

Graduate School of International Development, Spring  
semester 2023

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# International Politics

Course instructor: Francis Peddie

## Lesson One: Course Introduction

April 11, 2023

# Contact information

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Office 301 GSID; I'm happy to meet with you if you need help with the coursework, but please arrange a time with me first.

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## CAN WE COOPERATE? THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA

### Let's start with a game...

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You and your partner have committed a theft and have been arrested by the police. You hid the money before you were caught and you both know where it is.

There is not enough evidence to convict you of a serious crime, but there is enough to convict you of a lesser crime. A lawyer representing the state gives you the following options: "You can stay silent (choice 1) or testify against your partner (choice 2). If you both stay silent, you will both go to prison for one year; if you testify against your partner but your partner stays silent, you will be free and your partner will go to prison for 10 years; if you both testify against the other, you will both go to prison for five years."

What choice will you make, 1 or 2? **Before you look at the next slide, make a note or your choice and why you chose that.**

## WHAT IS THE “BEST” RESPONSE?

### Simple game theory for strategic interactions

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Rank these four options in order from best to worst result for you

A: You both stay silent  
Both prisoners get out in one year and divide the money equally

B: You testify against your partner; your partner does not testify against you  
Your partner goes to prison for ten years; you are free and keep all the money

C: You do not testify against your partner; your partner does testify against you  
You go to prison for ten years; Your partner is free and keeps all the money

D: Both of you testify against the other  
You both go to prison for five years; divide the money later?

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## EQUILIBRIUM IS WHEN BOTH PLAYERS PLAY THEIR BEST RESPONSE STRATEGY

What is the equilibrium choice?

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Based on the concept of self-interest, the best option for both partners in testifying; that is why D is ranked higher than A. It is considered the most likely outcome.

PROBLEM: You have both testified against the other. Is there any trust left between you?

A: 3,3: You will only get half the money and will have to spend time in jail

B: 1,4: Best for you, worst for partner  
You get all the money and spend no time in jail

C: 4,1: Worst for you, best for partner

D: 2,2: It's possible you may get all the money and spend no time in jail; you have incomplete information (what your partner will do) but if you take a chance that the other person will stay silent, you stand to get the most. Logically the partner should also think this way, so this is considered the equilibrium response

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The “best response” or equilibrium is mutual defection. Why is this so?

The incentive is to defect to maximize personal gain; even if your partner also defects, you do not lose the money (though it may cause conflict); if you defect and your partner doesn't, you get all the money.

However, the best result is for both to stay silent, spend a short time in prison, and split the money peacefully. This requires a high degree of trust and cooperation.

The irony is that the best response and the best result are not the same.

COOPERATION VS COMPETITION

Or, collective interest vs self interest

What choice did you make? Why?

- In this course we will try to answer some easy questions:
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- 1. Do politics matter in issues of cooperation? Do international relations matter for development?
- 2. What are the dominant perspectives in modern politics and international relations? How do these perspectives affect international cooperation?
- 3. What are our own political perspectives?
- 4. How do competing political systems affect cooperation?
- 5. How do various global issues look through different political 'lenses'?

- Why take this course?

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- It is important to be aware of the broad ideologies that affect policy at all levels; policy affects people, who are the centre of questions of cooperation and development.
- Development plans and projects do not happen in a vacuum; they are shaped by the politics of localities, regions, nations, and international relations.
- The ability to understand multiple perspectives -even (especially?) those we disagree with -help us as academics, fieldworkers, government workers and so on to make better decisions and have greater ability to find consensus.



