#### Chapter outline

# PLS 401: SENIOR SEMINAR Part I: The Idea of Politics

## Ch. 2: Modern Ideologies & Political Philosophy

#### I. Ideologies

- A. Definition: a coherent set of ideas about:
  - 1. **Human nature** (inherently altruistic or self-interested)
  - 2. *Society* (inherently cooperative or competitive)
  - 3. *Politics*: the process of conflict resolution
    - a. Ends: (the proper balance of individual freedom with government guaranteed order and equality)
    - b. Means: limited v. unlimited governmental power
- B. Public and private uses of ideologies
  - 1. Help us to make sense out of individual, social, and political behavior
  - 2. Help us gather allies in politics

#### II. American ideologies

#### A. Classical liberalism:

- 1. Simpler goal: much closer to *libertarianism* the fullest development of *individual* freedom
- 2. Origin: 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> c. reaction in Europe to hierarchical power of feudal nobility, economic guilds, & the Roman Catholic Church
- B. American variants:
  - 1. Much more difficult goal: use constitutionally limited government to balance competing goals:
    - a. Collective goods of order & equality
    - b. *Individual* freedom to be non-conformist and unequal
  - 2. Two sets of ideological coalitions
    - a. American conservatism coalition of divergent ideologies
      - (1) Libertarian wing: emphasizes freedom at the expense of order
      - (2) Populist wing: emphasizes order at the expense of freedom
      - (3) Examples of wedge issues within American conservatism:
        - (a) Immigration
        - (b) Stem-cell research
        - (c) Domestic surveillance
    - b. American liberalism coalition of divergent ideologies
      - (1) Libertarian wing: emphasizes **freedom** at the expense of equality
      - (2) Populist wing: emphasizes equality at expense of freedom
      - (3) Examples of wedge issues within American liberalism:
        - (a) Affirmative action
        - (b) Election finance reform
        - (c) All-volunteer military
  - 3. Origin: marriages of convenience structured by our two-party system that forces four ideologies into two major umbrella or brokerage parties
- C. Why an increase in concern about ideologies in the U.S.

### III. (Classical) liberalism (really libertarianism)

- A. Early supporters
  - 1. Artists & intellectuals of Renaissance
  - 2. Commercial interests during Mercantile Age
  - 3. Scientific & economic interests during Industrial Revolution
- B. John Stuart Mill, liberalism, & democracy

- IV. The conservative reaction
  - A. Europe: gradual adaptation to a mixed economy (neither exclusively free market nor socialist)
  - B. Third-World:
    - 1. Frequent coalitions between religious, economic, & military elites
    - 2. More openness to economic freedom than social or political freedom (e.g., China & Vietnam)
- V. The socialist alternatives:
  - A. *Marxist socialism* (economic determinism and the stages of history)
    - 1. Primitive socialism
    - 2. Feudalism
    - 3. Mercantilism
    - 4. Industrial capitalism
    - 5. Industrial-workers' revolution
    - 6. State socialism (dictatorship of the proletariat)
    - 7. Communism (utopian socialism)
  - B. Welfare-state or parliamentary socialism in Britain & Scandinavia
- VI. *Communism*: various forms of left-wing, totalitarian politics
  - A. Lenin & the Russian Revolution
  - B. **Stalin** & Soviet totalitarianism
  - C. Mao & the Chinese Cultural Revolution
- VII. Fascism: various forms of right-wing, totalitarian politics
  - A. Mussolini in Italy
  - B. **Hitler** in Germany
  - C. Franco in Spain
  - D. Tojo in Japan
- VIII. Ideologies in the late 20th Century and the beginning of the 21st
  - A. Neoliberalism: the "third way" of seeking moderate or centrist solutions
  - B. Neoconservatism:
    - 1. Domestic politics: domination rather than compromise
    - 2. Foreign policy: post-Cold-War intervention in a global world
- IX. Political philosophy in other historical eras
  - A. The Greeks (**Plato**'s altruistic elite v. **Aristotle**'s messy democracy)
  - B. Early Christian writers (**Saint Augustine**'s government as a necessary evil, **Saint Thomas Aquinas**' call for Church rule over secular rulers)
  - C. Responses to the power of the Church (Niccolo Machiavelli)
  - D. Protestantism (Martin Luther)
  - E. Question of authority (Thomas Hobbes' argument that order was a greater good than freedom)