

Ideology, culture and socialization...

How did we get this way?

Ideology

- Set of beliefs
- Way to compare people politically
- Not etched in stone
- Left, right, social, economic
- The role of the gov!

Let's review...

Democrats (left wing, American liberals)

Universal/gov healthcare
More taxes/more programs
Pro-choice
More \$ for the environment
Increase minimum wage
Support social security

Republicans (right wing, American conservatives)

Private healthcare
Fewer taxes, private enterprise
Pro-life
More \$ for military/ research
Let states/businesses decide on
minimum wage
Privatize social security

Debatable: Iraq, gay marriage

Socialization

the process by which people acquire political values and attitudes

- Family
- Religion
- Gender
- Schooling
- Social Class
- Race and ethnicity
- Region

Family

- Children tend to be socialized at home
- Don't always agree with parents
- Depends on amount of political discussion at home
- Difference in generations
- If kids don't agree with their parents it is usually due to ECONOMIC issues, not social

The Gender Gap

- Men → increasingly Republican
- Women → remain unchanged
- Issues:
 - Gun control (women strongly for)
 - Spending on programs for the poor (somewhat for)
 - Gay marriage (less likely to strongly oppose)
 - Death penalty (women strongly against)
- Pg. 161

Schooling and Information

- More education, more likely to vote
- Tend to be liberal and conservative
 - Depends on the issue
- Liberal arts colleges in 50s and 60s created a liberal elite?

Differences: social class

- We are all middle class?
- Blue vs. white collar
- Class voting has declined sharply
- Unskilled workers are more likely to vote Democrat
- Wealthy more likely to vote

Age

- Over 65 group: most likely to vote
- 18-25: least likely to vote

Why the difference?

Region

- Historically: South is more conservative (switch from Dem to Rep party) on social issues but similar on economic issues
- South has less organized labor

Can we have “typical voters”?

Democrats

Jewish community
African Americans
Blue collar workers
Union workers
Urban areas
Catholic
More women than men

Republicans

Suburban dwellers
White collar workers
Protestants
Self-employed
Rural areas
More men than women
Business leaders

Just remember....

we are ALL “middle class
moderates” according to ourselves...