# What is globalization? It depends on what lens you view it through

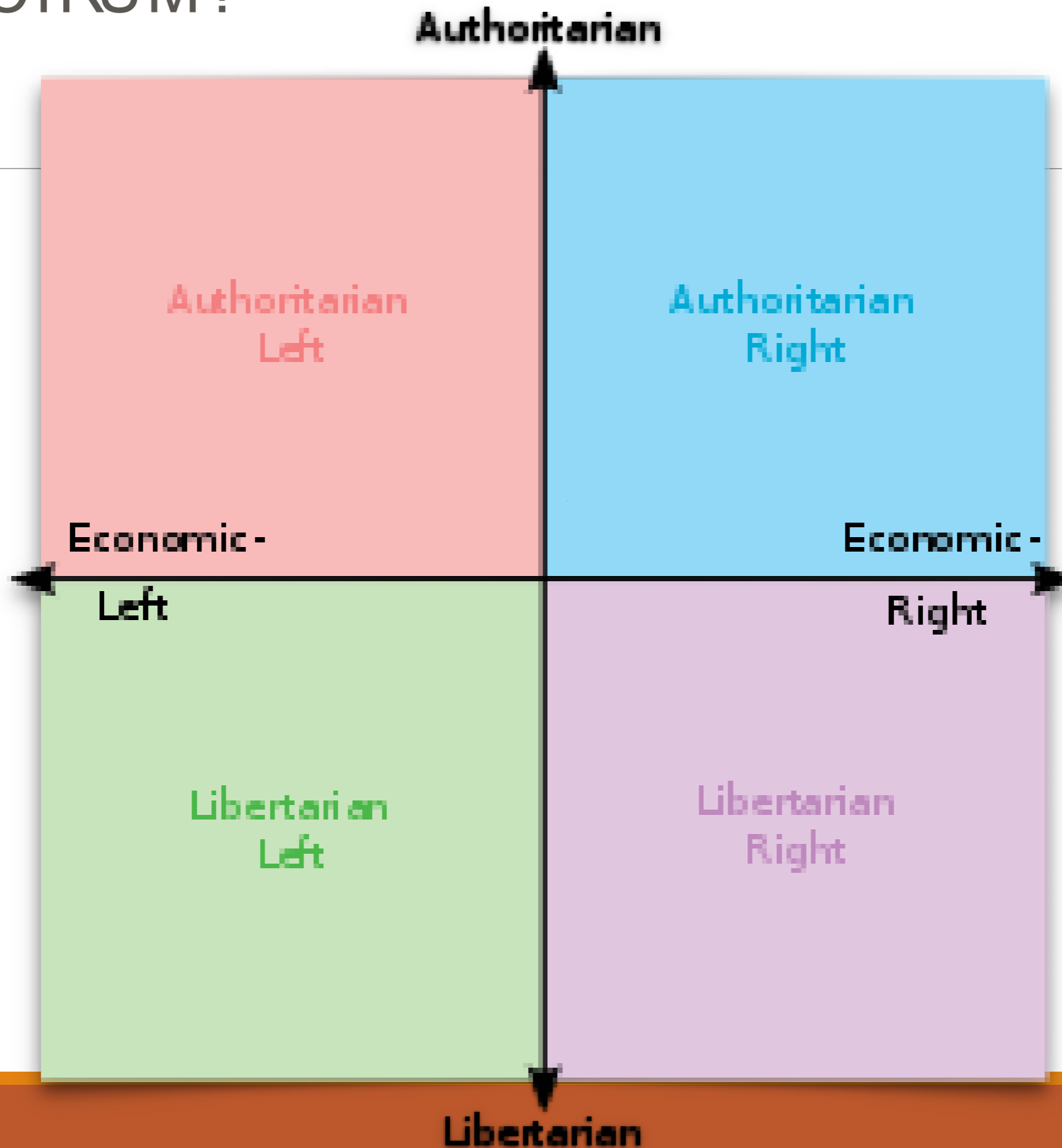
Figure based on Baylis, Smith and Owens (2008), 6-8

<p><b>Realism: Political perspective</b></p> <p>Globalization affects economic relations, society and culture but does not supersede <b>sovereignty and self-interest</b></p> <p>Despite claims to the contrary, the nation state is still the dominant actor State-centred, power driven, spheres of influence and power blocks</p> <p>Prefer the term internationalization over globalization</p>	<p><b>Liberalism: Institutional perspective</b></p> <p>Globalization is the result of a long process of progress and development of rules (institutions) that apply to all human beings</p> <p>The nation state is important but increasingly less so; more and more actors are emerging who influence politics</p> <p><b>The world is increasingly interconnected through trade and technology and governed by common rules</b></p>
<p><b>GLOBALIZATION</b></p>	
<p><b>Marxism: Economic perspective</b></p> <p>Globalization is nothing new; it is just another stage of development of international capitalism</p> <p>A Western-led movement <b>increasing the wealth gap and power divide between core, semi-periphery and periphery regions/nations</b></p>	<p><b>Constructivism: Social perspective</b></p> <p>Globalization is a real force and should be directed to empower new political actors and join people together across national boundaries united for common purposes</p> <p><b>Transnational networks to build new and more equitable societies</b></p>

