

Values and ideas

Elitism - A belief in rule by an elite or minority.

Individualism - Individualism is the belief in the prime significance of the individual over any grouping or collective body.

Pragmatism - Behaviour shaped in accordance with practical circumstances and goals, rather than theoretical objectives.

Tradition and order - A practice or institution that has endured through time and has therefore been inherited from an earlier period. Social order provides security and stability.

Organic society - A belief that society operates like an organism or living entity.

Hierarchy - A gradation of social positions or status.

Natural inequality - Differences between individuals that are products of nature.

Authority - The right to influence others by virtue of an acknowledged duty to obey.

Property - The ownership of physical goods or wealth, whether by private individuals, groups of people or the state.

Libertarianism - A range of theories that give priority to negative liberty over other values such as authority, tradition and equality.

Ideological traditions

Traditional conservatism

Values ideas such as tradition, order, authority and property while acknowledging the need for reform in order to maintain the contemporary power structure.

Authoritarian conservatism

A range of conservative thought that favours authoritarian rule over liberal democracy.

New Right

A combination of classical liberal economics with traditional social policy.

Political and moral conservatism

Natural inequality/aristocracy - The idea that talent and leadership are innate qualities.

The family - Essential unit of the organic society that embodies natural hierarchy.

The church - Valuable institution that provides stability and social cohesion.

The nature of authority from above - A natural and beneficial necessity that is rooted in social institutions, offering guidance, security and support.

Debates on immigration

Integration - Neo conservative view of multiculturalism is that it weakens the bonds of nationhood whereas a common culture and civic identity binds the nation together.

Rights of minorities - Neo Conservatives see these as of less importance than the privileged status of the host community's culture.

Welfare - The rolling back of the welfare state had economic arguments to support it, but also objections on moral grounds. Welfare would create a culture of dependency.

Economic conservatism

Laissez-faire and intervention - Conservative economic thought can be very pragmatic ranging from the belief that economic activity should be free from government interference, to the acceptance that governments should manage the economy for the good of society.

The role of the markets - The liberal New Right regard the market with unquestionable reverence, demanding unfettered market competition, free from state interference.

Neoliberalism - An updated version of classical political economy that is dedicated to market individualism and the minimal state.