

Knowledge & Politics

Systems, Methods, & Tools
TOK L19



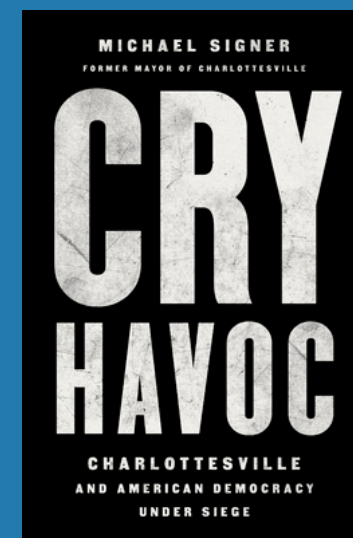
How many types of government are you aware of?

Discuss strengths & weaknesses.

The American System: Democracy

- *What's the idea behind the Electoral College? How well is it working? Should it change?*
- *What are the roles of the 3 branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial? How well is it working?*
- *What does "fair" mean in politics? Does Democracy insure fairness?*
- *Look up the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). What do the rankings and criteria reveal?*

What issues might arise when trying to quantify abstract and subjective concepts such as freedom and independence?



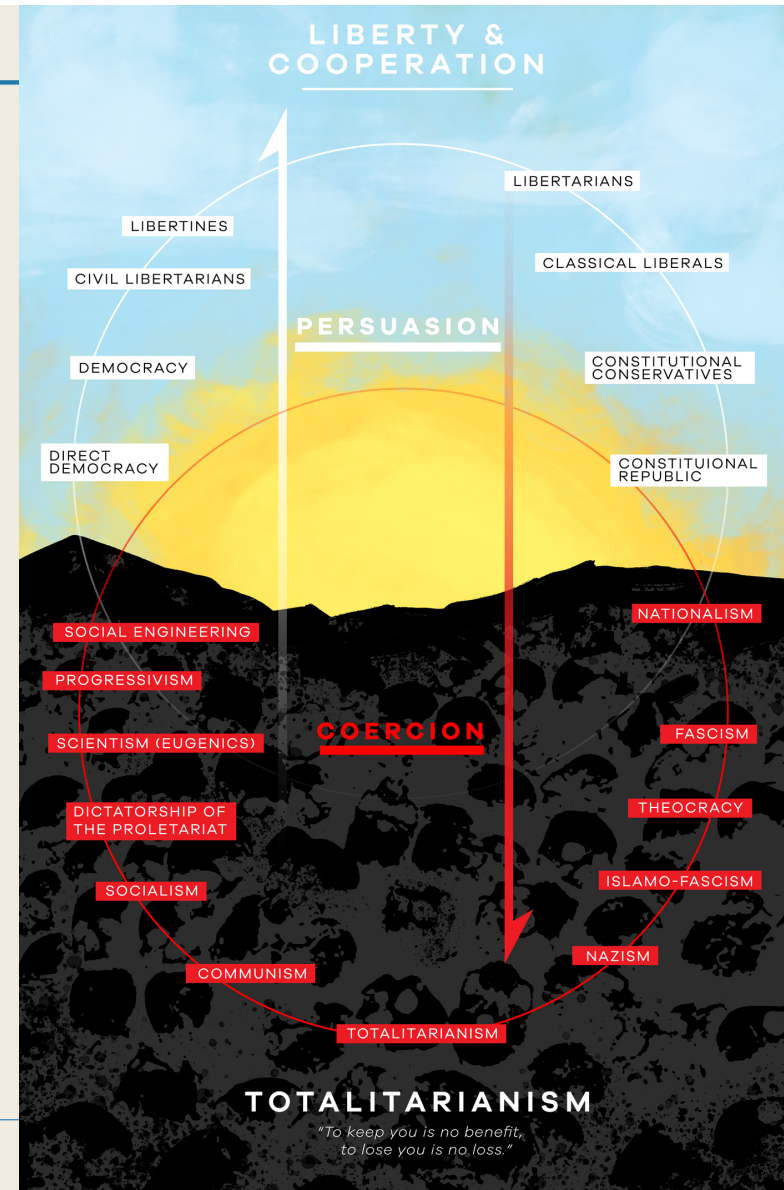
The Political Spectrum

- Define and discuss the terms: Communism; Socialism; Liberalism; Conservatism
- Explore Matt Kibbe's Single-Axis Spectrum; what does it reveal?

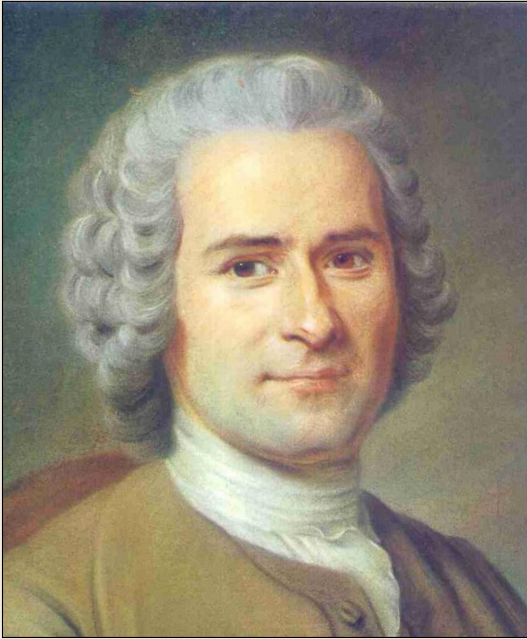
What factors have shaped your personal political beliefs?

- What is Libertarianism? Is it a viable alternative?

Create your own political party. What importance would you give to equality, personal freedom, economic interests, and environmental concerns? Create a spectrum to illustrate your concepts.



Ethics, Ownership, & Resource Distribution



- *Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-78) argued, “The fruits of the earth belong to all and the earth belongs to nobody.” Even so, we know that individuals and corporations, etc., own most of the land on earth. So, is Rousseau’s claim untrue? Is his claim an ethical judgment? What might be a political truth in this context?*
- *To what extent do ethical truths conflict with political truths?*
- *Imagine you are shipwrecked on a small, uninhabited island with 250 other people of various ages, with no hope of rescue. Try to reach agreement on the following: Would you allow private ownership? How would you decide who gets to live where? Why might dividing the land equally not be fair? What provision would you make for future generations? How might you set up courts to decide between disputes, or governments to make laws?*