Just a buzzword

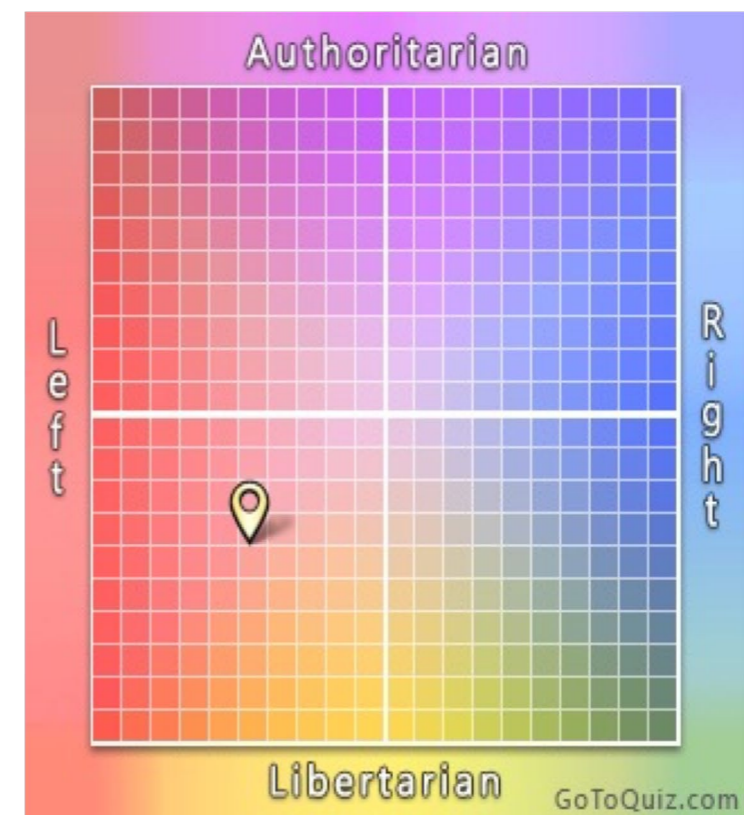
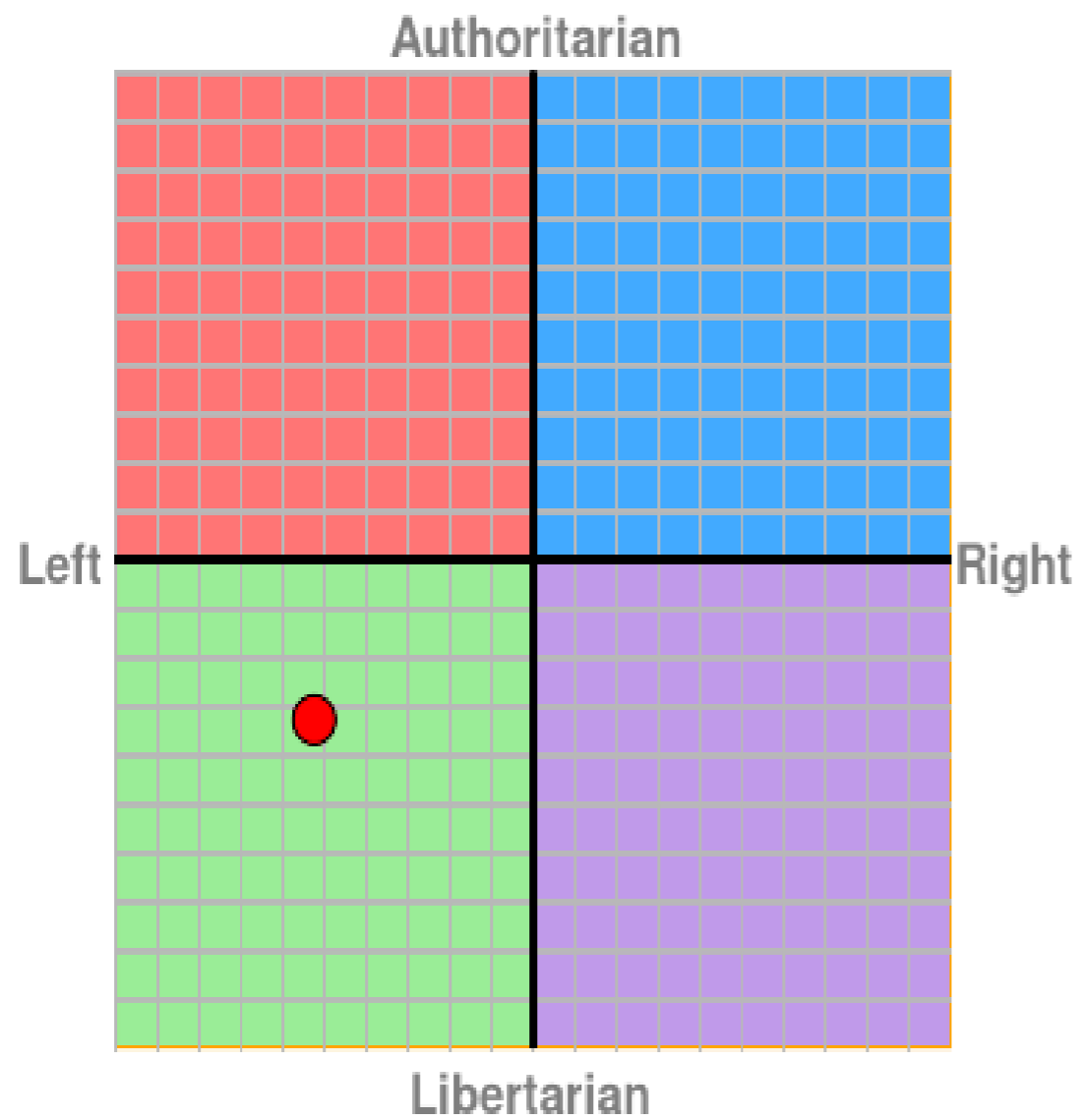
A real and important phenomenon

