

About The Political Compass™

[Home](#)

[Take the test](#)

[Analysis](#)

[Your Personalised Certificate](#)

[Iconochasms](#)

[Composers' Political Compass](#)

(an amusement)

[Contact](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Reading List](#)

[Media Coverage](#)

[Professional Feedback](#)

[Political Compass™ Seminars](#)

[Sponsorship](#)

Country Specific

[New Zealand 2005](#)

[Germany 2005](#)
(auch auf Deutsch)

[Canada 2005](#)

[UK Election 2005](#)

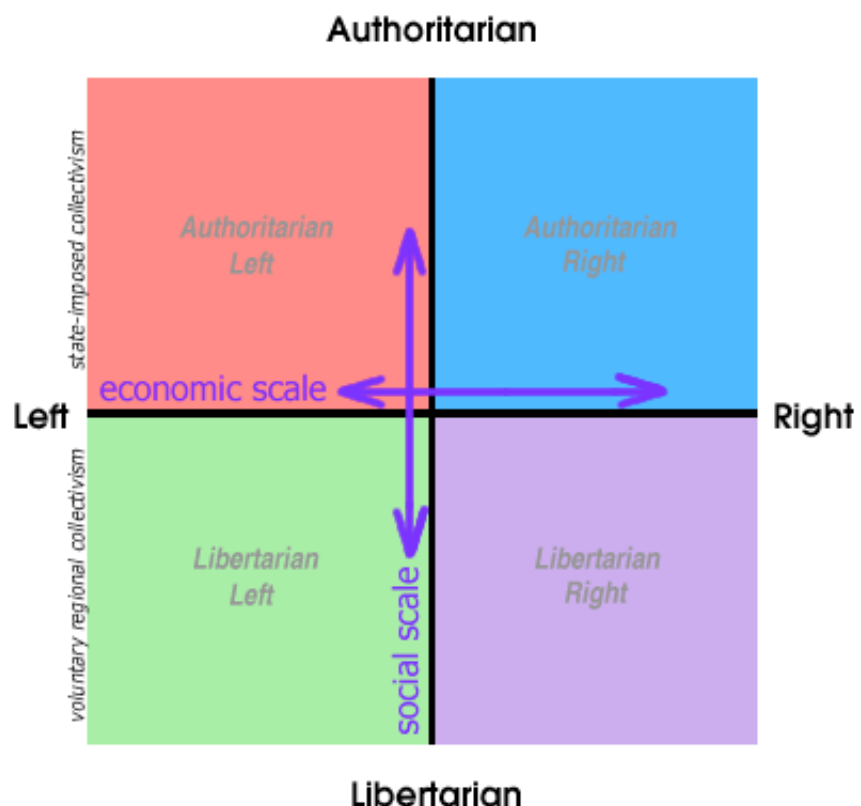
[US Election 2004](#)

In the introduction, we explained the inadequacies of the traditional left-right line.



If we recognise that this is essentially an economic line it's fine, as far as it goes. We can show, for example, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung and Pol Pot, with their commitment to a totally controlled economy, on the hard left. Socialists like Mahatma Gandhi and Robert Mugabe would occupy a less extreme leftist position. Margaret Thatcher would be well over to the right, but further right still would be someone like that ultimate free marketeer, General Pinochet.

That deals with economics, but the social dimension is also important in politics. That's the one that the mere left-right scale doesn't adequately address. So we've added one, ranging in positions from extreme authoritarian to extreme libertarian.

