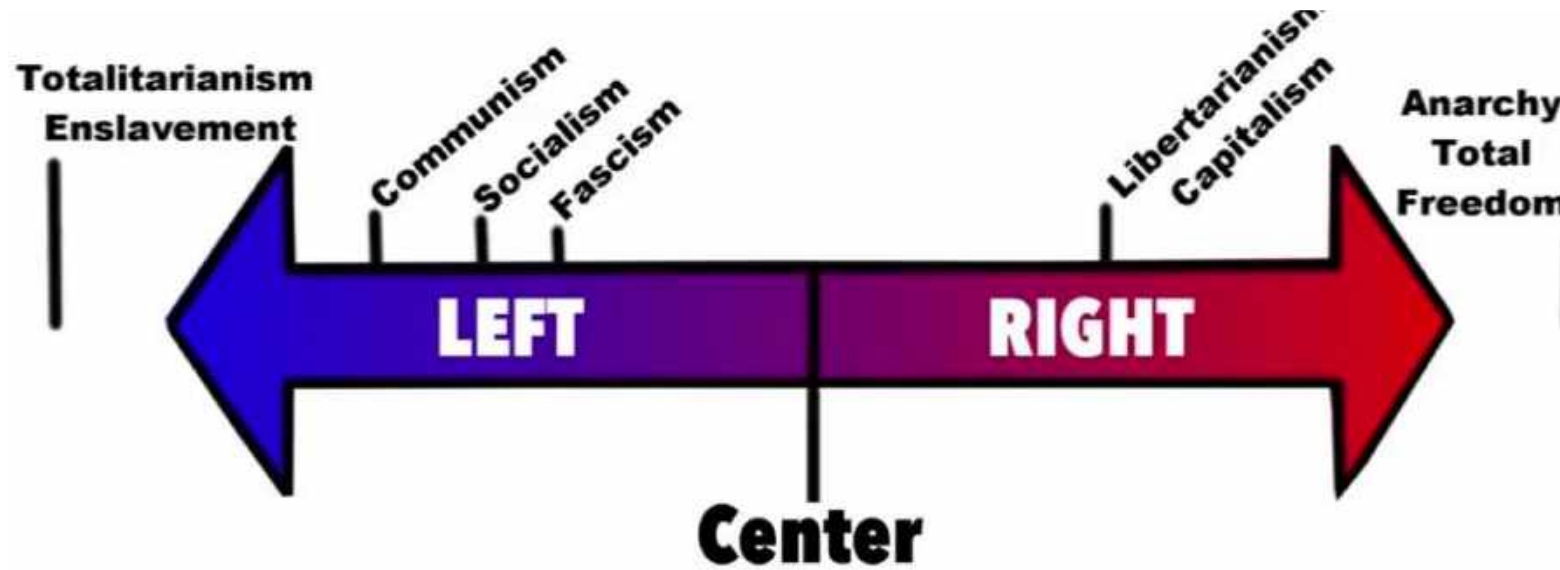
## fascism

believe that abilities are inherited, race is a determinant to success, and equality is impossible and undesirable.