# WHERE ARE YOU ON THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM?



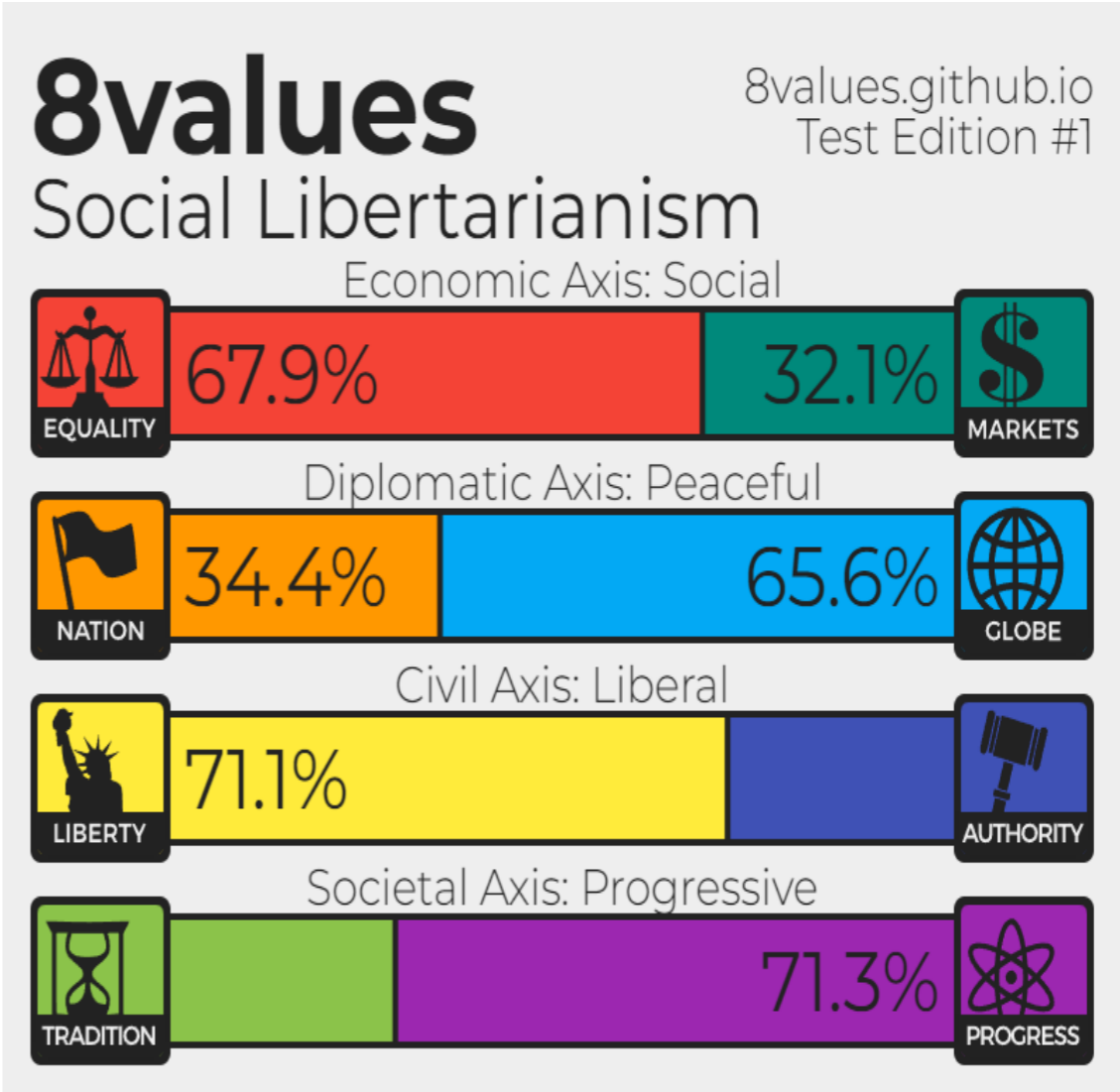
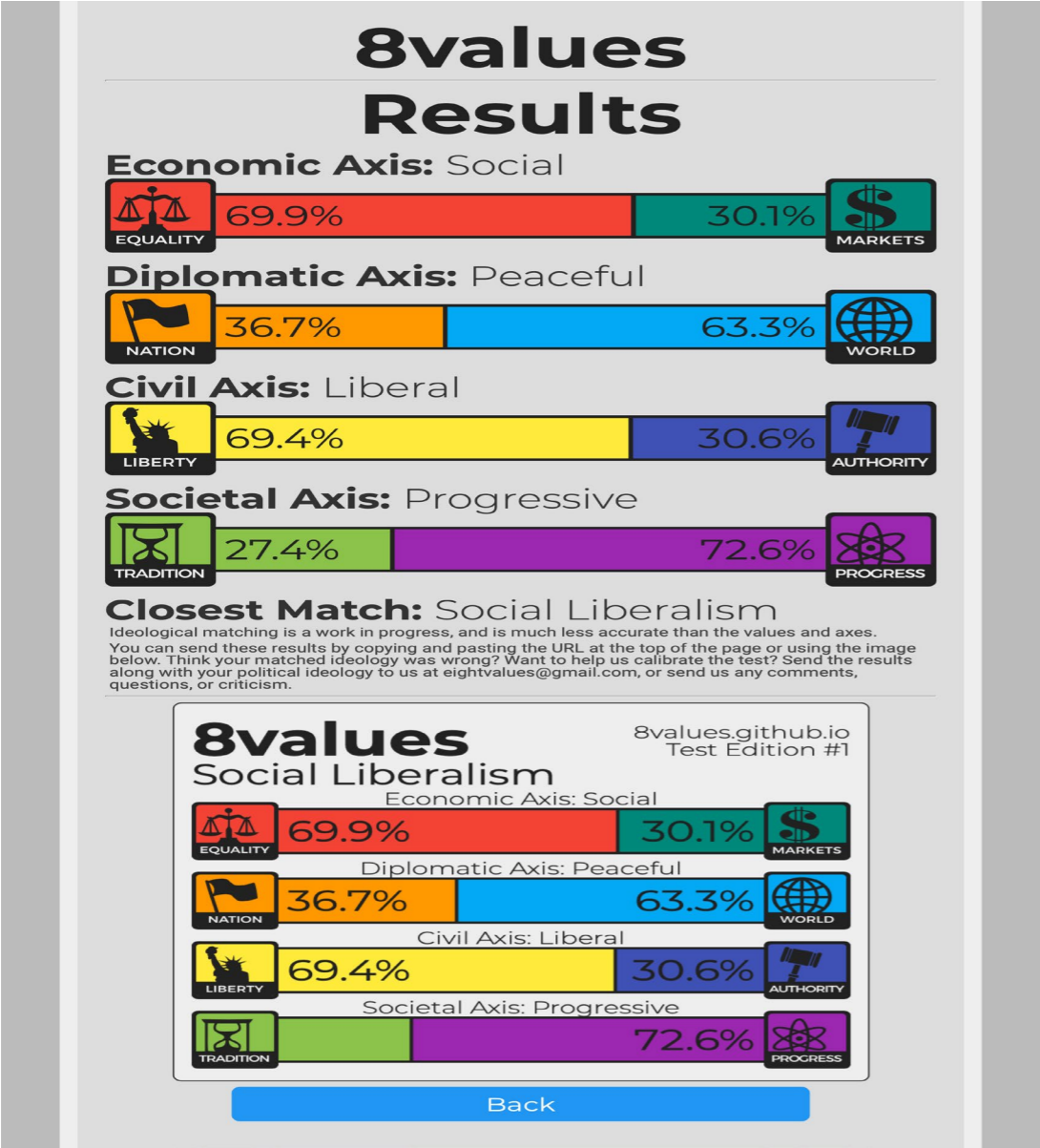
# 2018 to 2023: no change

