

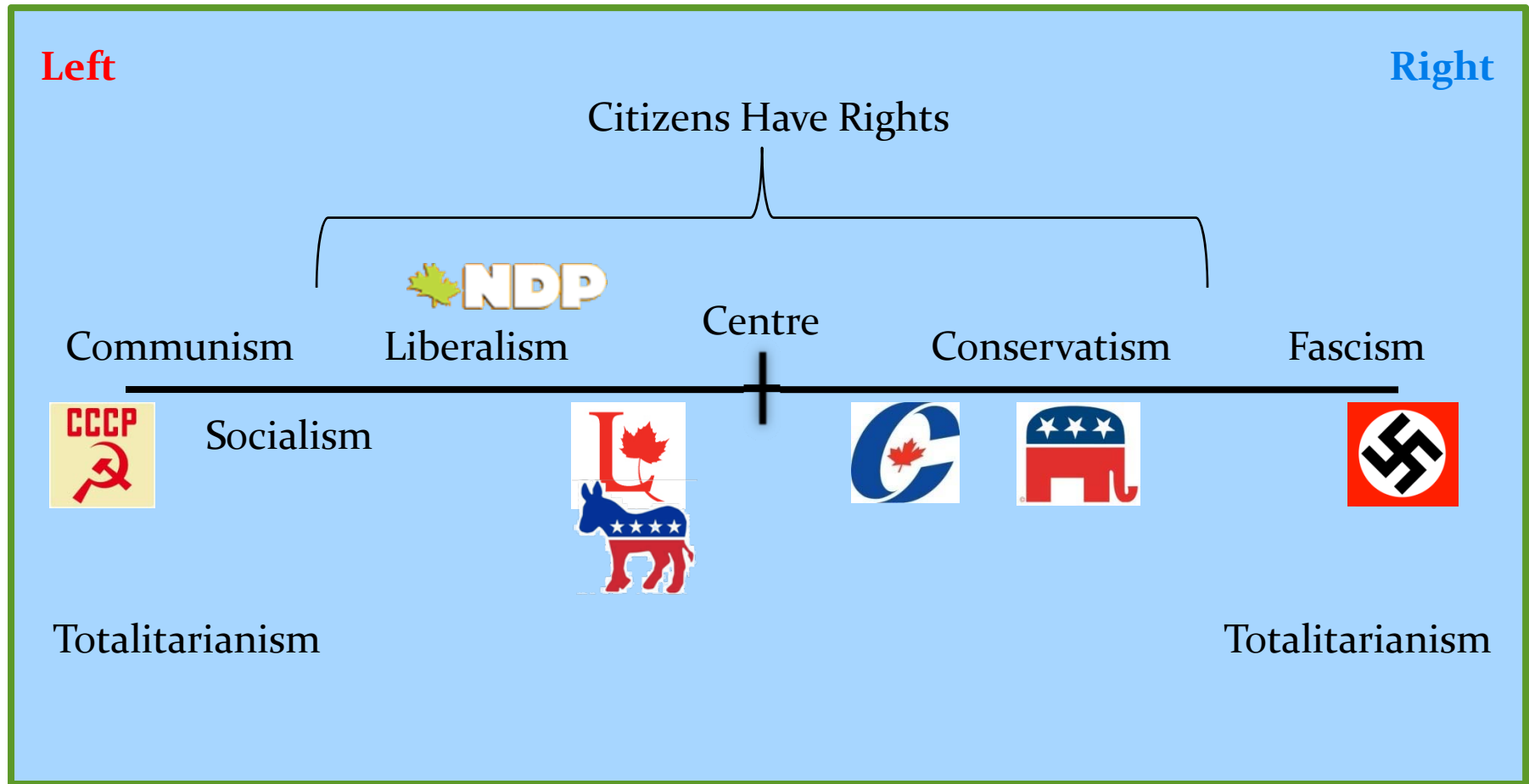
Government Philosophies

The “Ism’s”