equality, collective good, community

autonomy, individual freedom, liberty



Radical Revolutionary

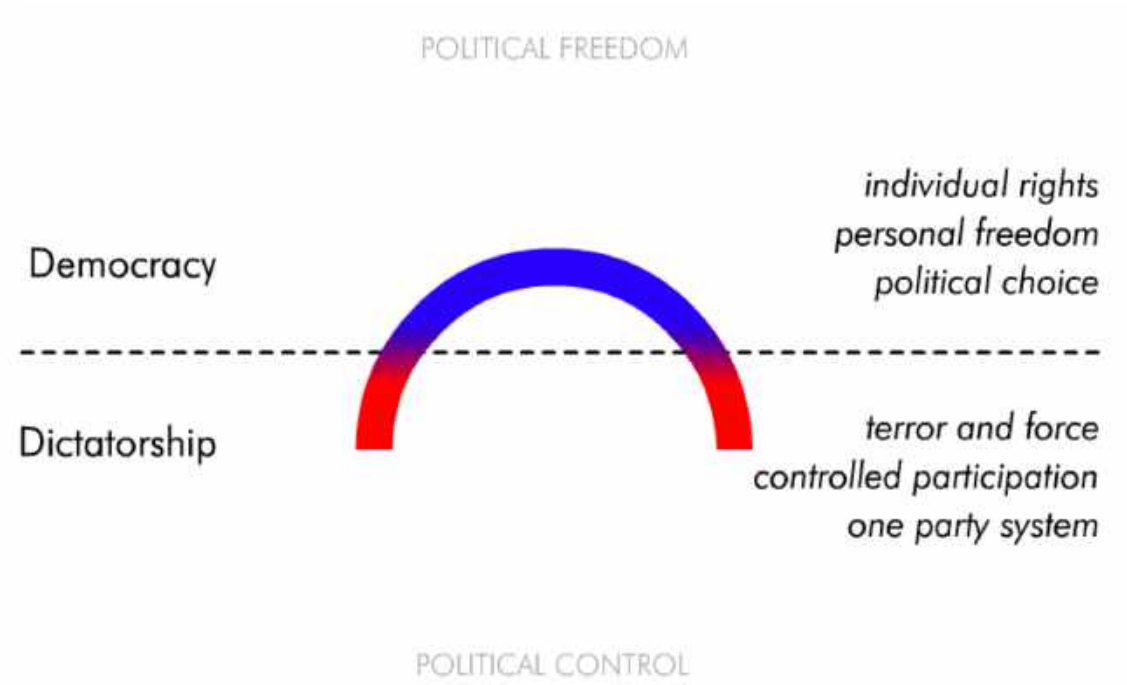
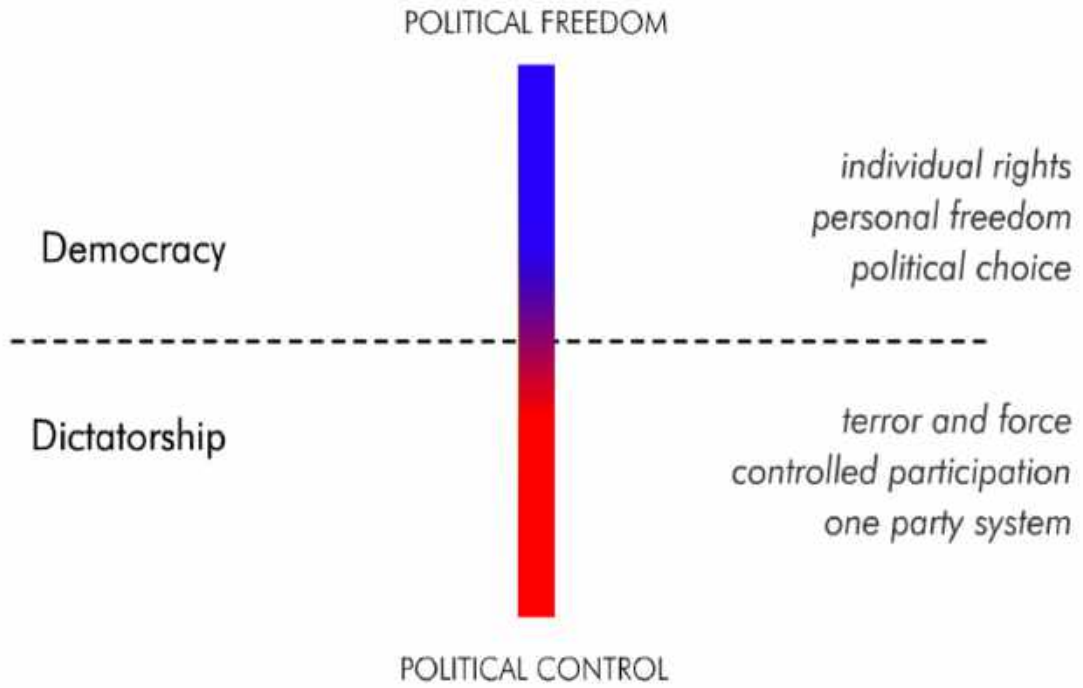
Moderate