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2018 vs.

2023 8 Values: Virtually no change



# Try the tests for yourself!

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Use the URLs to go to the sites and try these tests for yourselves.

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/>

<https://8values.github.io/>

For your first small assignment for this course, write a short report (one A4 page) about your results. Did they surprise you? Were they what you expected? What do you think the results say about your character and tendencies? You can upload this to the TACT site for this class

We will discuss your results in next week's class so be prepared to talk about them. This assignment is worth 5 points (more on evaluation later!)

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So what are the implications of my political position for my decision making if I was the Minister of Development for country X, or working at the World Bank in charge of region Y? What kind of projects would I promote? Who would I see as the people most deserving of support? What kind of projects might I avoid or disfavor?

- Who would I trust? Who would I want to start relations with, and keep them going over time (iteration?)

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# COURSE OUTLINE

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1. Introduction- The lecturer explains the course outline and the dominant perspectives on governance as they connect to international relations and global governance issues. **READING FOR NEXT CLASS: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction. This is a PDF file available on our TACT site.**

2. The emergence of human societies and the need for politics
3. The Westphalian system and the nation state
4. National and international issues: interests, interactions and institutions
5. War and peace between states
6. International organizations and war
7. Civil war and terrorism
8. International trade
9. Development as an issue of international politics
10. Human rights
11. Climate change
12. International migration
13. Student presentations on simulation results
14. Student presentations on simulation results
15. Challenges to the Global Order and wrap-up

The schedule is subject to change

Readings will be supplied by the course instructor and will be available on our class TACT site. You will be able to access the site once you have registered for the course or I add you by your student number. The main text used will be Frieden, Lake and Schultz, *World Politics*, fifth edition.

# Evaluation...the only thing you truly care about...

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Evaluation will be based on active participation in class discussions and activities, today's short assignment, a presentation based on the results on an online simulation activity by each student, and two short comment papers based on the readings (20/5/35/20/20). A cumulative score of 60 is needed to pass.

## **Regarding comment papers:**

Each student must submit 2 comment papers by the end of the semester. You can choose to comment on any of the readings that you find most interesting, challenging, or even confusing. The minimum length is 500 words, maximum 1000. In analyzing and commenting on readings, you should consider how the specific reading fits into the overall themes and ideas of the course and relate it to real-life examples. It is not a research paper, so you do not need to worry about finding corroboration or counter-proofs in other sources.

I suggest you don't leave writing both papers until the end of semester, when you will be busy with other coursework. Try to get one done early or by the mid-point of the course, and one later in the semester.



# Statecraft simulation

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After the number of students is set, you will take part in an online simulation game called Statecraft where you are responsible for choosing a development trajectory for your designated country. You accumulate points through choices you make and completion of weekly memos. Points are accrued through both competing and cooperating with other nations. At the end of the simulation, you will be ranked and your position will determine your score /15. You will also give a simulation debrief presentation in week 13 or 14 that explains the strategic choices you made, your successes and failures that will be scored /20.

Participation in the simulation outside of class time is essential if you plan to win. The student licenses will be paid through my research/class budget so there is no cost to you.

# Any questions?

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