

# An explanation of modern terms

## Introduction

As society fragments into multiple factions by design, each with its own focus of doctrine, new terms arise to describe some facet implied in the teaching. This can be very confusing for people used to stability in language and expression.

It is one thing for language to slowly advance over time but these days novel terminology increases almost daily. As young people use such terms freely, it can be difficult for traditional people to even understand what they are saying.

In addition some old terms have morphed in their meaning or have been adapted to mean the opposite. Thus I thought that an analysis of some terms used in discourse may be of use.

There are very many new slang words being used, especially by young people, today; far more than has been historically normal. This is perhaps largely influenced by the huge American cultural influences in society. I will not attempt to bother listing all these as they are not important and many will fade away in time. My concern here is with terms that are used in political / social discourse and which are necessary to understand.

## Terms used in political discourse

### Capitalism

An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state (Socialism). Sensible owners provide good working conditions to keep a work force healthy and content while workers are happy to have employment. However, bad employers exploit workers and this resentment can lead to strikes and rebellion.

Capitalist economic organisation is, therefore, based on free-market competition, where the means of production, distribution, and exchange are privately owned by individuals or corporations.

All human production requires both labour and capital. In a capitalist system, capital is supplied either by the single owner of a firm, or by shareholders in a corporation. Labour is supplied by employees who get paid for their work. The profit of the firm, after costs, goes to the owners (and/or shareholders). Firms compete with one another to sell to customers in a free market. In its purest form Capitalism restricts the role of the state to interfere in economic policy (*laissez-faire*).<sup>1</sup>

In modern nations capitalist societies are modified by the welfare state ('welfare capitalism'). A 'mixed economy' is where production is partly private and partly nationalised.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Laissez-faire* (French, 'let do'). This French philosophy denotes government abstention from interference with individual action. It was subsequently taken up by classical economists like Adam Smith to signify minimum government intervention in the economic system and maximum scope for market forces.

Theoretically under capitalism the harder a person works the more money they receive. However, there are many jobs where this just isn't true (e.g. miners). Furthermore, for those who have capital, vast sums of money can be made with very little effort by astute investment (e.g. investment bankers, renters). But those without capital struggle to exist. The social weakness of capitalism is its unbalanced success: the rich get richer quite easily while the poor struggle.

### **Communism**

See Marxism.

### **Conservatism<sup>2</sup>**

It is curious that the origins of the name Tory (later Conservatives) and Whig (later the Liberals) were both bands of brigands.

Originally, a reference to the Conservative Political Party that sought to conserve traditional British social values. It is often known as the Tory Party in abbreviation.

The Conservatives began as the Tory Party, the British political party opposed to the Whigs (supporters of Parliament).<sup>3</sup> In the political crisis of 1679 royalist supporters, who opposed the recall of Parliament and supported the Stuart succession, were labelled Tories (Irish Catholic brigands) by their opponents. In the reign of James II many Tories preferred passive obedience to open defiance; they supported the royal prerogative, close links between church and state, and an isolationist foreign policy.

The Tories had a brief revival under Robert Harley late in Queen Anne's reign, but were defeated in the 1715 general election and reduced to a 'country' party with about 120 Members of Parliament and no effective leaders. The Hanoverian succession dealt a severe blow to the Tories, as George I and George II preferred to trust the Whigs.

The political power struggle in the 1760s was between rival Whig factions, despite pejorative accusations of Toryism levelled at Bute, Grafton, and North. William Pitt the Younger, the independent Whig, fought the Foxite Whigs, and it was from the independent Whigs that the new Tory party of the 19<sup>th</sup> century emerged.

In 1830 it was suggested, in their *Quarterly Review*, that a better name for the Tories was 'Conservative', since the party stood for the preservation of existing institutions. Sir Robert Peel favoured this and became Prime Minister in 1834. In 1846 Peel converted to free trade economics and the Party split. Peel's followers eventually joined the Liberals. The majority of Tories under Lord Derby and Disraeli gradually adopted the title 'Conservative', although 'Tory' continued to be used. Disraeli was an important force in the development of what Conservatism is.

---

<sup>2</sup> Freely adapted from the Oxford World Encyclopaedia.

<sup>3</sup> The Whigs owed their name, like the Tories, to the exclusion crisis of Charles II's reign. Those who petitioned for the recall of Parliament in 1679 were named Whigs (Scottish Covenanting brigands) by their Tory opponents. The Whigs suffered defeat in Charles's reign, but joined with the Tories in inviting William of Orange to England, and they alternated with the Tories in power until 1714. Their principles were to maintain the power and privileges of Parliament, to show sympathy with religious dissent, keeping links between Church and state to a minimum, and to play an active role in Europe. From the accession of George I the Hanoverian kings placed their trust in the Whigs, and there followed the long period of Whig supremacy. From the mid-1720s there were Whigs in opposition to Walpole and the development of factions within the party became increasingly acute by the mid-century, bringing political instability in the 1760s. The Rockingham faction, which formed the core of Fox's followers, became the basis of the new Whig party in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The changed political and social conditions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century caused the break-up of the Whig party. Many of its members, however, formed the core of the Liberal Party.

### *Potted history*<sup>4</sup>

- Between 1846 and 1874 the Conservatives were a minority party though they were in office in 1867 and passed a Reform Bill.
- In 1867 they were the first party to create a national organisation with the formation of the Central Office.
- In 1874 they instituted social reforms and increased the powers of central government.
- In 1886 the Liberals, led by Joseph Chamberlain, who rejected Gladstone's Home Rule policy for Ireland, allied with the Party, whose full title then became the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations.
- The Party was strongly imperialist throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although splitting in 1903 over the issue of free trade or empire preference.
- From 1915 until 1945 the Party either formed the government, except for 1924 and 1929–31, or joined a national government in coalition with the Labour Party (1931–35).
- Since World War II it has again been in office (1951–64, 1970–74, 1979–97). Before the 1970s the Party's policies tended to be pragmatic, accepting the basic philosophy of the Welfare State and being prepared to adjust in response to a consensus of public opinion.
- Under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher, however, it moved towards the 19<sup>th</sup>-century liberal emphasis on individual free enterprise, challenging the need for state support and subsidy, while combining this with a strong assertion of state power against local authorities, a trend that continued under the leadership of John Major. Many publicly owned companies, including British Airways, British Aerospace, British Gas, and British Telecom, were privatised by Thatcher's government. This initially raised a considerable amount of money for the government, and Major's government (1990–1997) continued the policy, privatising such organisations as British Rail and the water companies. By the mid-1990s the popularity of privatisation was beginning to wane as criticism of the management of many of the newly privatised companies increased.
- With the growing crisis in Northern Ireland after 1968 the Ulster Unionists dissociated themselves from the Party.
- During the 1990s Major's government lost considerable credibility over its handling of Britain's departure from the Exchange Rate Mechanism in September 1992 and over its insistence that British beef was safe, during the 1996 BSE crisis. In addition, accusations of sleaze and sexual impropriety resulted in a landslide victory for Labour in the 1997 elections. The defeated and dispirited Conservative Party subsequently elected William Hague as its new leader (1997–2001), but were unable to agree a consistent opposition policy to integration into Europe.
- In 2010 David Cameron became Prime Minister having been forced to arrange a Coalition government with the Liberal Democrats and Nick Clegg as Deputy PM. To deal with the repercussions of the economic crash of 2008, Cameron and Chancellor George Osborne instituted a ten-year policy of austerity, which created huge social problems as council revenues were cut and services eradicated. Cameron was re-elected as PM in 2015 with a promise to hold a referendum on leaving the EU. The Tories gained their first majority since 1992. When the referendum revealed a victory for leaving the EU, Cameron resigned. Theresa May became PM in May 2016–2019 and was one of the worst PMs ever, dithering and capitulating in the EU negotiations. In 2017 she called for a general election but succeeded in cutting her majority. In 2019 Boris Johnson became leader and in the December 2019 general election gained a large majority on the basis of getting Britain out of the EU.

---

<sup>4</sup> Freely adapted from the Oxford Encyclopaedia.

