

Authoritarian versus Egalitarian

Here are two views on the purpose of electing reps:

1. An election should give representation to the major opinion groups in the electorate. Give them a forum to debate and refine policies for the common good. This view emphasizes the integrating purpose of elections and representative committees.

2. The goal of an election is to give one group the power to rule. Give them a clear mandate to resolve necessary choices. We could call that the dominance purpose of an election. This path risks turning to dictatorship: If the biggest party should dominate a government, should the biggest subgroup control the biggest party? 1 side, 1 party, 1 faction, 1 leader.

Compromises often must be made at some level, even if that is in the mind of one person and the process is hidden. Democrats hold that political decisions are better when many minds work together, the options are debated in public from many points of view, and power is distributed fairly. With good decision rules, an open egalitarian process is quick, stable, and effective.

Questions for research, discussion, and writing:
Do the values below tend to occur as two distinct sets?
Or does a person pursue values in (between) both?
Does one set tend to displace the other in a community?
Is one linked with support for effective democracy?

Do some people with wealth want it to steer society and try to weaken steering by voting and government?

Egalitarian Values

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
Reciprocity

Votes Rule, Democracy
Right to an effective vote
Equal opportunities in money and power

Human Rights
Freedom of the press & info
Emancipation
Integration
Voting rights
Women's suffrage (voting)
Equal pay for equal work
Nature conservation

Right Makes Might
Reason from Evidence
Speak Truth to Power
What you do, meritocracy
Loyal to principles
Rule of law, honest elections
Nonviolent resistance

The **Enlightenment**, empirical, skeptical, rational, analytical; critical-thinking disposition

Authoritarian Values

Look strong, successful, rich
Your strength must control your weakness; strong men must control the weak

Money Rules, Oligarchy
Right to trick voters
Set privileges and ranks in money and power

Corporate Property Rights
Freedom to own the press
Slavery, people as property
Segregation by race, wealth
Poll taxes and intimidation
Women's silence
Traditional roles & rewards
Exploit resources

Might Makes Right
Obedience to doctrine
Power to shape information
Who you know, cronyism
Loyal to leaders
Rule of men, corruption
Coup d'état, death squads

The **Inquisition**, blind faith, obedience, ideology; intolerant of ambiguity and uncertainty

Egalitarian Values

Flexible Creativity Improv:
Lateral thinking, connections
Observe to test hypothesis
Diversity, expression, art

Heroes Franklin, Adams,
Condorcet, M.L. King
Many prophets, philosophers,
scientists

Sensuality; Empathy
Roman god Eros
Sex is good, a lot is healthy
Health & education funding
Seduce for information
Regulation of violence: gun
control, verbal assault

Attractions for adherents
Playfulness, sexuality
Fellowship
Seeing life thru others' eyes
Conscience, curiosity
Wonder, learning, discovery

Related terms: democratic,
free, classless, equal, open

Cooperate for the common
good

Authoritarian Values

Rigid Order & Discipline:
Linear thinking, categories
Memorize scripture
Purity, uniform(s) propaganda

Heroes JP Morgan, Reagan
Louis XIV, W., Trump
Many directors of religions,
nations, corporations

Violence; Machismo
Roman god Mars
War is noble
Weapon & prison funding
Torture for information
Regulation of sex: gays,
abortion, contraception

Attractions for adherents
Violence, adrenaline
Status, rank, rankism
Dominating others
Strength & safety
Soothing certainties

Related terms: hierarchy,
oligarchy, plutocracy, elitist

Compete for personal power
Dominate or be dominated

Add your own art, music, scriptures, stories, and heroes.

Old and New Classics on A. vs. E.

The Authoritarian Personality may be induced by an upbringing of rigid discipline and conditional affection. This book by Theodor Adorno and others developed a scale to measure “an estimate of fascist receptivity.”

A quick personality test: www.anesi.com/fscale.htm

Authoritarian traits: punish weakness, e.g. scapegoat, demonize, hate, and oppress the weak. “... excessive conformity, submissiveness to authority, intolerance, insecurity, superstition. ridged stereotyped thought patterns.” *Sociology in Our Times*, Diana Kendall; books.google.com/books?isbn=1305856309

Frank Sulloway showed in *Born to Rebel* that many firstborns become more authoritarian than siblings. In 2003, he co-authored a controversial research report, “Political Conservatism as Motivated Social Cognition.”

Some conservatives oppose conflating authoritarian with conservative. *Triumph of the Authoritarian*, by John W. Dean, The Boston Globe; 14 July 2006.

“Individuals who are more easily startled* by threats are more likely than others to support protective policies, such as military spending, the Iraq War and the death penalty...” This may correlate with differences in brain activity found by fMRI, and in genes — which raises the concern that a drug or retrovirus could be created to increase obedience.

*Measured by eye blink response to a loud noise after seeing disturbing photos. livescience.com/2866-political-views-driven-biology.html