October 2009

Social Studies 11

Political Spectrum



Democracy

- Believe in free elections
- Citizens elect representatives to form government
- Multi party states
- Two main principles
 - All citizens equal before the law – have equal access to power
 - in practice wealth determines class, status and often advantages
 - Freedoms and liberties protected
 - constitution

Totalitarianism



- Dictatorship or single party
 - has 'total' control of everything that goes on within a state
 - nothing off-limits to them.
- Citizens have no rights
 - No freedom of choice
- brutal/repression of opposition
 - Political or social

Capitalism

- wealth, and the means of producing wealth, are privately owned.
- Means of production include:
 - Labour
 - Factories
 - Tools
 - Natural resources
- Laissez faire ideology – little gov't interference
- Free market economies, focus on industrialism and production
- Economic class system



Socialism

- Gov't regulation of industry & social services
 - Ensures companies are operating safely, legally
 - Welfare
 - Old age pensions
 - Public healthcare
 - Public education
- Allows for
 - private ownership
 - Class system

Fascism



- Believes in a one party state or dictatorship
 - Strong military
 - Suppress opposition – media, violence
- Strong nationalism
 - Can lead to aggressive imperialism
 - Racism
- Strong Gov't control over industry and social programs
- Believe in capitalism - free enterprise, private ownership
- Interests of the state more important than the rights of the individual
- Total control of media, uses propaganda to sway public opinion
- Censorship and secret police, suppresses nonconformists

Communism

- believes in equality of individuals, therefore all property is owned by the state so that all can share in the benefits.
- believes in providing social services of an equal level to all citizens.
 - Classes eliminated
- Means of production controlled by the state
 - Industry
 - Natural resources
 - Wealth redistributed evenly amongst citizens
- Often become authoritarian or totalitarian
 - one party state -dictatorship



Political Spectrum Quiz

Left

Right

Citizens Have Rights

Communism

Liberalism

Centre

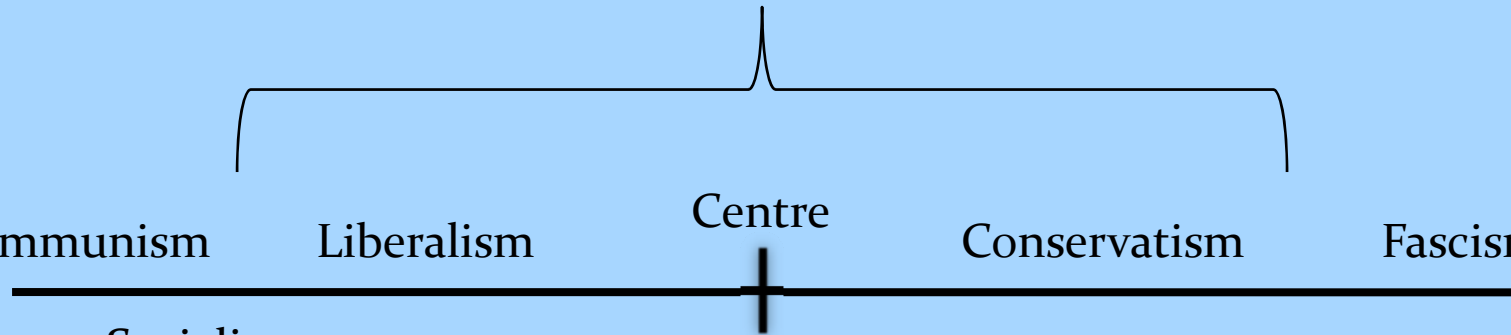
Conservatism

Fascism

Socialism

Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism



Political Spectrum Results:

- 0-20 – Extreme left - Communist
- 21-35 left – Socialist (NDP, Green Party)
- 36-45 left of centre (NDP or maybe Liberal)
- 46-55 centre or moderate (Liberal)
- 56-65 right of centre (Conservative)
- 66-75 right (Conservative)
- 76+ (Fascist)