### *Character of the Conservatives*

In general Conservatives are right-wing, although not generally hard-right, tending towards pragmatism.

In reality the character of Conservative governments varies significantly. Today the Tory PM Boris Johnson is actually very liberal. Margaret Thatcher's governments were Neo-Liberal. She diverged from the Keynesian consensus that had held since WWII and adopted Monetarist economic policy along with deregulation of financial markets.

Conservatives have been Capitalist in economics for most of its history but modern Tories are more liberal in economics. Today Conservatism is more about traditional cultural values than economics.

### **Civil Service<sup>5</sup>**

A body of officials employed by the state for the administration of civil affairs. Constitutionally subordinate to the government, the civil service is usually organised into departments with specific functions, such as finance, health care, agriculture, or trade and industry.

Under parliamentary government, an elected minister is the head of each department, and responsible for it to the legislature. Under presidential government, the president is administrator-in-chief; subordinate officials are appointed by and answerable to him.

Civil servants operate within a hierarchical bureaucracy, with posts ranging from clerical grades to an administrative élite (AKA 'mandarins'<sup>6</sup>), which advises elected ministers. In countries that follow the Westminster system, the civil service is traditionally non-partisan and favours anonymity (in theory). By contrast, the civil service in France and Germany exhibits considerable *esprit de corps*, regarding itself as the embodiment of the state, above rather than beneath politics. In the USA, top civil servants are often political figures. Like all bureaucracies, the civil services are open to charges of clumsiness and abuse of power.

### **Cultural Marxism**

A term to denote the philosophy and sociology of certain Jewish Marxists to destabilise western Christian society and enable a future Marxist revolution.

It began with disenchanted Marxists who realised that western society was not going to rise up in a workers' revolution after WWI. Understanding that a violent revolution was not forthcoming, it gradually dawned on German Marxists that as long as traditional Christianity held sway in western society nothing would change. It was determined to undermine Christian society by slowly attacking all the cultural norms of society by stealth. This particularly developed out of the Frankfurt School in pre-WWII Germany but then transferred to America after 1939 under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation.

It led to the 1960s social revolution in terms of free love, contraceptive pills, NHS abortions, homosexual rights, Feminism, Wicca etc. and then developed into Political Correctness and Postmodernism.

---

<sup>5</sup> Freely adapted from the Oxford World Encyclopaedia.

<sup>6</sup> A senior official in imperial China.

The fragmentation of society into various factions that oppose each other is largely down to Cultural Marxism. The more society is ridden with schism, the more frail it becomes and easier to undermine.

### **Democracy**

Origin: late 16<sup>th</sup> century, from French *démocratie*, via late Latin from Greek *dēmokratia*, from *dēmos* ‘the people’ + *-kratia* ‘power, rule’.

A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives. Control of an organisation or group by the majority of its members. The practice or principles of social equality.

A system of government in which sovereignty rests with the whole people, who rule either directly or through representatives. In the contemporary world, democracy is closely associated with the idea of choosing governments by periodic free multiparty elections, but in the past it was understood more literally to mean the people gathering together in an assembly to debate political issues and enact laws. The chief elements of representative democracy are: freedom of speech and expression; periodic free elections to the legislature, in which all citizens are entitled to vote and to stand for office; the right to form competing parties to contest these elections; a government which is responsible to the legislature, and thereby to some degree responsive to public opinion. Where one or more of these elements is absent, as in the ‘People’s Democracies’, the one-party states of the Communist bloc in the period following World War II, the system is not democratic.

One of the founders of democracy is Solon [c.630–c.560 BC]; an Athenian statesman and lawgiver. He was one of the ‘Seven Sages’ listed by Plato and notable for his economic, constitutional and legal reforms, begun in about 594 BC. He revised the existing code of laws established by Draco [see ‘Draconian’], making them less severe; for example, he abolished the punishment of slavery for debt and reserved the death penalty for murder. His division of citizens into four classes based on wealth rather than birth with a corresponding division of political responsibility laid the foundations of Athenian democracy.

### **Democrat**

Origin: late 18<sup>th</sup> century, originally denoting an opponent of the aristocrats in the French Revolution of 1790. From French *démocrate*, on the pattern of *aristocrate* ‘aristocrat’.

In general, an advocate or supporter of democracy.

Specifically, a member of the US Democratic Party. This is one of the two main US political parties. It was founded in 1828 by supporters of Andrew Jackson, making it the world’s oldest active political party. Its character has changed over time, being originally supportive of limited government, slavery and state sovereignty. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century it supported progressive reforms and opposed imperialism. After FD Roosevelt, it promoted social liberalism. It is today the left wing of American politics.

### **Draconian**

Origin: late 19<sup>th</sup> century from the Greek name *Drakōn* (dragon) + *-ian*. Draco. Was a 7<sup>th</sup> century BC Athenian legislator. His codification of Athenian law was notorious for its severity in that the death penalty was imposed for both serious and trivial crimes; this gave rise to the adjective ‘draconian’ in English.

Excessively harsh and severe laws or their application.

## Economics

'The branch of knowledge concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth.'  
[Oxford Dictionary.]

*Variations since the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century*<sup>7</sup>

### MERCANTILISM

'Mercantile' originates from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century French, derived from Italian *mercante*, 'merchant'.

The mercantilists, between the mid-16<sup>th</sup> and mid-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, argued that the wealth of nations depended on their balance of trade. With the simple monetary system that existed, proponents of the theory were concerned to maximise the amount of precious metals in the country. This was the basis of British Imperialism.

Protectionism<sup>8</sup> was encouraged. The French physiocrats of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, led by François Quesnay (1694–1774), accorded pre-eminence to the agricultural sector, which they saw as the only source of wealth, and also the source of tax revenue. They believed in the role of government being limited to preserving the natural order. They also believed in free trade. The physiocrats' ideas of *laissez-faire*<sup>9</sup> and free trade were adopted by the classical economists.

Example of protectionism: The European Union, which has internal free trade (single market) and a customs union, but uses protectionist measures against international bodies.

### CLASSICAL ECONOMICS

Much of modern microeconomics stems from the theories of classical economics, centring on Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (1776). The marginal analysis of the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to the development of neo-classical economics as a refinement and progression from classical economics. The central tenet in classical economics is that of competition. The law of supply and demand ensures that the price of goods balances supply and demand. Competitive markets ensure that the self-seeking behaviour of individuals results in efficient, socially optimal allocation of resources and production. The role of government is limited to intervention in cases where a market does not exist or works imperfectly. Those in the classical tradition argued that government should maintain a balanced budget; others argued for government expenditure financed by budget deficits.

### KEYNESIANISM

John Maynard Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (1936) in which he argued that full employment is determined by effective demand and requires government spending on public works to stimulate this.

---

<sup>7</sup> Freely adapted, with additions, from the Oxford World Encyclopaedia.

<sup>8</sup> The use by government of any measure designed to restrict international trade or to give artificial assistance to domestic producers at the expense of their foreign competitors. It most commonly involves attempts to reduce imports by tariffs, quotas, and other barriers. Non-tariff barriers also include health and safety regulations, bias in government purchasing, and 'voluntary export restraint' (VER) agreements, among others. Export taxes similarly restrict trade, while export and producer subsidies give a cost advantage to domestic firms. The GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) is an international agreement intended to reduce trade restrictions worldwide. [Oxford World Encyclopaedia.]

<sup>9</sup> French, literally 'allow to do'. A policy or attitude of leaving things to take their own course, without interfering. In Economics it refers to abstention by governments from interfering in the workings of the free market.

This work laid the foundation of what is now called macroeconomics. Keynesianism favours demand management by government through the use of both fiscal and monetary policy.

Keynesianism leads to developing and encouraging social issues through investment in public infrastructure, such as roads and housing.

Example: British economics in the 1950s.

#### MONETARISM

The theory or practice of controlling the supply of money as the chief method of stabilising the economy. It was prominent in the 1970s and 1980s (under Thatcher) and represented a resurgence and updating of pre-Keynesian thought on macroeconomic issues.