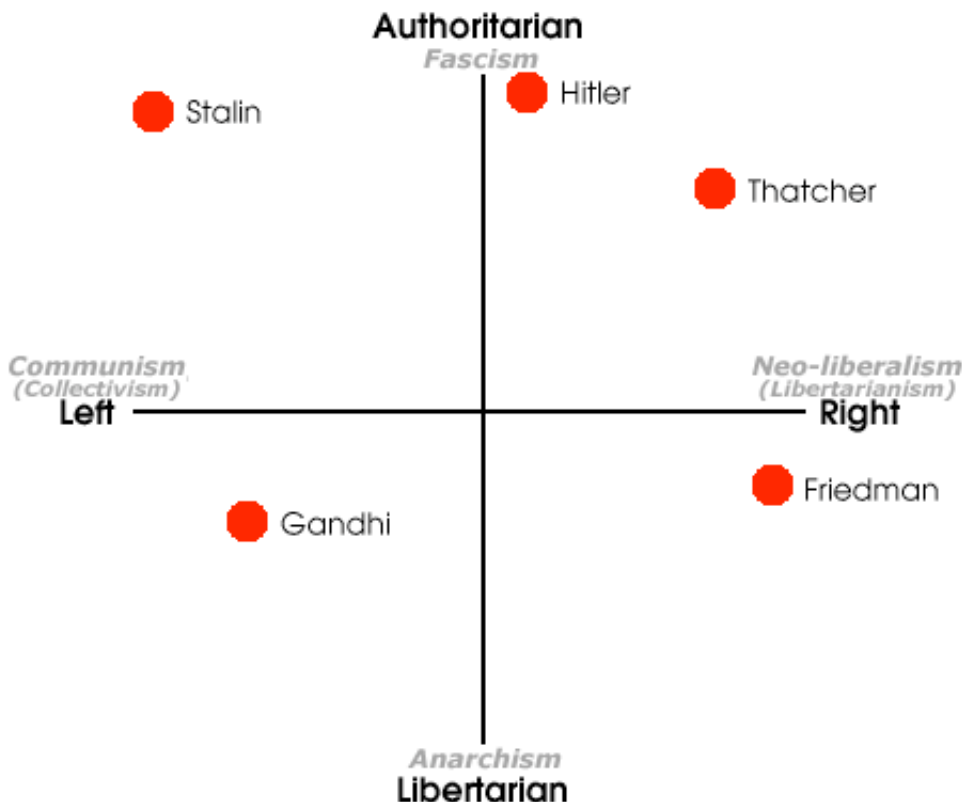


Both an economic dimension and a social dimension are important factors for a proper political analysis. By adding the social dimension you can show that Stalin was an authoritarian leftist (ie the state is more important than the individual) and that Gandhi, believing in the supreme value of each individual, is a liberal leftist. While the former involves state-imposed arbitrary collectivism in the extreme top left, on the extreme bottom left is voluntary collectivism at regional level, with no state involved. Hundreds of such anarchist communities existed in Spain during the civil war period

You can also put Pinochet, who was prepared to sanction mass killing for the sake of the free market, on the far right as well as in a hardcore authoritarian position.

On the non-socialist side you can distinguish someone like Milton Friedman, who is anti-state for fiscal rather than social reasons, from Hitler, who wanted to make the state stronger, even if he wiped out half of humanity in the process.

The chart also makes clear that, despite popular perceptions, the opposite of fascism is not communism but anarchism (ie liberal socialism), and that the opposite of communism (i.e. an entirely state-planned economy) is neo-liberalism (i.e. extreme deregulated economy).



The usual understanding of anarchism as a left wing ideology does not take into account the neo-liberal "anarchism" championed by the likes of Ayn Rand, Milton Friedman and America's Libertarian Party, which couples law of the jungle right-wing economics with liberal positions on most social issues. Often their libertarian impulses stop short of opposition to strong law and order positions, and are more economic in substance (ie no taxes) so they are not as extremely libertarian as they are extremely right wing. On the other hand, the classical libertarian collectivism of anarcho-syndicalism (libertarian socialism) belongs in the bottom left hand corner.

