

Together, the examples below are intended to approximate ideological pluralism in the USA (though not cover every possibility or even describe any single, real person). Identify these hypothetical American people's political beliefs as either: 1. Radical left-wing, 2. Liberal, 3. Moderate Left-Leaning, 4. Moderate Right-Leaning, 5. Neoconservative, 6. Social Conservative, 7. Fiscal Conservative, 8. Libertarian, or 9. Radical Right-Wing. Choose *only one* which best fits the person's ideology or lack of ideology.

Rupert believes in bipartisanship and getting things done pragmatically rather than arguing endlessly. The biggest problem in U.S. politics, in his opinion, is gridlock, because this means the government isn't doing much actual governing. He wants to see a return to the political climate that existed before the filibuster became common practice and the opposition party, having no hope of passing its own legislation from a minority position in Congress, simply opposes everything the majority party wants. The changes of the past decades haven't been good for the country, and he thinks it's a mistake to have gotten into "identity politics" rather than focusing on things that he thinks will actually grow the economy, like lower taxes and subsidies to "job creators" in businesses small and large.

Beatrice believes the U.S. is the best hope for bringing peace to the world and so supports spreading liberal democracy around the world to "liberate" the people of countries ruled by dictators, especially those which pose security threats to America. Terrorism is an important issue for her, and she thinks that fighting terrorists abroad will keep them from reaching America, where it would be much more costly and consequential. High military spending is both necessary and beneficial to the U.S. economy, in her opinion, since most military equipment is designed and built in the USA.

Francis believes the government has a responsibility to equalize income disparities between the rich and the poor with progressive tax policies because this is essential to his conception of democracy. He also favors strong affirmative action policies, reparations to African Americans for slavery, and an end to the use of fossil fuels in the next decade. He believes a "single-payer" healthcare system like in Canada and most European systems is the best way to deal with rising medical costs, and nationalizing other industries would also be a good thing.

Florence believes that "corporate welfare" payments to large businesses are misspent and would better go to the families who work in them but struggle to "make ends meet." She's skeptical of unions because she thinks they make it more difficult for people to get jobs and doesn't think it's fair to force people to pay their membership fees. She supports abortion rights as long as the procedure isn't performed late in the pregnancy, and she sees benefits to medical marijuana while worrying what would happen if children use drugs at higher rates. She doesn't see these positions as ideological but rather matters of common sense. She thinks it's ridiculous that billionaires control so much while regular people have it harder.

Horace believes in an open global economy, a very small government that doesn't tax much or interfere in the choices of individual citizens. While he considers himself very patriotic (and gun rights are part of this), he doesn't think that foreign wars have served American interest and are generally a big waste of money that doesn't make the country more secure. He believes markets are self-correcting, and therefore government regulations are just more unnecessary meddling. If an adult like him wants to use drugs or have an abortion, he believes that's none of the government's business.

Polly believes the Founding Fathers of the USA were white Christians, and they intended for the country to be a republic, *not* a democracy. She thinks policies favoring minorities have gone too far, to the point where a white person like her is now disadvantaged in society. English should have been made the official language a long time ago, in her view. She supports stopping all immigration from non-European countries and, as a nationalist, severe penalties for burning the flag. She generally prefers to read blogs online rather than trusting the “mainstream media,” because she thinks the major news networks are biased against people like her.

Maurice believes deeply in Christianity and so finds the Bible the best guide for moral politics. He supports traditional gender roles in which wives obey their husbands and the young respect the old, neither of which describes what he sees happening in today's society. He is anti-abortion and strongly supports the repeal of same-sex marriage. Drug use and other crimes need to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law to keep society safe, in his opinion. Like Jesus, he cares about the poor, but he thinks if the state gives out too many welfare benefits, it will create “moral hazard” and make people lazy.

Eleanor believes the U.S. spends too much money on the military but not enough on social programs like medical care, welfare, and education. She doesn't consider herself a socialist because she worries about how moving away from capitalism would affect the stock market and GDP. She is supportive of free trade because she believes that it will keep U.S. industries competitive and make everyone better off. She has always supported abortion rights, same-sex marriage, well before they were legalized. She actively supports aid for immigrants, minorities, and other underprivileged groups while opposing the death penalty.

Orson believes earmarks and pork-barrel politics are out of control. He worries that Social Security is going to go bankrupt in the coming decades as fewer people pay into it than extract benefits, and therefore many cuts have to be made to it and other social programs. Raising taxes to pay for this is not the answer; the real solution is for politicians in Washington to “tighten their belts” and “live within their means” like any responsible American has to. He looks at government budgets as comparable to personal finance and can't understand why the federal government can't “get its house in order.”