It stressed the importance of the money supply as the means of controlling aggregate money demand and inflation but rejected the notion that either monetary or fiscal policy could exercise any lasting influence on the level of output and employment: the money supply, it was argued, determined only the price level, not the volume of output and employment.

Monetarism leads to the development of greed and encourages speculation and development of the service industry rather than social infrastructure. For example: Thatcher's destruction of the mining industry made Monetarist sense but this collapse of many local economies in poor working class areas had a much greater on-cost in economic, social, domestic and health issues lasting generations. Short-term economics led to a much greater cost to the country over several generations.

Example: Thatcherism. Thatcher famously based her economic policy on the common sense principles of a housewife managing the home finances. The problem is that national economics do not work like this. Borrowing at low interest for infrastructure projects works to boost the national good and finances over time.

#### AUSTERITY

Difficult economic conditions created by government measures to reduce a budget deficit, especially by reducing public expenditure:

Example: the 2010 Coalition government policy over ten years, which collapsed social infrastructure, mobility, well being and health. In fact it doubled the national debt in five years. Many argued that Keynesianism would have fixed the problem quicker and without social deprivation but the Cameron government, and especially Chancellor George Osborne, were ideologically fixated on austerity. Eventually it brought the deficit<sup>10</sup> down somewhat but not the national debt.

#### **Executive**

The branch of a government responsible for initiating plans, actions, or laws. In Britain, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet that develop state policies.

---

<sup>10</sup> Interest paid on government borrowing.

### **Global elite**

A term to describe a cabal of certain rich, powerful people that control most aspects of society, including governments and NGOs. Other terms include: the New World Order, the Deep State, the Shadow Government, the Illuminati, the one percent,<sup>11</sup> and so on.

### **Government**

The governing body of a state. In Britain this comprises of the Executive, the Legislature (Parliament) and the Judiciary. The monarch is the titular sovereign over government.

The Executive initiates policies and plans; the Legislature confirms and enacts laws to effect those plans; the Judiciary form the checks and balances in disputes.

The sovereign signs the laws that are enacted (royal assent) and presides over a government's plans in the Queen's Speech.

Governments have fixed maximum terms until they are dissolved and reconvened.

### *Forms of government*

- Absolute monarchy (autocracy).
- Anarchy.
- Anocracy. Something between an autocracy and democracy, such as rule by competing warlords.
- Aristocracy.
- Bureaucracy. Rule by administrators.
- Communism (Marxism, collectivism).
- Confederacy of sovereign states united for common action.
- Constitutional government. Ruled by a constitution, whereby a constitution limits the powers of a government.
- Democracy.
- Dictatorship. An absolute monarch or a totalitarian president.
- Direct democracy, where people represent themselves and vote for laws directly in referendums.
- Despotism.
- Fascism. Despotism that highlights nationalism and ruler-worship.
- Federalism, federation. A union of partially self-governing states under a central federal government (e.g. the EU, the USA).
- Feudalism. The king owns the land. Some of the land (manors) is given to nobles to govern but had to provide an army. Some of that land is given to vassals to govern (a fief). That land is divided into plots farmed by serfs who keep some of the produce but give taxes to the lord of the manor.
- Military junta. Dictatorship of the military.
- Monarchy.
- Oligarchy.
- Republic. Where the country is considered as a public matter not the private concern of rulers.
- Social Democracy (Soft, democratic Socialism).

---

<sup>11</sup> That is, the richest people in the world.

- Socialism. Workers own the means of production. The economic framework varies.
- Theocracy. Rule by God through a religious elite. E.g. Israel before the reign of Saul.
- Totalitarianism (Despotism).

There are many more forms but these are the most common.

### **Labour Party**<sup>12</sup>

A Left-wing, Socialist party in Britain, originally based on supporting working class issues but today mainly based on the metropolitan intelligentsia and students.

#### *Potted history*

- Following the third Reform Act (1884), a movement developed for direct representation of working class interests in Parliament. In 1889 a Scottish Labour Party was formed, winning three seats in 1892, including one by Keir Hardie, who in 1893 helped to form the Independent Labour Party, advocating pacifism and Socialism.
- In 1900 a Labour Representative Committee was formed which in 1906 succeeded in winning 29 seats and changed its name to the Labour Party.
- In 1918 the Party adopted a constitution drawn up by the Fabian Sidney Webb. Its main aims were a national minimum wage, democratic control of industry, a revolution in national finance, and surplus wealth for the common good.
- By 1920 Party membership was over four million. The Party now became a major force in British municipal politics, as well as gaining office with the Liberals in national elections in 1923 and 1929.
- The Party strongly supported war in 1939 and through such leaders as Attlee, Bevin, and Morrison played a major role in Winston Churchill's government (1940–45).
- In 1945 it gained office with an overall majority and continued the programme of welfare state legislation begun during the war.
- It was in power 1964–70, when much social legislation was enacted, and 1974–79, when it faced grave financial and economic problems.
- During the 1970s and early 1980s left-wing activists pressed for a number of procedural changes, for example in the election of Party leader. From the right wing a group of senior party members split from the party in the 1980s to form the Social Democratic Party.
- After its defeat in 1987 it embarked, under its leader Neil Kinnock (1983–92), on a major policy review which recommended more democratic processes and a less ideological approach to foreign affairs and economic problems. However, the party received only 34% of the vote in the general election of 1992.
- Tony Blair, who became leader in 1994, supported private enterprise and promoted many reforms in the party, finally abandoning the ideological union-led principles of 'Old Labour' under a more popular and pragmatic manifesto, which gave Labour a landslide victory in the 1997 election. Once in power 'New Labour', with an overwhelming majority, set about renewing the country's failing educational system and providing a more positive approach to the country's participation in the European Union.

#### *Character*

Labour also varies in character according to its current leader. Under Michael Foot and Jeremy Corbyn it adopted a very hard Left-wing policy with shadow cabinet ministers

---

<sup>12</sup> Freely adapted from the Oxford World Encyclopaedia.

openly calling themselves ‘Marxist’ (e.g. John McDonnell). Tony Blair, however, was Thatcherite in many respects, favouring privatisation and Neo-Liberalism, while claiming to hold the centre ground.

Blair was able to win three elections using some Tory policies but hard left-wing leaders have failed in general elections very dramatically. Yet many Labour members were very angry with Blair’s leadership, which they considered as selling out to the right.

### **Legislature**

The legislative body of a country or state that enacts laws (in Britain, Parliament).

### **Liberalism**

This is difficult as the word changes its meaning in different settings. For example, both right-wing and left-wing people could describe themselves as ‘liberal’.

#### *A specific political group*

In strict terms it refers to the Liberal Party in Great Britain (but ‘Liberal’ parties are also found in others countries, such as Australia or Canada). This party is now rebranded and evolved into the Liberal Democrat Party. Apart from being in a coalition government with the Tories in the 2010 election, the Liberals and LibDems have not been a significant force in British politics, except in scandals.<sup>13</sup>

It emerged in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as the successor to the Whig Party and was the major alternative party to the Conservatives until 1918, when the Labour Party supplanted it.

Lord Palmerston's administration of 1854 is regarded as the first Liberal government. After World War II it was an opposition party. It formed a Lib–Lab pact with the Labour government (1977–78), and then the Alliance (1983–87) with the Social Democratic Party, with which it merged in 1988 to form the Social and Liberal Democrats (later renamed the Liberal Democrats).

#### *‘Liberal’ as an adjective*

Willing to respect or accept behaviour or opinions different from one's own; open to new ideas; thus liberal views on something. Respectful of individual rights and freedoms.

#### *Theological liberalism*

The movement that opposed traditional Christian beliefs and supported Modernism, Humanism and Rationalism. Anti-supernaturalism in the Bible.

#### *Educational liberalism*

Concerned mainly with broadening a person's general knowledge and experience, rather than with technical or professional training.

#### *Liberal interpretation*

This applies especially to interpretation of laws. It means broadly construed or understood; not strictly literal or exact.

#### *As a measurement adjective*

In terms of apportioning amounts, it means giving a generous amount of something, such as wine or giving generously of money.

