

Eduardo Frei Foundation

Foundation for International Solidarity
Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA)

Young Leadership 2018

Christian Democracy: a political philosophy about civil society

The question of this morning:

I got involved in my political party because it stands for

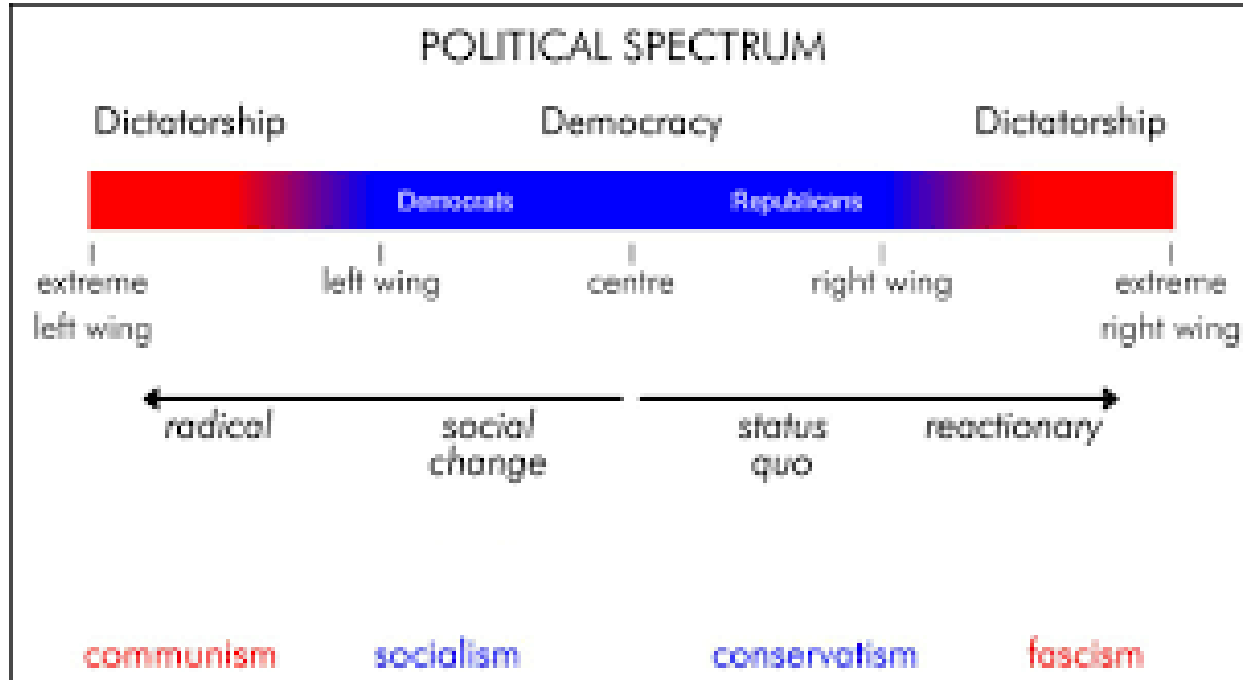
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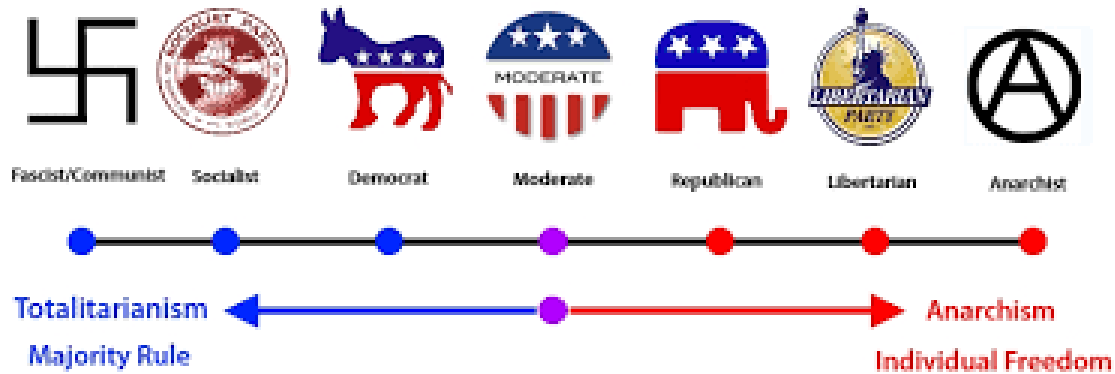
Christian democracy: a political ideology

