

# Authoritarian versus Egalitarian

Here are two views on the purpose of electing reps:

1. An election should give representation to the major opinion groups in the electorate. Give them a forum to debate and refine policies for the common good. This view emphasizes the **integrating** purpose of elections and representative committees.

2. The goal of an election is to give one group the power to rule. Give them a clear mandate to resolve necessary choices. We could call that the **dominance** purpose of an election. This path risks turning to dictatorship: If the biggest party should dominate a government, should the party's biggest faction dominate it? 1 side, 1 party, 1 faction, 1 leader.

Compromises often must be made at some level, even if that is in the mind of one person and the process is hidden. Democrats hold that political decisions are better when many minds work together, the options are debated in public from many points of view, and power is distributed fairly. With good decision rules, an open egalitarian process is quick, stable and effective.

Questions for research, discussion, and writing:  
Do the values below tend to occur as two distinct sets?  
Or does a person pursue values in (between) both?  
Does one set tend to displace the other in a community?  
Is one linked with support for effective democracy?

Do some people with wealth want it to steer society and try to weaken steering by voters in elections?

## Egalitarian Values

**Do** unto others as you would have them do unto you  
Reciprocity

**Votes** Rule, Democracy  
Right to an effective vote  
Equal opportunities in money and power

**Human** Rights  
Freedom of the press & info  
Emancipation  
Integration  
Voting rights  
Women's suffrage (voting)  
Equal pay for equal work  
Nature conservation

**Right** Makes Might  
Reason from Evidence  
Speak Truth to Power  
What you do, meritocracy  
Loyal to principles  
Rule of law, honest elections  
Nonviolent resistance

The **Enlightenment**,  
empirical, skeptical,  
rational, analytical;  
critical-thinking disposition

## Authoritarian Values

**Look** strong, successful, rich  
As your strength must control your weakness, strong men must control the weak

**Money** Rules, Oligarchy  
Right to trick voters  
Set privileges and ranks in money and power

**Corporate** Property Rights  
Freedom to own the press  
Slavery, people as property  
Segregation by race, wealth  
Poll taxes and intimidation  
Women's silence  
Traditional roles & rewards  
Exploit resources

**Might** Makes Right  
Obedience to doctrine  
Power to shape information  
Who you know, cronyism  
Loyal to leaders  
Rule of men, corruption  
Coup d'état, death squads

The **Inquisition**, blind faith, obedience, ideology;  
intolerant of ambiguity and uncertainty

## Egalitarian Values

**Flexible** Creativity & Improv:

Lateral thinking, connections

Observe to test hypothesis

Diversity, expression, art

**Heroes** Franklin, Adams,  
Condorcet, M.L. King

Many prophets, philosophers,  
poets, scientists

**Sensuality**; Empathy

Roman god Eros

Sex is good, a lot is healthy

Health & education funding

Seduce for information

Regulation of violence: gun  
control, verbal assault

**Attractions** for adherents

Playfulness, sexuality

Fellowship

Seeing life thru others' eyes

Conscience, curiosity

Wonder, learning, discovery

**Related** terms: democratic,  
free, classless, equal, open

**Cooperate** for the common  
good

## Authoritarian Values

**Rigid** Order & Discipline:

Linear thinking, categories

Memorize scripture

Purity, uniform(s) propaganda

**Heroes** JP Morgan, Reagan  
Louis XIV, W., Trump

Many directors of religions,  
nations, corporations

**Violence**; Machismo

Roman god Mars

War is noble

Weapon & prison funding

Torture for information

Regulation of sex: gays,  
abortion, contraception

**Attractions** for adherents

Violence, adrenaline

Status, rank, rankism

Dominating others

Strength & safety

Soothing certainties

**Related** terms: hierarchy,  
oligarchy, plutocracy, elitist

**Compete** for personal power  
Dominate or be dominated

Add your own art, music, scriptures, stories, and heroes.

## Old and New Classics on A. vs. E.

*The Authoritarian Personality* 'may be induced by an upbringing of rigid discipline and conditional affection.' This book by Theodor Adorno and others developed a scale to measure "an estimate of fascist receptivity."

A quick personality test: [www.anesi.com/fscale.htm](http://www.anesi.com/fscale.htm)

Authoritarian traits: fear and punish weakness, e.g. scapegoat, demonize, hate, and oppress the weak. "... excessive conformity, submissiveness to authority, intolerance, insecurity, superstition. ridged stereotyped thought patterns." *Sociology in Our Times*, Diana Kendall; [books.google.com/books?isbn=1305856309](http://books.google.com/books?isbn=1305856309)

Frank Sulloway showed in *Born to Rebel* that many firstborns become more authoritarian than siblings. In 2003, he co-authored a controversial research report, "[Political Conservatism as Motivated Social Cognition.](#)"

Some conservatives oppose conflating authoritarian with conservative. *Triumph of the Authoritarian*, by John W. Dean, The Boston Globe; 14 July 2006.

"In the 20 peer-reviewed scientific studies summarized below, researchers found that liberals and conservatives have different brain structures, [and] physiological responses to stimuli, and activate different neural mechanisms when confronted with similar situations."

[2016election.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005927](http://2016election.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005927)

Invite each candidate to show their amygdala MRI.

Can repeated media stories or a drug cause a lasting change in fear, anger or obedience? Are these emotions easier or quicker to increase or to decrease?