---

<sup>13</sup> Jeremy Thorpe was put on trial for conspiracy to murder and got off despite significant evidence against him in a whitewash trial. Sir Cyril Smith has been accused, with significant evidence, of paedophilia but died before any prosecution could be successfully brought.

### *A general political meaning*

Political liberalism usually means favouring individual liberty, free trade, and moderate political and social reform: e.g. a liberal democratic state.

In general, 'liberal', as used amongst traditional political commentators, means someone who favours freedom and liberality, such as free speech, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It is the opposite of oppression or repression. In this sense it is often used by right-wing commentators. For example, Carl Benjamin terms himself as a liberal.

However, the word is also used in critique of extreme left-wing activists, particularly those that eschew conservative social norms. To such people, liberal ideas include Gay marriage, Feminism, social quotas (diversity), multiculturalism, hate laws and transgenderism. Modern left-wing Progressives hijacked the term 'liberal' and co-opted it for their agenda, which claims to be liberalising but in fact is mild oppression.<sup>14</sup>

So traditional, historic or classical liberalism is a conservative emphasis on political freedom (free speech etc.), free trade and social liberty while modern radical liberalism is the implications of Cultural Marxism (Wokeness). Thus the liberal policies of WE Gladstone [1809–98] (introducing elementary education and various reforms) is a very different liberalism from supporting the Trans movement and Gay marriage.

Example: Herbert Hoover termed his political philosophy as '*historic liberalism*' and lambasted the '*false liberalism*' of Roosevelt's New Deal. He said, '*The New Deal... having corrupted the label of liberalism for collectivism, coercion [and] concentration of political power, it seems 'Historic Liberalism' must be conservative in contrast.*'<sup>15</sup>

### **Marxism**

The political and economic theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, later developed by their followers to form the basis for the theory and practice of Communism.

Marxist theory seeks social revolution as demanded by economic factors. The means of production provide the economic base, which determines the political superstructure. Marx and Engels supported the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism by the proletariat (workers) and the eventual attainment of a classless communist society. The usual effect is collectivism in economics and despotism in government.

### *Principles of Marxism*

- Dialectical materialism to form the basis for the theory and practice of communism. [This was based on Hegel's dialectical reasoning, summarised as 'problem, reaction, solution' to explain historical development.]
- A materialist conception of history, according to which the development of all human societies is ultimately determined by the methods of production that people adopt to meet their needs (e.g. slavery, feudalism, capitalism, Communism).
- Social evolution. Feudalism was succeeded by capitalism, which must make way for Socialism/Communism. To promote this revolution Marx sought to emphasise the class struggle. This was presented as an exploiting capitalist class and a poor working class. Basing his ideas on the labour theory of value held by classical economists Smith and Ricardo, Marx averred that capitalists stole the surplus value of production created by

---

<sup>14</sup> For example instituting hate laws and anti-discrimination policies for certain sub-groups of society actually reduces the liberty of everyone else and can lead to persecution of religious groups.

<sup>15</sup> 'Freedom Betrayed', George H Nash, Hoover Institution Press, pxviii. [Being the publication of Herbert Hoover's important manuscript revisionist history of WWII.]

workers, and accumulated increasing amounts of capital, as the workers (the proletariat) grew poorer.

- The industrial revolution would render capitalism obsolete, enabling the working class to overthrow the system by revolution and establish a Socialist society.

Marx and Engels said little about the economics and politics of socialism but after their death, Lenin and his followers used Marxist ideas to underpin Communism, the ideology being dubbed 'Marxism-Leninism', however, other Marxists were critical of this.

Marxism was characterised in noble, humanitarian terms but the real purpose was to overthrow Christian societies in the west. Soft Marxists (Socialists, Progressives) believe naively that Marxist theory is kinder to workers than capitalism. Yet history proves that wherever Marxist principles are implemented the workers suffer very badly; often from famine or genocide. In fact, the workers are never represented in government but a ruling cabal always arose leading to totalitarianism in government and inefficiency in economics. All Marxist revolutions led to a much worse situation for workers and often mass murder.

Every Socialist nation failed to live up to the humanistic beliefs of Marx. The rise of fascism and despotism contradicted Marx's historical materialism.

Because it cannot succeed since its economic and political foundations are false, Marxism-Leninism in the USSR, and the Soviet bloc, collapsed in the 1990s, when the command economy on which it was based was replaced by a market economy.

### **Neo-liberalism**

The Oxford Dictionary definition of this is, '*relating to or denoting a modified form of liberalism tending to favour free-market capitalism*'; which would make it sound like a right-wing position. However, the word refers to right or left-wing politics that focus upon deregulation of financial structures to give speculators free reign and privatisation of national industries. Neo-Liberalism tends to promote a policy of favouring greed.

Neo-Liberal deregulation was the policy of Tory Margaret Thatcher and this was continued with the Labour PM Tony Blair. It was this policy of deregulation that resulted in the 2008 economic crash, which was presided over in Britain by a Labour government (Gordon Brown PM).

Neo-liberalism then stretched to cover the manifestations of this policy as exhibited in political and social decisions. It was particularly applied to the conditions that allowed the top 1% of western populations to become mega rich. It was often conjoined with selfishness, arrogance and corruption.

So the term was originally an economic one but became adapted to be more widespread in application.

### **Parliament**

In Britain this is the highest legislature, consisting of the Sovereign (Head of State), the House of Lords, and the House of Commons; together these form the Palace of Westminster.

### *Potted history*<sup>16</sup>

From earliest times the king had a group of advisors to discuss state affairs. This developed into the Saxon Moot where principle chiefs would discuss matters with the king. In Old English 'Moot' [*mōt*] meant 'assembly' and *mōtian* 'to converse'. It was of Germanic origin related to 'meet'. The adjective (originally an attributive noun use: see 'moot court') dates from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century; the current verb sense dates from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> -cent. [A 'moot point' (not 'mute-point') means something to be debated.]

Parliament began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as simply a formal meeting of the king and certain of his officials and principal lords, i.e. aristocrats. It became partly representative in Simon de Montfort's<sup>17</sup> Parliament (1265), which contained commoners (knights of the shire and burgesses of the boroughs) who were elected in their locality, and in Edward I's Model Parliament (1295). The inclusion of burgesses (a person with municipal authority or privileges, such as a magistrate) is the beginning of a representative parliament.

Until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, both chambers (lords and commoners) grew in importance as it came to be accepted that their approval was needed for grants of taxation. Henry VIII effected the English Reformation through the long-lived Reformation Parliament (1529–36). Kings such as Charles I tried to manage without summoning a parliament (1629–40), but by the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Commons had made themselves indispensable. Charles I had to call Parliament in 1640<sup>18</sup> in order to raise money, and Parliament, led by John Pym, led the opposition to him. The Parliamentary side won the English Civil War, and at the end of the Commonwealth period it was the members of the House of Commons who negotiated the Restoration of Charles II (1660) and the accession of William III and Mary (1688). The legislation enacted in the Glorious Revolution of 1688–89 and the Act of Settlement (1701) settled the relationship of crown, Lords, and Commons definitively and made clear the ultimate supremacy of the Commons and the submission of the Crown to law.

Present-day workings of Parliament may be summarised as follows. The Prime Minister and the cabinet (a selected group of ministers from either House) are responsible for formulating the policy of the government. Acts of Parliament in draft form, known as Bills, each of which have to be 'read' (debated) three times in each House, are referred in the House of Commons (and occasionally in the House of Lords) for detailed consideration to parliamentary standing or select committees.

The sovereign's powers of government are dependent on the advice of ministers, who in turn are responsible to Parliament. The monarch's prerogatives, exercised through the cabinet or the Privy Council, include the summoning and dissolution of Parliament.

### **Progressive**

'Progressive' is a long-established term used of the Left. It was appropriated in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century to denote the desire for social reform, '*progressive politics*'. It generally is used to be the opposite of traditional, conservative, reactionary politics by the introduction of liberal ideas.

---

<sup>16</sup> Partly adapted from the Oxford World Encyclopaedia.

