

Critical Thinking Exercise No.5

Anne Patterson

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There are many differences between contemporary conservatism and contemporary liberalism. They have very different views on modern day political issues such as abortion, gun control laws and immigration. But they also have very different overarching philosophical views on how the government should work, which fuels the differences in opinions they hold. Contemporary conservatives wish to hold onto traditional values and believe that the government should have limited intervention. Contemporary liberals on the other hand are very progressive and think the government should intervene and are reliant on them doing so for the sake of progress. Thus we see a major difference in the overall approach to politics and how different the two schools of thought are.

Contemporary conservatism is really based upon tradition and they fall into the Republican party. They are in no way for face paced or major change. This is reflected in their standings today on controversial political issues. Such as on the issue of abortion they stand firm with the fact that abortion is murder of the baby, they have stuck to the traditional thinking on the issue and are still fighting to overturn Roe v. Wade under the leadership of president trump. Limited government is very important to the contemporary conservatives. They stress the importance that the individual has upon problem solving and are not in favor of too much government intervention. Government should give the freedom to the people so they can take that freedom and achieve their given goals. There is also an emphasis on having a strong military or

national defense. A traditional military they believe is the most successful one and we see these values of tradition through gender bans and gender roles within the military. Conservatives were in favor of the military ban on transgender people, and even removing homo sexuals from the armed forces. They also support the policy of women not being able to participate in ground combat units. Conservatives are very cautious towards change and sometimes do not support change at all and cling to age old, sometimes outdated, traditional values.

Contemporary Liberalism on the other hand is all for innovation and actively pursuing political change in our country, they fall into the Democratic party. They look to the government for help and think the government should be highly involved in solving problems. Tradition only holds our society back and prevents growth in their eyes. Liberalism also strongly advocates and supports minority groups. We see these ideals and views come out through the liberal view on abortion as well. They believe that all women should be free to choose what happens to their bodies. Not only this but they also hold the opinion that the government should provide financial support for the abortions as well. We see here the progressive thoughts that promote change from traditional values as well as looking to the government to help solve the problem. Liberalism puts a lot of emphasis on progress, big government involvement and equality as they give minority groups a strong voice.

Conservatives and Liberals, as you might expect, have clashing ideas on many political issues that we face today. On the issue of economics they have ideas that coincide with the level of government involvement they support. The conservatives support free market trade with little involvement from the government within the economic system. With an opposing view, the liberals support government regulation of the economy to protect citizens. As far as gun control the conservatives believe that the second amendment gives people the right to bear arms, and is not in support of creating too many laws and regulations against owning guns. Liberals on the other hand do not think that the second amendment gives people the right to bear arms rather it just allows states to form or keep a militia to protect from government corruption. They advocate for strict gun control laws. This has become a highly debated issue due to the rise in school shootings across the country and challenges traditional beliefs. We see conservative and liberal thinking expressed through their stance on political issues today.

The major and most important differences in thought we see in contemporary liberalism and contemporary conservatism include government involvement, and the ideas held on tradition vs. change. Through their stance on political issues we see that liberals believe that the government should intervene and that change is important for growth. Conservatives on the other hand believe that the government should have minimal involvement and traditional values should be held onto. These two very different schools of thought lead to a strong divide and the political polarization that we see today.