

# An Age of Uncertainty (Interwar Years, 1918-1930s)



# Journal Activity



What do you need to live or survive?  
Brainstorm a list. Do not include people.



With a shoulder partner(s),  
discuss and separate your list  
into two columns: **Needs** and  
**Wants**

Needs	Wants

# Why Uncertainty?

## World War I (1914 – 1918)

- Warfare went from glorious and honorable to just sad and horrible
- Over 38 million casualties
- An entire generation of young men gone

## 1918 Flu Pandemic (1918 – 1920)

- Killed 50-100 million people
- 3-5% of the world population

Life was just depressing for many.





# At the same time...rise of dictators

A ruler with total power over a country



Benito Mussolini (Italy)

1922 - 1943

200,000 – 400,000 killed



Adolf Hitler (Germany)

1933 - 1945

At least 20 million killed



Joseph Stalin  
(Soviet Union)

1920s - 1953

3 – 60 million killed

# Why? How?

A common trait is they came to power through a **revolution**.



# revolution

“revolt” or  
“revolutionize”

To rise against constituted  
authority, or bring  
fundamental/radical change

“-tion”

The act of, or the  
state of

An overthrow and replacement/change of a  
government or political system by the people governed

# Why do we have (political) revolutions? Under what conditions or why did they happen?



- American Revolution
- French Revolution
- Russian Revolution



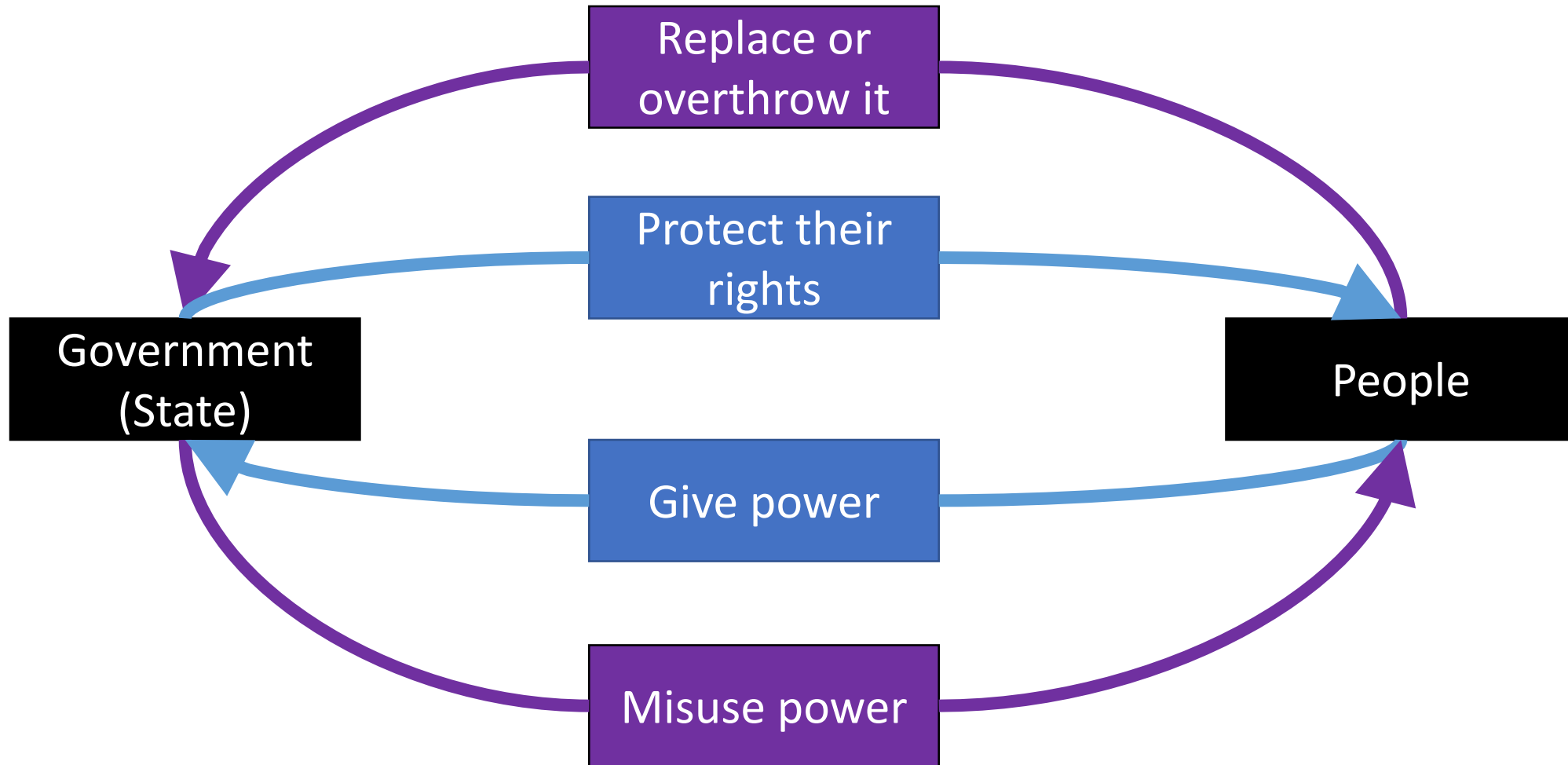
# Social Contract Theory

People and government have a “social contract.” The government offers protection to people in return for power and legitimacy.