<sup>17</sup> Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester [c.1208–65], was English soldier, born in Normandy. He was the son of the French soldier Simon de Montfort. As leader of the baronial opposition to Henry III, he campaigned against royal encroachment on the privileges gained through Magna Carta, and defeated the king at Lewes, Sussex, in 1264. The following year he summoned a Parliament, which included not only barons, knights, and clergymen, but also two citizens from every borough in England. He was defeated and killed by reorganised royal forces under Henry's son (later Edward I) at Evesham.

<sup>18</sup> The 'Long Parliament' from November 1640 to March 1653.

In taxation it refers to increasing tax as a proportion of the sum taxed as income increases; i.e. make the rich pay high taxes.

### **Republican**

Generally, of a form of government or constitution belonging to, or characteristic of, a republic. Supporting republican government.

Specifically, a Republican in the US is a member or supporter of the Republican Party. This is one of the two main US political parties (the other being the Democratic Party), favouring a right-wing stance, limited central government and tough, interventionist foreign policy. It was formed in 1854 in support of the anti-slavery movement preceding the Civil War.

In Eire, an advocate of a united Ireland.

### **SpAD**

A special advisor to a government minister or Prime Minister. In recent history some of these have held enormous unelected power.

## **Terms used in academic discourse<sup>19</sup>**

### **Antithesis**

From the Greek *antitithenai* 'set against'; from *anti* 'against' and *tithenai* 'to place'.

A person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something.

A rhetorical device where an opposition of ideas is expressed by parallelism of words which are the opposites of each other.

In Hegelian philosophy: the negation of the thesis; the second stage in the process of dialectical reasoning.

### **A posteriori**

From the Latin: 'what comes after'.

Reasoning or knowledge that proceeds from observations or experiences to the deduction of probable causes. Reasoning from known facts rather than assumptions.

### **A priori**

From the Latin: 'what is before'.

Reasoning or knowledge which derives from theoretical deduction rather than from observation or experience. Knowledge that can be gained independently of experience.

Rationalists argue that we can have significant a priori knowledge. Empiricists limit a priori knowledge to that derivable from analytic truths.

### **Classical**

From the Latin *classicus* 'belonging to a class'.

---

<sup>19</sup> Freely adapted from the New Oxford Dictionary, Chambers 20<sup>th</sup> Century Dictionary, The New Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought, and other sources.

1 Of or relating to ancient Greek or Latin literature, art, architecture or culture. Ancient Greek or Roman forms or principles. Something based on the study of ancient Greek and Latin, e.g. a classical education.

2 (Typically of a form of art) regarded as representing an exemplary standard; traditional and long-established in form or style; e.g. a classical ballet.

3 Of or relating to the first significant period of an area of study.

### **Culture**

From the Latin *cultura* 'growing, cultivation'; the verb from obsolete French *culturer* or medieval Latin *culturare*, both based on Latin *colere* 'tend, cultivate'.

The arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively. A refined understanding or appreciation of this.

The customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group; e.g. Afro-Caribbean culture.

The attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a particular social group; e.g. the emerging drug culture.

### *Biology*

The cultivation of bacteria, tissue cells, etc. in an artificial medium containing nutrients.

The cultivation of plants.

### **Debate**

From the Latin *dis-* (expressing reversal) and *battere* 'to fight'.

A formal discussion on a particular matter in a public meeting or legislative assembly, in which opposing arguments are put forward and which usually ends with a vote.

An argument about a particular subject, especially one in which many people are involved.

Consider a possible course of action in one's mind before reaching a decision.

### **Determinism**

The doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes regarded as external to the will (e.g. fatalism, predestination). Some philosophers have taken determinism to imply that individual human beings have no free will and cannot be held morally responsible for their actions.

### **Dialectic**

From the Greek *dialektikē* (*tekhne*) '(art) of debate', from *dialegesthai* 'converse with'.

Investigating or discussing the truth of opinions.

### *The ancient Greeks*

Used the term to refer to various methods of reasoning and discussion in order to discover the truth.

*Immanuel Kant* [1724–1804], German Idealist philosopher.  
An enquiry into metaphysical contradictions.

*Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel [1770–1831], German philosopher*

Applied the term to the process of thought by which apparent contradictions (thesis and antithesis) are seen to be part of a higher truth (synthesis).

*Karl Marx*

Used the term ‘dialectical materialism’ to posit the basis for the theory and practice of Communism (see ‘Marxism’).

### **Didactic**

From the Greek *didaktikos*, from *didaskein* ‘teach’.

Intended to teach, particularly in having moral instruction as an ulterior motive.

Critically, in the manner of a teacher, particularly so as to treat someone in a patronising way.

### **Dialogue**

From the Greek *dialogos*, from *dialegesthai* ‘converse with’, from *dia* ‘through’ and *legein* ‘speak’.

Conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or film

A discussion between two or more people or groups, especially one directed towards exploration of a particular subject or resolution of a problem.

### **Doctrine**

From the Latin *doctrina* ‘teaching, learning’, from *doctor* ‘teacher’, from *docere* ‘teach’.

A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group.

A stated principle of government policy, mainly in foreign or military affairs.

### *Quotes*

*All the winds of doctrine.* John Milton.

*Doctrine: something you kill for.* Tony Benn.

### **DV**

Abbreviation for the Latin ‘*Deo volente*’, meaning, ‘God willing’, or ‘if it be God’s will’.

### **Ellipsis**

Origin: mid 16<sup>th</sup> century via Latin from Greek *elleipsis*, from *elleipein* ‘leave out’.

The omission from speech or writing of a word or words that are superfluous or able to be understood from contextual clues. It is demonstrated in texts by three full stops.

### **Elliptical**

(Of speech or writing) lacking a word or words, especially when the sense can be understood from contextual clues.

### **Empirical**

Based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic.

## Enlightenment

The action of enlightening or the state of being enlightened. The action or state of attaining or having attained spiritual knowledge or insight, in particular in Buddhism: that awareness which frees a person from the cycle of rebirth.

### *The Enlightenment*

A European intellectual movement of the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries emphasising reason and individualism rather than tradition. It was heavily influenced by 17<sup>th</sup>-century philosophers such as Descartes, Locke, and Newton, and its prominent exponents include Kant, Goethe, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Adam Smith.

## Epistemology

Philosophy: the theory of knowledge or truth, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. Epistemology is the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion.

## Ethics

Singular: the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.

Plural: moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity.

### *Historical phases*

- ARISTOTELIANISM holds that the virtues (such as justice, charity, and generosity) are dispositions to act in ways that benefit both the person possessing them and that person's society.
- KANT makes the concept of duty central to morality: humans are bound, from a knowledge of their duty as rational beings, to obey the categorical imperative to respect other rational beings.
- UTILITARIANISM asserts that the guiding principle of conduct should be the greatest happiness or benefit of the greatest number.

### *Quote*

*Law floats in a sea of ethics.* Earl Warren

## Existential

From the Latin *existentialis*, from *existentia*.

Of or relating to existence

### *Logic*

(Of a proposition) affirming or implying the existence of a thing.

### *Philosophy*

Concerned with existence, especially human existence as viewed in the theories of Existentialism. A focus upon man as a free and responsible individual determining his own development through acts of the will. It tends to atheism, disparaging scientific knowledge, and denying the existence of objective values, stressing instead the reality and significance of human freedom and experience. [See Kierkegaard and Nietzsche; subsequently Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir.]

## Filibuster

Late 18<sup>th</sup> century from the French *flibustier*, (via the Spanish *filibustero*), first applied to pirates who pillaged the Spanish colonies in the West Indies. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the

term denoted American adventurers who incited revolution in several Latin American states, whence sense 2. The verb was used to describe tactics intended to sabotage US congressional proceedings, whence sense 1.

1 An action, such as prolonged speaking, which obstructs progress in a legislative assembly in a way that does not technically contravene the required procedures:

2 Historical: a person engaging in unauthorised warfare against a foreign state.

### **Heresy**

From the Greek *hairesis* ‘choice’ (in ecclesiastical Greek ‘heretical sect’), from *haireomai* ‘choose’.

Belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious (especially Christian) doctrine. Worse than heterodoxy. Sectarianism.