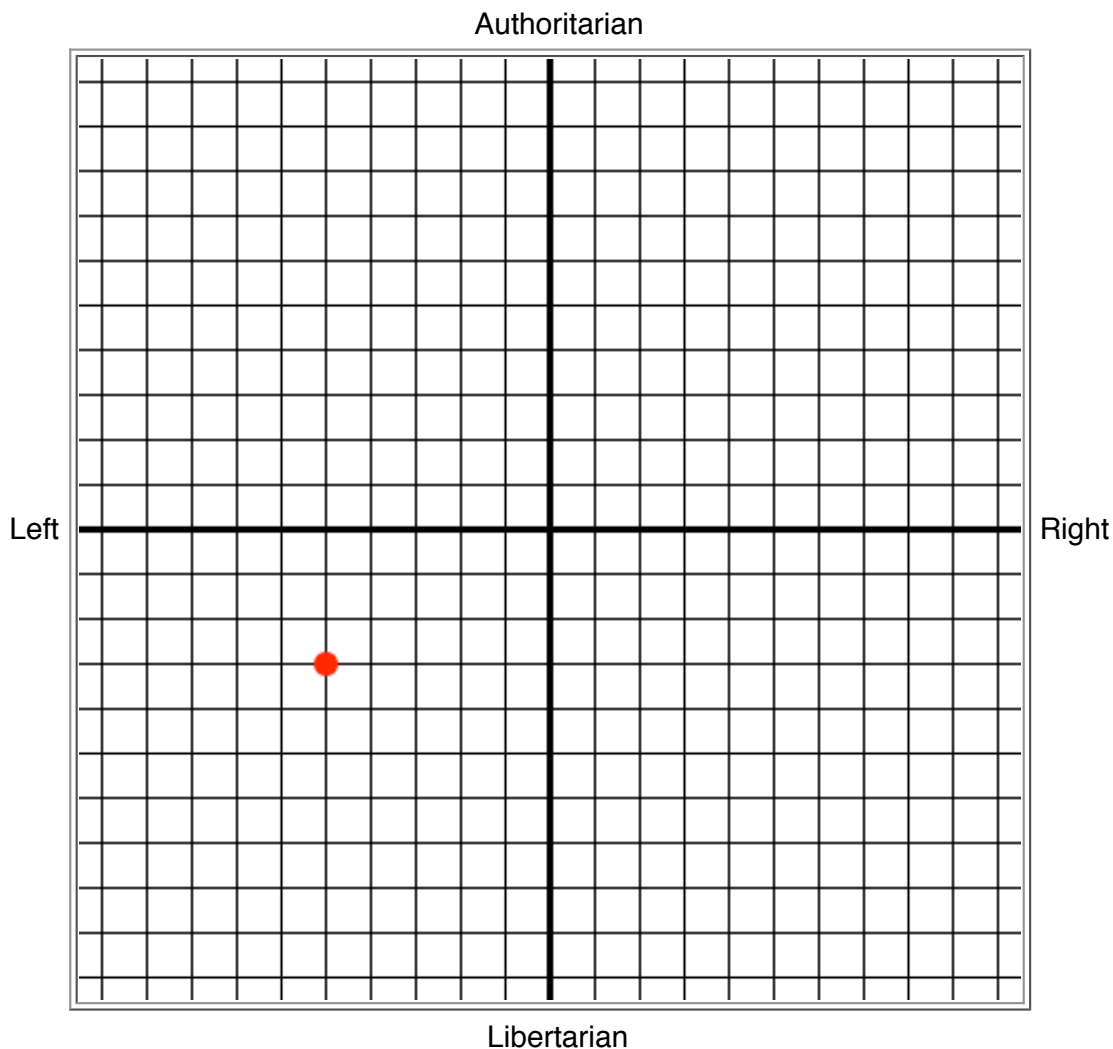
In our home page we demolished the myth that authoritarianism is necessarily "right wing", with the examples of Robert Mugabe, Pol Pot and Stalin. Similarly Hitler, on an economic scale, was not an extreme right-winger. His economic policies were broadly Keynesian, and to the left of some of today's Labour parties. If you could get Hitler and Stalin to sit down together and avoid economics, the two

diehard authoritarians would find plenty of common ground.

Your political compass

Economic Left/Right: -4.50

Social Libertarian/Authoritarian: -3.03



[Show graph on separate page for printing](#)

A brilliant conversation piece for your office or study ...



[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#)





YOUR OWN PERSONALISED POLITICAL COMPASS™ CERTIFICATE



Join 24 caricatures of your most loved and loathed political figures in a personalised colour certificate that you can load into your browser, and print in moments.