- People can overthrow government if needs are not met
- John Locke’s Natural Rights
  - Life
  - Liberty
  - Pursuit of private property



# Social Contract Theory





# What would make you support or even start a revolution?



# Italy

- Disappointed in Treaty of Versailles
- Embarrassed of country and government
  - Constitutional monarchy
- Terrible economy
- Unemployment



# Germany (Weimar Republic)

- Article 231 – War Guilt Clause
- \$33 billion in reparation
- Crippled military and economy
- Lost territory

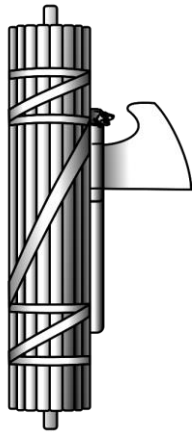


# Russia (during World War I)

## Russian Revolution (1917)

- Supply and food shortage
- Autocratic government
  - Regular people had little rights
- Economy shattered
- Lost support of the military, nobles, and elites
- Provisional government established, mainly led by aristocrats and nobles
  - Regular people bitter at having no voice





Fascism

Nazism

Communism, then  
Leninism and later  
Stalinism



Communism

Socialism

Liberalism

Conservatism

Nationalism/  
Fascism

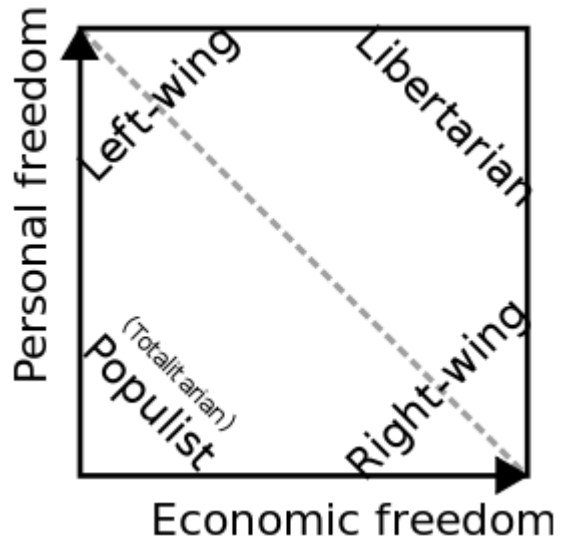


**LEFT  
WING**

**CENTRE**

**RIGHT WING**

<https://www.theadvocates.org/quiz/>



Communism

Socialism

Liberalism

Conservatism



Nationalism/  
Fascism



**LEFT  
WING**

**CENTRE**

**RIGHT WING**



# Capitalism

Economic system where the goal of **capital** is to make more capital/profits

- **laissez faire**
- **Adam Smith's** *The Wealth of Nations*
- Make as much money as possible
- Competition for capital accumulation/production

## Free Market Economy

- Based entirely on supply and demand
- Government should not intervene



# Socialism

Reaction to capitalism

- Aimed to solve everything that is wrong with capitalism
  - As long as capitalism exists, socialism will exist as well
- Key factors/means of production are controlled/regulated by the state/government, owned by the public – **planned economy**
  - Operated for the general welfare of all
- There is both private/public property
- Does not mean government controls everything
- People still kept their own money, but they give out a portion to help others – might get some “lazies”

**Examples Today: Roads, Social Security, Education, Healthcare, etc.**

# Marx's Stages of Societal Development



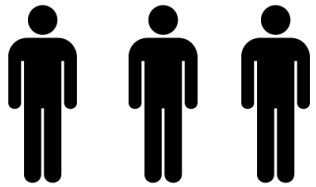
## Communism

Final stage of society, according to Marx

- Classless society
- No private ownership
- Everybody shares everything – equally
- Might get LOTS of “lazies”



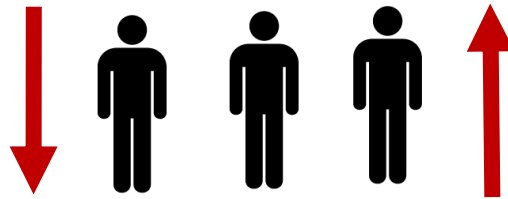
## Capitalism



A+ C F

- Rewards success
- Free market
- Private ownership
- Rights protect us from government

## Socialism



C+ C C-

- Punishes success
- Rewards laziness
- Redistribution of wealth
- “Collective ownership”
- Welfare system
- Invasive government

## Communism



- No private property
- Government owns everything
- Everything distributed equally