Opinion profoundly at odds with what is generally accepted.

### *Quote*

*Turkey, heresy, hops, and beer came into England all in one year.* Late sixteenth century proverb.

### **Heterodoxy**

From the Greek *heterodoxos*, from *heteros* ‘other’ and *doxa* ‘opinion’.

Not conforming with accepted or orthodox standards or beliefs.

### *Quote*

*Heterodoxy is another man's doxy.* William Warburton.

### **Heuristic**

From the Greek *heuriskein* ‘find’.

Enabling a person to discover or learn something for themselves.

### *Computing*

Proceeding to a solution by trial and error or by rules that are only loosely defined.

### **Historicism**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century, from the German *Historismus*.

1 The theory that social and cultural phenomena are determined by history. The belief that historical events are governed by laws. Each age should be interpreted in its own light, not by modern standards.

2 The tendency to regard historical development as the most basic aspect of human existence.

3 Chiefly derogatory (in artistic and architectural contexts): excessive regard for past styles.

### **Homiletic**

From the Greek *homilētikos*, from *homilein* ‘converse with, consort’, from *homilia*.

Of the nature of or characteristic of a homily (a religious discourse which is intended primarily for spiritual edification rather than doctrinal instruction). The art of preaching sermons.

### **Humanism**

An outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasise common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems.

A Renaissance cultural movement which turned away from medieval scholasticism and revived interest in ancient Greek and Roman thought.

### **Hypothesis**

From the Greek *hypothesis* 'foundation', from *hupo* 'under' and *thesis* 'placing'.

A supposition or proposed explanation made on the basis of limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation.

### *Philosophy*

A proposition made as a basis for reasoning, without any assumption of its truth.

### **Iconoclast**

From the ecclesiastical Greek *eikonoklastēs*, from *eikōn* 'likeness' + *klaō* 'to break'.

1 A person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions.

2 A destroyer of images used in religious worship, in particular: a) a supporter of the 8<sup>th</sup>- and 9<sup>th</sup>-century movement in the Byzantine Church which sought to abolish the veneration of icons and other religious images; b) a Puritan of the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Immanent**

From the Latin *immanens*- 'remaining within', from *in*- 'in' and *manere* 'remain'.

Existing or operating within; inherent: For example: '*the protection of liberties is immanent in constitutional arrangements*'.

### *In theology*

God permanently pervading and sustaining the universe. Often contrasted with transcendent.

### **Leadership terms**

#### *Authoritarianism*

Favouring or enforcing strict obedience to authority, especially that of the state, at the expense of personal freedom. Showing a lack of concern for the wishes or opinions of others; dictatorial:

#### *Cabal*

From the Latin *cabala*.

A secret political clique or faction.

Historical: a committee of five ministers under Charles II, whose surnames happened to begin with C, A, B, A, and L.

*Cryptocracy*

'Crypto'- derives from the Greek *kruptos* 'hidden' and *Kratos* 'authority'.

A secret or concealed government. This word is not in most dictionaries.

*Despotism*

From the French *despotisme*, from *despote*.

A country or political system where the ruler holds absolute power. The exercise of absolute power, especially in a cruel and oppressive way.

*Dictatorship*

Government by a dictator. Absolute authority in any sphere.

*Fascism*

From the Italian *fascismo*, from *fascio* 'bundle, political group', from the Latin *fascis*.

An authoritarian and nationalistic system of government and social organisation. It was historically used of Right-Wing governments but can also be applied to Left-Wing governments. Essentially, intolerant views or practice based on nationalism and authoritarianism.

The term Fascism was first used of the totalitarian Right-Wing nationalist regime of Mussolini in Italy (1922–43). The Socialist regimes of the Nazis in Germany and Right-Wing Franco in Spain were also Fascist. Fascism tends to include a belief in the supremacy of one national or ethnic group, a contempt for democracy, an insistence on obedience to a powerful leader, and a strong demagogic approach.

*Hegemony*

Greek *hēgemonia*, from *hēgemōn* 'leader', from *hēgeisthai* 'to lead'.

Leadership or dominance, especially by one state or social group over others.

*Kleptocracy*

Rule by thieves. I believe this was coined by the economist Max Keiser.

*Meritocracy*

Government or the holding of power by people selected on the basis of their ability. a ruling or influential class of educated or skilled people.

*Oligarchy*

From the Greek *oligarkhia*.

A small group of people having control of a country, organisation, or institution. A state governed by such a group.

*Plutocracy*

From the Greek *ploutokratia*, from *ploutos* 'wealth' and *kratos* 'strength, authority'.

Government by the wealthy. An elite or ruling class whose power derives from their wealth.

*Totalitarianism*

Of or relating to a system of government that is centralised and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state.

**Quote**

*The art of leadership is saying no.* Tony Blair.

**Logic**

From the Greek *logikē (tekhnē)* '(art) of reason', from *logos* 'word, reason'.

1 Reasoning conducted or assessed according to strict principles of validity.

A particular system or codification of the principles of proof and inference: Aristotelian logic.

The systematic use of symbolic and mathematical techniques to determine the forms of valid deductive argument.

The quality of being justifiable by reason.

(The logic of) the course of action or line of reasoning suggested or made necessary.

2 A system or set of principles underlying the arrangements of elements in a computer or electronic device so as to perform a specified task.

**-logic**

From the Greek *-logikos*.

Combining form equivalent to -logical (as in pharmacologic).

**Lyrical**

1 (Of literature, art, or music) expressing the writer's emotions in an imaginative and beautiful way.

2 Of or relating to the words of a popular song.

**Moot point**

Old English *mōt* assembly or meeting and *mōtian* to converse, of Germanic origin; related to 'meet'. The adjective (originally an attributive noun use: see 'moot court') dates from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, the current verb sense dates from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty, and typically not admitting of a final decision.

Having no practical significance, typically because the subject is too uncertain to allow a decision; e.g. 'it is moot whether this has any purpose'.

'Be mooted': raise a question or topic for discussion.

**'Moot' historically**

An assembly held for political debate, especially in Anglo-Saxon and medieval times. a regular gathering of people having a common interest.

**Morals****Adjective**

From the Latin *moralis*, from *mos, mor-* 'custom', (plural) *mores* 'morals'.

Concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour and the goodness or badness of human character. The code of interpersonal behaviour that is considered right or acceptable in a particular society.

**Noun**

A lesson, especially one concerning what is right or prudent, that can be derived from a story, a piece of information, or an experience; e.g. the moral of this story.

(Morals) a person's standards of behaviour or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do.

**Quotes**

*Food first, then morals.* Bertolt Brecht.

*The morals of a whore.* Samuel Johnson.

**Mores**

From the Latin, plural of *mos*, *mor-* 'custom'.

The essential or characteristic customs and conventions of a community.

**Nihilism**

From the Latin *nihil* 'nothing' and -ism.

The rejection of all religious and moral principles, often in the belief that life is meaningless.

**Philosophy**

Extreme scepticism maintaining that nothing in the world has a real existence.

**Historical**

The doctrine of an extreme Russian revolutionary party c.1900 which found nothing to approve of in the established social order.

**Orthodoxy**

From the Greek *orthodoxia* 'sound doctrine', from *orthodoxos*.

The quality of conforming to certain theories, doctrines, or practices; e.g. orthodox theology.

The denominations of Orthodox Jews or Orthodox Christians.

**Quote**

*Orthodoxy or my-doxy.* Thomas Carlyle.

**Parochial**

Latin *parochialis* 'relating to an ecclesiastical district', from *parochia*.

Of or relating to a Church parish.

Having a limited or narrow outlook or scope; e.g. parochial attitudes.

**Parody**

From the Greek *parōidia* 'burlesque poem', from *para-* 'beside' (expressing alteration) and *ōidē* 'ode'.

An imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect.

An imitation or a version of something that falls far short of the real thing; a travesty.

Produce a humorously exaggerated imitation of a writer, artist, or genre. Mimic humorously.

### **Pathological**

Of or relating to pathology. The nature and cause of a physical or mental disease.

Informal use: compulsive; obsessive; e.g. a pathological liar.