1. Political landscape
2. Christian democracy: a core founding value of the EPP
3. Civil society
4. View on economy

The political landscape



The spectrum



Mainstream political ideologies

Social-Democracy:	State has main responsibility
Liberalism:	Individual has main responsibility
Christian Democracy:	Individual responsibility in a social context
Conservatism:	Individual responsibility taking into account traditional values and national culture

Value systems

Socialism

Social justice

Material equality

Redistribution

The „common good“

Classless society

Solidarity

Public ownership

Social responsibility

Liberalism

Freedom

Rule of law

Choice

Tolerance

Entrepreneurship

Competition

Property

Ind. responsibility

Conservatism

Order

Duty

Tradition

Hierarchy

Authority

Discipline

Honour

Charity

Christian democracy (EPP)

- **Shared values**
- **Christian view of man (Love your fellow)**
- **Principle of stewardship**
- **Pluralism and pluralistic understanding of society**
- **Solidarity**
- **Subsidiarity**
- **Personalism / communitarianism**
- **Politics to serve the common good**
- **Social market economy**

Conservatism (EPP)

- **Tradition**
- **Realistic view of man**
- **Authorities and 'natural' hierarchy**
- **Property rights and human rights**
- **Rule of law and liberal democracy**
- **Nation state and the value of the national**
- **Individual freedom and personal responsibility**
- **Limited government and restrictive role of government**
- **Free enterprise**

Rhineland model

- Social market economy
- Politics to serve the common good
- Stakeholders values (owners, employers, employees, customers)
- Balance between marketforce and social effects
- High taxation, high level of employees-rights
- Christian-democrats

Anglo-saxon model

- Free enterprise
- Limited government and restrictive role of government
- Shareholder value
- Competition based
- Low taxation, as little employees right as possible
- Liberals

Discussion questions:

1. What is the current political landscape in your country?
2. Where do you position your political party?
3. Can you describe the basic principles of your party?

Christian Democracy

A core founding principle of the EPP

> European People's Party <

www.epp.eu

Roots of Christian Democracy

Christian democracy's founding belief is the Christian view of humanity:

- Every individual is unique and must be treated with dignity
- Man is both an individual (rights) and a social (responsibilities)
- Dignity and freedom of each is coupled with the power of judgement and responsibility
- Family as the smallest social unit
- Civil society
- Common good

Where it comes from

- Catholic and evangelic teaching on christian social ethics
- 19th century as response to the industrial revolution and urbanisation
- Huge changing economic and social conditions
- Papal encyclicals Rerum Novarum (1891 Pope Leo XIII) and Quadragesimo Anno (1931 Pope Pius XI)
- Evangelical theological works

A political doctrine based on christian principles of the gospel

Main values

- Social Justice
- Compassion
- Reconciliation
- Shared responsibility
- Respect for life
- Stewardship of resources

Three basic principles of Christian democracy:

1. Personality ≠ individualism
2. Solidarity: moral and structural
3. Subsidiarity: responsible society and strong communities

Christian democracy and the Church

- Catholic and Protestant teaching have a clear view on the separation of state and church based on its public theology
- This implies that:
 1. The church and a political party each have their own responsibility;
 2. A Christian politician does not represent the Church, but has his *own and personal* responsibility
- Christian is a *religious* notion; Christian democratic is a *political* notion; there is a close connection, but it is not the same
- What are the differences with Orthodox Christian teaching?

Civil Society

‘non-governmental organizations’

What is civil society

- Total of all organizational structures whose members have objectives and responsibilities that are of general interest.
- Civil society is a responsible society. A society which gives and guarantees responsibility and takes responsibility if necessary.



Specific examples of civil society

- Labour organizations
- Churches
- NGO's like Greenpeace, Human Rights' Watch etc.
- Volunteering organisations, like the Red Cross, scoutingclubs, cultural organizations on music, play, etc.
- Sportclubs
-

Added value of civil society

- It brings people together
- It organises the relation between person-society-state
- It stimulates to take decisions on the most appropriate and effective level
- Positive impact: Social activities can be taken in the smallest communities
- Negative impact: higher level or authority takes over when small communities fail

Questions:

1. Do you recognize this 'civil society' in your country?
2. Are politicians respecting the self-organisations of people?
3. What is your view on the role of the economy?