

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

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

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. See *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, different physiological responses to stimuli, and activate different neural mechanisms when confronted with similar situations.”
2016election.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005927
Can we ask a candidate to reveal 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?

D

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 **co-operative** goal of electing a representative committee.

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** goal of an election. This path risks turning to dictatorship: If the biggest party should dominate a government, should the biggest subgroup control the biggest party? 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 sets?
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 voting and government?

A

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
Loyal to principles
It's what you do, Meritocracy
Rule of law, Honest elections
Reason from Evidence
Speak Truth to power
Nonviolent resistance

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

B

Authoritarian Values

Look strong, rich & successful, for as strength must control your weakness, strong people 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
Loyal to leaders
It's who you know, Cronyism
Rule of men, Corruption
Obedience to Doctrine
Power to hide information
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, 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

Brain more active left insula, sensitive to empathy & beauty*

Attractions for adherents
Playfulness, sexuality
Fellowship
Seeing life thru others' eyes
Conscience, curiosity
Wonder, learning, discovery
Openness

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

Brain active right amygdala, sensitized to disgust & fears*

Attractions for adherents
Violence, adrenaline
Status, rank, rankism
Dominating others
Strength & safety
Soothing certainties
Closure

Related terms: hierarchy, oligarchy, plutocracy, elitist

Compete for personal power
Dominate or be dominated

C

Choose your own: books, games, movies, songs, and heroes.

https://accuratedemocracy.com/a_quotes.htm

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Republicans-more-strongly-activate-their-right-amygdala-associated-with-orienting_fig1_235636217

*[researchgate.net/publication/375842106_Distinguishing_Partisan_and_Extremist_Brains_Research_Paths_Toward_Neural_Signatures_of_Violent_Radicalism](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375842106_Distinguishing_Partisan_and_Extremist_Brains_Research_Paths_Toward_Neural_Signatures_of_Violent_Radicalism)

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