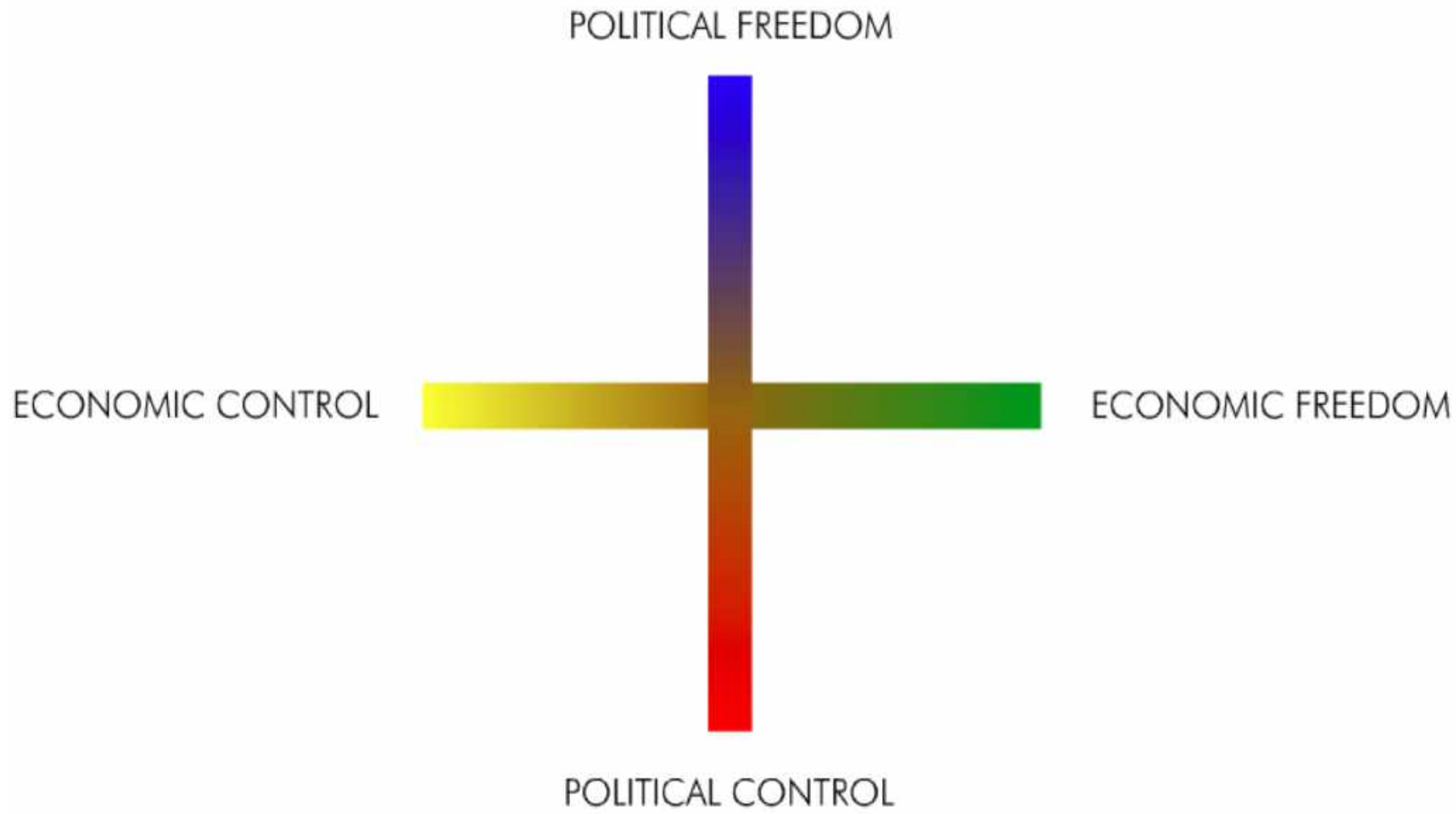
Reactionary

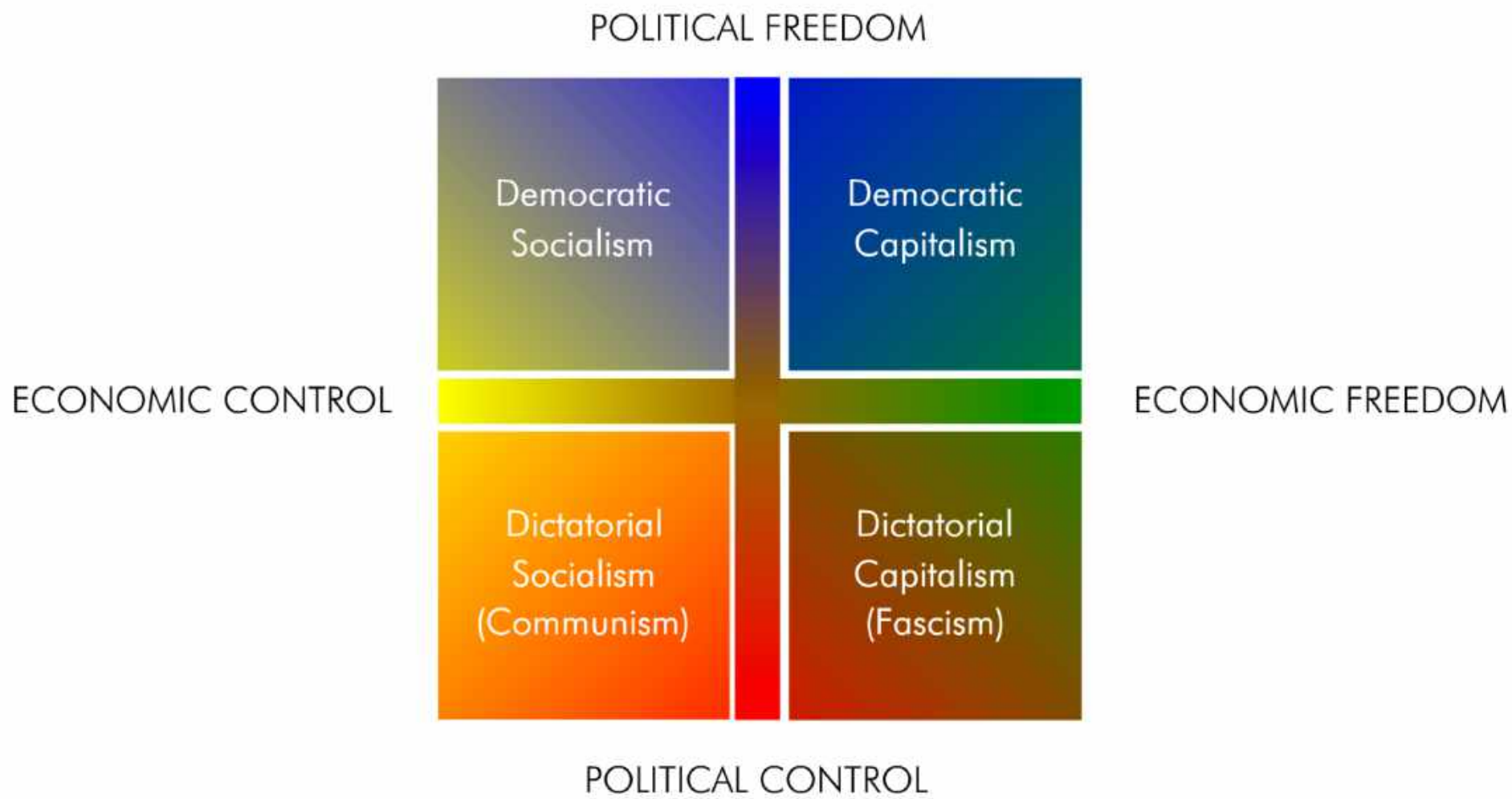


# Terminology

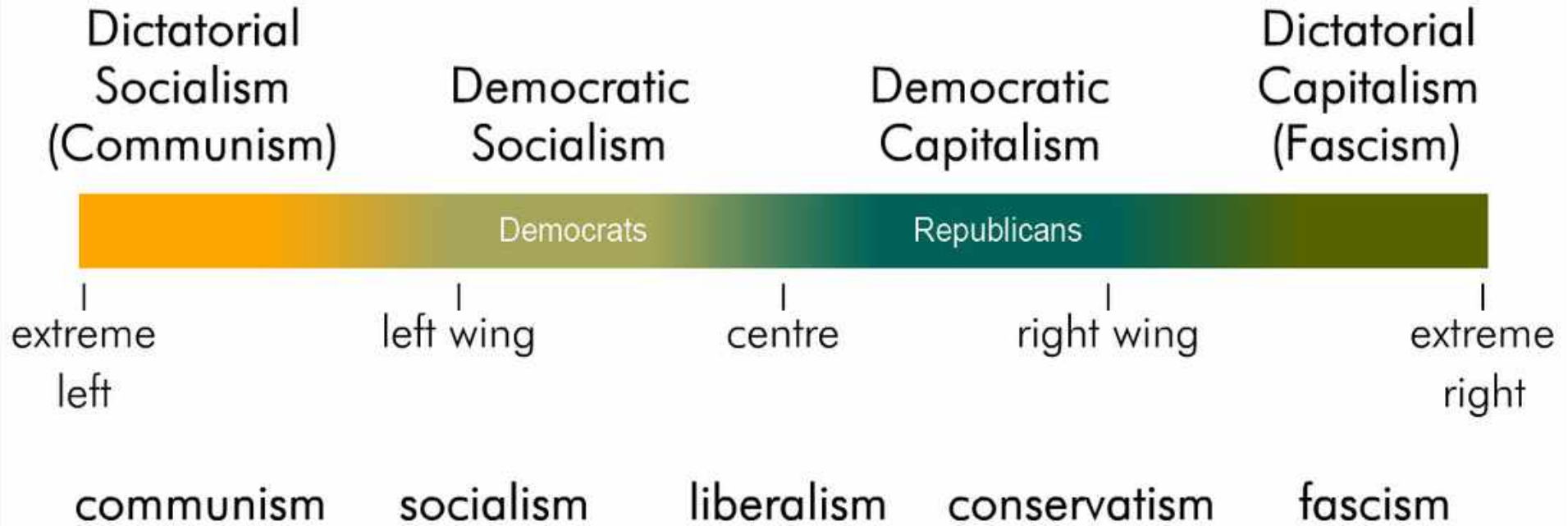
- **Far Left – Radical Revolutionary:** one committed to making fundamental changes in society and government; believe violence is justified in order to create a better society
- **Middle – Moderate:** one who is generally satisfied with the way things are; would support some reform of existing political and economic systems
- **Far Right – Reactionary:** extremist who favors a return to traditional institutions and values of the past







# COMBINED POLITICAL / ECONOMIC SPECTRUM



Helpful when working with understanding spectrums:  
<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/sspes/>

