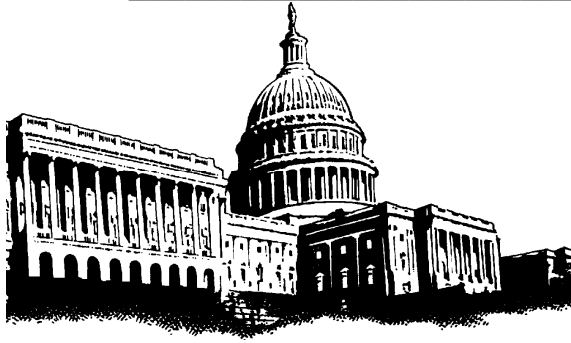


Name _____



Understanding Right-Leaning and Left-Leaning in U.S. Politics

In the complex landscape of American politics, terms like "right-leaning" and "left-leaning" are commonly used to describe individuals, groups, or political ideologies that fall along the political spectrum.

Understanding these terms is essential for grasping the diversity of opinions and beliefs that shape the United States' political discourse. This passage will explore the meanings and implications of right-leaning and left-leaning in the U.S. political system.

Right-leaning and left-leaning are terms used to indicate the political inclinations and preferences of individuals, political parties, or interest groups in the United States. They describe where a person or entity stands on various political, economic, and social issues, and how closely their positions align with the broader ideologies of conservatism and liberalism.

Right-Leaning

Individuals or groups that are right-leaning tend to embrace conservative or right-wing ideologies. Some common characteristics of right-leaning positions include:

- **Limited Government:** Right-leaning individuals often advocate for smaller government, reduced government intervention in the economy, and lower taxes. They believe in individual responsibility and self-reliance.
- **Traditional Values:** Right-leaning ideologies may prioritize traditional social values, such as support for religious freedom, pro-life stances on abortion, and traditional family structures.
- **Free-Market Capitalism:** Right-leaning individuals typically support free-market capitalism, emphasizing the importance of private enterprise, minimal regulation, and competitive markets.
- **Strong National Defense:** Right-leaning positions often emphasize a robust military, strong national security, and a proactive approach to international relations.

Left-Leaning

Conversely, individuals or groups that are left-leaning tend to embrace liberal or left-wing ideologies. Some common characteristics of left-leaning positions include:

- **Expanded Government:** Left-leaning individuals often support a larger government role in addressing social and economic issues, including healthcare, education, and social safety nets.
- **Social Progressivism:** Left-leaning ideologies typically prioritize progressive social values, including LGBTQ+ rights, gender equality, and racial justice.
- **Income Equality:** Left-leaning individuals may advocate for policies aimed at reducing income inequality, wealth disparities, and providing a higher minimum wage.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Left-leaning positions often emphasize environmental protection, sustainability, and addressing climate change.