### **Pavlovian**

Of or relating to classical conditioning as described by I. P. Pavlov.<sup>20</sup>

### **Pedagogic**

From the Greek *paidagōgikos*.

Of or relating to teaching:

### **Pedantic**

Of or like a pedant (a person who is excessively concerned with minor details or with displaying academic learning).

### *Quote*

*Too pedantic for a gentleman.* William Congreve.

### **Phenomenology**

Philosophy: the science of phenomena as distinct from that of the nature of being.

An approach that concentrates on the study of consciousness and the objects of direct experience.

### **Philosophy**

From the Greek *philosophia* 'love of wisdom'.

The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.

A set of views and theories of a particular philosopher concerning such study or an aspect of it.

The study of the theoretical basis of a particular branch of knowledge or experience, e.g. the philosophy of science.

A theory or attitude held by a person or organisation that acts as a guiding principle for behaviour.

### *Quotes*

*History is philosophy.* Dionysius of Halicarnassus.

*A mere touch of cold philosophy.* John Keats.

*Philosophy calls all in doubt.* John Donne.

---

<sup>20</sup> Ivan (Petrovich) Pavlov [1849–1936], Russian physiologist.

*The sweet milk, philosophy.* William Shakespeare.

### **Politics**

The activities associated with the governance of a country or area, especially the debate or conflict between individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power.

The activities of governments concerning the political relations between states.

The academic study of government and the state.

Activities within an organisation which are aimed at improving someone's status or position and are typically considered to be devious or divisive (cf. intrigue); e.g. 'office politics'.

A particular set of political beliefs or principles.

The assumptions or principles relating to or inherent in a sphere, theory, or activity, especially when concerned with power and status in a society; e.g. the politics of gender.

### *Quotes*

*There are no true friends in politics.* Alan Clark.

*Politics consists in ignoring facts.* Henry Brooks Adams.

*Politics is present history.* E. A. Freeman.

*Politics is the Art of the Possible.* R. A. 'Rab' Butler.

*Politics is war without bloodshed.* Mao Zedong.

*A week is a long time in politics.* Harold Wilson.

### **Postulation**

From the Latin *postulat*- 'asked', from the verb *postulare*.

*As a verb (postulate)*

To suggest or assume the existence, fact, or truth of (something) as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or belief.

*As a noun (postulate)*

Formal: a thing suggested or assumed as true as the basis for reasoning, discussion, or belief.

### *Mathematics*

An assumption used as a basis for mathematical reasoning.

### *Ecclesiastical law*

To nominate or elect (someone) to an ecclesiastical office subject to the sanction of a higher authority.

### **Predicate**

From the Latin *praedicatum* 'something declared', neuter of *praedicatus* 'declared, proclaimed', past participle of the verb *praedicare*, from *prae* 'beforehand' and *dicare* 'make known'.

State, affirm, or assert (something) about the subject of a sentence or an argument of proposition.

*Predicate something on*  
Found or base something on.

### *Grammar*

The part of a sentence or clause containing a verb and stating something about the subject.

### *Logic*

Something which is affirmed or denied concerning an argument of a proposition.

### **Premise**

From the Latin *praemissa (propositio)* '(proposition) set in front', from the Latin *praemittere*, from *prae* 'before' and *mittere* 'send'.

An assertion or proposition which forms the basis for a work or theory. A previous statement or proposition from which another is inferred or follows as a conclusion.

### **Provenance**

From the Latin *provenire*, from *pro-* 'forth' and *venire* 'come'.

The place of origin or earliest known history of something. The beginning of something's existence; something's origin.

A record of ownership of a work of art or an antique, used as a guide to authenticity or quality.

### **Psychological**

Of, affecting, or arising in the mind; related to the mental and emotional state of a person:

Of or relating to psychology.

(Of an ailment or problem) having a mental rather than a physical cause.

### **Rationalism**

A belief that opinions and actions should be based on reason and knowledge rather than on religious belief or emotional response.

### *Philosophy*

The theory that reason rather than experience is the foundation of certainty in knowledge.

### *Theology*

The practice of treating reason as the ultimate authority in religion instead of God's revealed word.

### **Reactionary**

Of a person, or a set of views, opposing political or social progress or reform. Used of Conservatives.

### **Reductionism**

Often derogatory. The practice of analysing and describing a complex phenomenon, especially a mental, social, or biological phenomenon, in terms of phenomena which are

held to represent a simpler or more fundamental level, especially when this is said to provide a sufficient explanation.

### **Revisionism**

Often derogatory. A policy of revision or modification, especially of Marxism on evolutionary socialist (rather than revolutionary) or pluralist principles.

The theory or practice of revising one's attitude to a previously accepted situation or point of view.

### **Scholarship**

Academic study or achievement; learning of a high level.

A grant or payment made to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement.

### **Semantics**

The branch of linguistics and logic concerned with meaning. The two main areas are 1) *logical semantics*, concerned with matters such as sense and reference and presupposition and implication, and 2) *lexical semantics*, concerned with the analysis of word meanings and relations between them, such as synonymy and antonymy.

The meaning of a word, phrase, sentence, or text.

### **Semiology**

From the Greek *sēmeion* 'sign' (from *sēma* 'mark') + -logy.

Another term for semiotics: the study of signs and symbols and their use or interpretation.

### **Schadenfreude**

Origin: German, from *Schaden* 'harm' + *Freude* 'joy'.

Pleasure derived by someone from another person's misfortune.

### **Sic**

From the Latin, literally so, thus.

Used in brackets after a copied or quoted word that appears odd or erroneous to show that the word is quoted exactly as it stands in the original.

### **Situation ethics**

The doctrine of flexibility in the application of moral laws according to circumstances. Lack of overriding moral compass.

### **Soliloquy**

From the Latin *soliloquium*, from Latin *solus* 'alone' and *loqui* 'speak'.

The act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.

### **Sui generis**

Latin, literally 'of its own kind'.

Of its own kind. The only one of a kind.

**Sui juris**

Latin, literally 'of one's own right'.

Having full legal capacity to act.

**Surrealism, surrealist**

From the French *surréalisme* ('above reality').

*Art history*

A 20th-century avant-garde movement in art and literature which sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, for example by the irrational juxtaposition of images. Dream-like imagery.

It is used adjectivally to refer to the unusual, the bizarre, the dream-like, the surprising.

**Synergy, Synergism**

From the Greek *sunergos* 'working together', from *sun-* 'together' and *ergon* 'work'.

The interaction or co-operation of two or more organisations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

**Synthesis**

From the Greek *sunthesis*, from *suntithenai* 'place together'.

A joining together. Combination or composition, in particular: the combination of ideas to form a theory or system.

*Hegelian philosophy*

The final stage in the process of dialectical reasoning, in which a new idea resolves the conflict between thesis and antithesis.

*Chemistry*

The production of chemical compounds by reaction from simpler materials.

*Grammar*

The process of making compound and derivative words.

**Tradition**

From the Latin *traditio(n-)*, from *tradere* 'deliver, betray', from *trans-* 'across' and *dare* 'give'.

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way. A long-established custom or belief that has been passed on.

An artistic or literary method or style established by an artist, writer, or movement, and subsequently followed by others; e.g. the tradition of William Blake.

*Theology*

In Christianity: A doctrine believed to have divine authority though not in the scriptures. Doctrine not explicit in the Bible but held to derive from the oral teaching of Christ and the Apostles.

In Judaism: an ordinance of the oral law not in the Torah but held to have been given by God to Moses.

In Islam: a saying or act ascribed to the Prophet but not recorded in the Koran; see the Hadith.

### **Thesis**

From the Greek, 'placing a proposition', from the root *tithenai* 'to place'.

A statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.

A long dissertation involving personal research, written by a candidate for a university degree.

### **Transcendent**

From the Latin *transcendent*- 'climbing over', from the verb *transcendere*.

Above and beyond the range of normal physical human experience. Surpassing the ordinary.

#### *In theology*

God existing apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe. Often contrasted with immanent.

#### *Scholastic philosophy*

Higher than, or not included, in any of Aristotle's ten categories.