**Which system is best?  
Capitalism, socialism, or  
communism?**

**Make a choice in the following slides. Which one is the best option?**

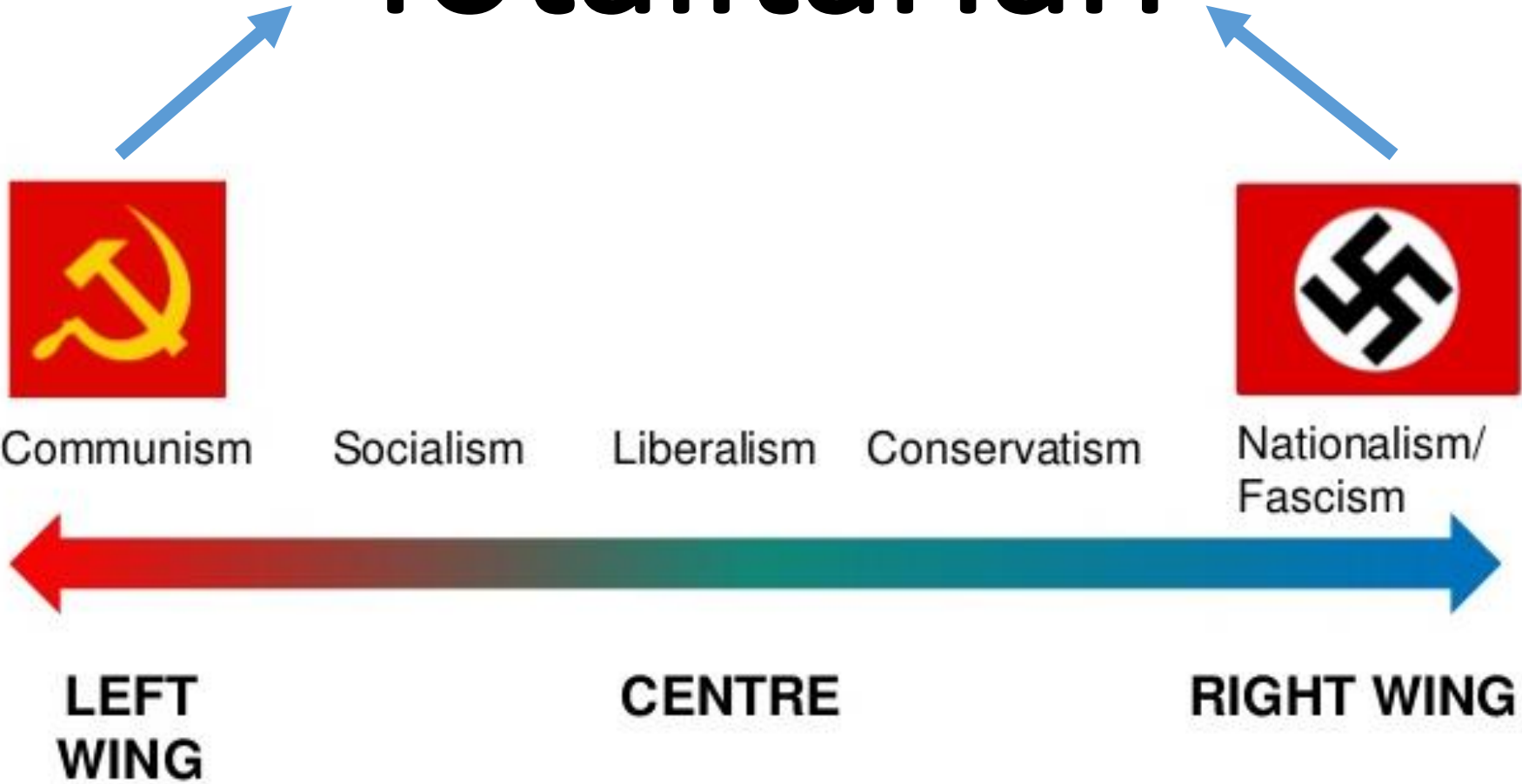
**Should this unit assessment  
be a multiple choice test or  
an essay?**

**Disneyland or Universal  
Studios?**



**Red or blue?**

# Totalitarian



# totalitarianism

total  
all

-ian/-an  
Belonging to, or  
part of a certain  
profession

-ism  
Idea, a state, policy

A political idea where the government takes total, centralized state control of every aspect of life

## **Key Traits of Totalitarianism**

## **Description**

### **Dictatorship and One-Party Rule**

- Exercises absolute authority
- Dominates the government

### **Dynamic Leader**

- Helps unite people toward meeting shared goals or common vision
- Encourages people to offer unconditional loyalty and support
- Becomes symbol of the government

Key Traits	Description	
<b>Ideology (Set of Beliefs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Justifies government actions</li><li>• Glorifies the actions of the state</li></ul>	
<b>State Control over All Aspects of Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business</li><li>• Family</li><li>• Labor</li><li>• Youth groups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing</li><li>• Religion</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Arts</li></ul>

<b>Key Traits</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>State Control over the Individual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demands total obedience to authority and personal sacrifice for the good of the state</li><li>• Denies basic liberties</li></ul>
<b>Dependence on Modern Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relies on mass communication (radio, news, loudspeakers) to spread propaganda</li><li>• Builds up advanced military weapons</li></ul>
<b>Organized Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses force, such as police terror, to crush all opposition</li><li>• Targets certain groups, such as minorities and political opponents, as enemies</li></ul>

**“All that is necessary for evil  
to triumph is for good  
people to do nothing.”**