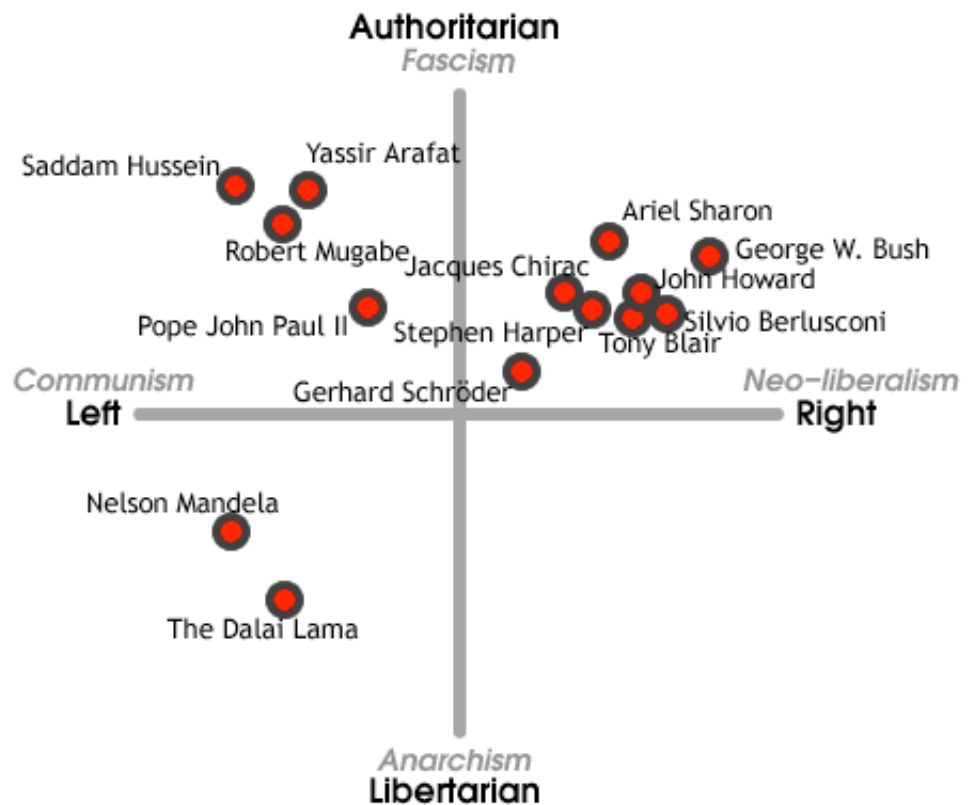
It's beautifully designed by political cartoonist Ralph Izzard and serves as a permanent record of your position on the Compass, and the political company you keep.

It's also a means of helping us to maintain and develop the concept and the site, while keeping it entirely advertising-free.

Now you know where you are on The Political Compass™, you might like to explore the ideas of those with similar (or wildly differing) views on our [Reading List](#).

International Chart

A diverse professional team has assessed the words and actions of internationally known contemporary leaders to give you an idea of how they relate to each other on the political compass.



We regret the present exclusion of some major leaders, especially in the developing world. This is due to our inability so far to contact independent experts.

How You Can Help Us

A great deal of effort lies behind the development of The Political Compass, and the realisation of it in practical form. It has occasionally come to our attention that other sites have tried to exploit our work by copying it, adopting our name, or linking to us in a dishonest fashion.

If you should come across any such sites, please let us know, so that we can take appropriate action.

A few critics believe that we should bow with prevailing political winds and narrow the actual parameters. Please see our [FAQ 21](#).

Thanks from the Political Compass team.

[UK Election 2005](#)

[A few words about "The Extreme Right", and a look at the parties in England's local elections](#)

ICONOCHASMS: How well do you know your political icons ?

New material is regularly added to The Political Compass - please keep coming back !

Last updated: Sunday 5 March 2006

This website copyright © Pace News Limited 2001-2002. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any medium without prior written permission strictly prohibited.