#### *Kantian philosophy*

Not realisable in experience.

### **Urbane**

From the French *urbain* or Latin *urbanus*.

Of a person (especially a man): suave, courteous, and refined in manner.

### **Utilitarianism**

The doctrine that actions are right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority.

The doctrine that an action is right in so far as it promotes happiness, and that the greatest happiness of the greatest number should be the guiding principle of conduct.

As a philosophy it was criticised for focusing on the consequences rather than the motive or intrinsic nature of an action, for the difficulty of adequately comparing the happiness of different individuals, and for failing to account for the value placed on concepts such as justice and equality.

### **Zeitgeist**

From the German *Zeitgeist*, from *Zeit* 'time' and *Geist* 'spirit'.

The defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time:

## **Modern social terms**

### **Anti-vaxxers**

The growing number of people firmly opposed to vaccinations.

**Banksters**

A synthesis of ‘bankers’ and ‘gangsters’.

**Becky**

A young White woman.

**Big Aggro**

The global corporations making up huge agriculture firms.

**Big Pharma**

The global corporations making up huge pharmaceutical firms.

**Chad**

A cocky, young, privileged, square (old fashioned) male. (Mainly used in America.)

**Chav**

A rough, common person. (Mainly used in England.)

**Click bait**

Deceptive titles and images regarding YouTube videos to tempt the audience to open the channel. The more that this is done, the more the channel creator gains credit with YouTube.

**Doxxing (aka Doxing)**

From ‘dox’ an abbreviation of ‘documents’.

The on-line practice of publicly publishing private or identifying material about an individual or organisation gained from websites and social media. It is similar to hacking – searching out private data, such as obtained from mobile ‘phone extraction. and publishing it.

**Eco-warrior**

A Green activist that is prepared to use antisocial methods to spread information and interest, such as Extinction Rebellion folk.

**Gaslighting**

Psychological manipulation whereby seeds of doubt are sown in a targeted individual making them question their own judgment causing cognitive dissonance or low self esteem.

**Gammon**

‘Gammon’ (to young people) does not refer to a leg of pork that is cured. It is a derogatory term applied to older, conservative and particularly Brexit-voting people.

The basis of this is that white, older people were supposed to get so passionate in defending Brexit that their faces became flushed – hence gammon (based on redness).

**Geek**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century, from the related English dialect *geck* ‘fool’, of Germanic origin. related to Dutch *gek* ‘mad, silly’.

An unfashionable or socially inept person.

A knowledgeable and obsessive enthusiast e.g. a computer geek.

Australian slang; (informal) ‘a look’: there was a lot I wanted to have a geek at. From the early 20th century; from Scots and northern English dialect *geck* toss the head scornfully.

### **Generations**

Statistical surveys and think tanks like to analyse the population in groups to aid conclusions. Thus various generations now have specific names. Most common are:

- Baby Boomers. Born 1946-1954. Current population 33 million.
- Boomers II (or Generation Jones). Born 1955-1965. Current population 49 million.
- Generation X. Born 1966-1976. Current population 41 million.
- Generation Y (AKA Echo Boomers or Millennials). Born 1977-1994. Current population 71 million.
- Generation Z (also ‘Zoomers’). Those born between 1995-2010 (some would say 2000-2010). Current population 23 million.
- Generation Alpha. Born after 2010.

Some commentators try to analyse the chief characteristics of each group but this is ridiculous since people are very different and opinions change as folk grow up. Thus Boomers would encompass very Left-wing and very Right-wing people.

### **Ghosting**

Cutting someone off so that they are like a phantom to you. Ostracising people. It was originally used of someone dating a person and then dumping them, usually by ceasing all communication.

### **Intersectionalists**

People centred on ‘Identity Politics’.

The claim that society is harassed by White male privilege and that there are numerous oppressed sub-groups in society that intersect. It creates a complex hierarchy of victimhood in society and allocates worth on the basis of how many groups you identify with. The more victim groups you belong to (e.g. Black, Muslim, homosexual, Trans) the more worthy you are. All are worthier than White, Christian, straight males who are to be despised.

It originally arose out of Phase Three Feminism and is a typically Cultural Marxist strategy.

### **Karen**

A woman perceived as entitled, obnoxious, angry, or demanding her own way; usually applied to privileged, middle-aged, White women.

### **Meme**

This is a topic, usually centred in an image, that generates massive traffic and interest on the Internet. It becomes a ‘memory theme’ that undergirds social media like a gene in the body passes on information.

In biology it means an element of a culture or system of behaviour that may be considered to be passed from one individual to another by non-genetic means, especially imitation. It arose in the 1970s based upon the Greek *mimēma* ‘that which is imitated’, on the pattern of ‘gene’.

**Nerd**

A foolish or contemptible person who lacks social skills or is boringly studious.

**NIMBY**

Not In My Back Yard. Privileged rural landowners who do not want urban development in their green spaces. A person who objects to the siting of something perceived as unpleasant or hazardous in their own neighbourhood, especially while raising no such objections to similar developments elsewhere.

**Pimp**

To adapt, improve and customise something to make it flashy; such as '*pimp my ride*', i.e. fix up my car. It arose from the flashy, colourful; dress of American street pimps.<sup>21</sup> It has been used of emphasis in government policy.

**Snowflakes**

Very sensitive people who get offended easily. Often used of SJWs.

**Social Justice Warrior [SJW]**

Very similar to Wokeness.

In reality, SJWs champion all the schismatic ideas of Cultural Marxism without knowing it. In the name of social justice and liberalism these Left-wing Progressives champion schismatic ideas regarding the structuring of society into oppressed groups (Intersectionality) that must be fought for in the fight against White male privilege. Thus they protest in favour of Black rights, homosexual rights, open borders, Feminism, diversity issues, Transgenderism and so on.

SJWs can be very radical, demented activists that behave like deranged people, but they can also be sincere individuals who believe in freedom that are caught up in a movement they do not fully understand the motives of.

**Salt-mining**

A critique that produces salty tears.

**SIMP**

There are various claimed derivations of this, some from Black urban slang. In general it means a fool or simpleton; possibly an amalgamation of 'wimp' and 'simpleton'. Particularly one who fawns over someone they like, especially a weak man being submissive to a woman and becoming her slave.

**Straight**

Heterosexual.

**TERF**

Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists. That is, Feminists that actively oppose the Transgender movement because it threatens the safety of women and girls.

Such Left-wing people have found themselves allying with Right-wing commentators who share their concerns. Examples include commentator Posie Parker (Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull) and Professor of Philosophy at Brighton University, Kathleen Stock.

---

<sup>21</sup> A man who controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them, taking a percentage of their earnings in return.

**WASP**

White Anglo-Saxon Protestant. An upper or middle-class American white Protestant, considered to be a member of the most powerful group in society.

**Woke**

'Woke' is a very recent term that has quickly become global in use. It originally arose out of the Black Lives Matter movement as a term for the awareness of racial problems. People who understood this were 'woke'; i.e. awakened to the issues. However, it quickly became more general in its use and is now applied to a range of issues pertinent to Social Justice Warriors in general. Thus it includes all the radical, Leftist agendas: Feminism, multiculturalism, racism, Transgenderism etc; in other words, the whole Cultural Marxist strategy.

**Zoomer**

'Zoomer' refers to Generation Z (born variously after 1995-2000 that succeeded Millennials and ending in the 2010s), the children of Generation X. 'Zoomer' is a play on words on 'Boomer' (the 'Baby Boomer' generation after WWII). They precede Generation Alpha.

They are characterised by the use of modern technology and social media and the effect of American influences more readily obtained by the Internet.

## Conclusion

New terms come and go very quickly with only a proportion remaining in common use. However, to engage in social or political discourse you need to understand new terms in common use in order to grasp the narratives.

This is tedious and annoying and it would be preferable to simply use existing terminology as found in the Oxford Dictionary, which covers all necessary frames of use. Sadly, this is not an option with the current generations that demand novelty.

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version  
© Thomas Nelson 1982

**Paul Fahy Copyright © 2020**  
**Understanding Ministries**  
<http://www.understanding-ministries.com>