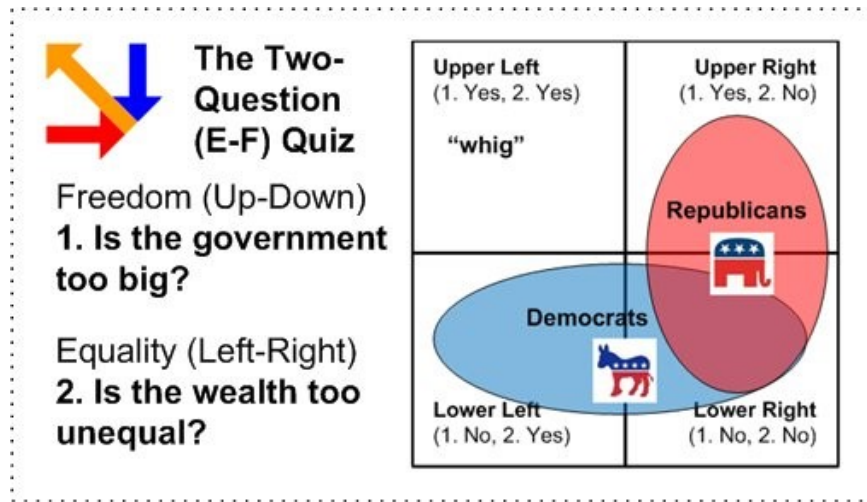


What is Upper-Left?

We need a better (well-defined) political map

Consider this simple two-question quiz. It is based upon:
The TWO MOST IMPORTANT questions in politics (since Aristotle)
(Questions about two primary ideas: Equality and Freedom)



The Left-Right Political Spectrum has problems

Left-Right political labels originated in the French Revolution (1789)
The Clergy and Nobles sat on the right, the lower classes on the left

Americans today use "Left-Right" to mean the same as "Liberal-Conservative", but struggle to define "liberal" or "conservative".
The labels are mostly for hurling insults between two warring tribes.
(Far-left lunatics! Right-wing racists!)

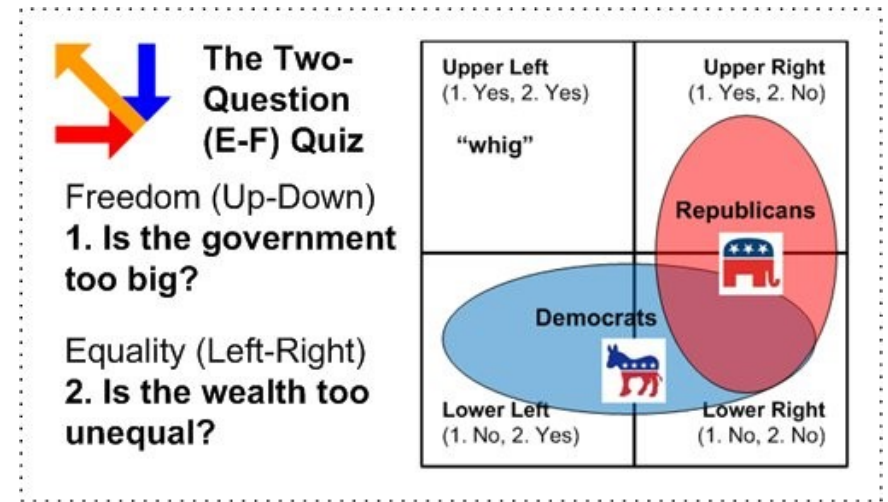
Understandably, many Americans prefer calling themselves "independents" with apparently no better definition than "I'm just not one of those two parties!" ("A plague on both their houses")

Adding to the confusion, we are told Stalin is **far-left** and Hitler is **far-right**, but are these actually polar **opposites**? Such a map makes no sense. Hitler and Stalin are closer to each other than either is to Ronald Reagan or Bill Clinton. The opposite of tyranny is anarchy. Are anarchists now the moderate centrists? It is quite absurd.

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Why is this important?

Some “whiggish” observations:

- The upper left has been left out. (What Jefferson called “whigs”: low-tax or classical liberals, the frustrated “independents”)
- Republicans (elephants) are correctly mapped as “conservatives” on the right; they divide (up-down) over small-big government and mistakenly deny the importance of left-right (class) differences.
- Democrats (donkeys) are correctly mapped as big-government “progressives”; they divide between left-right factions (Bernie-Hillary) and mistakenly dismiss the up-down (freedom) dimension.
- The “two-party system” comes together in the lower right. The result has been bigger government with greater wealth inequality
- Why has big government (fascism) been winning for a century? Because the deck is stacked to “compromise” ONLY lower right

One way to stay lost is to follow the wrong map

Columbus had to first realize the world is round, not flat

Obviously a four-quadrant two-question quiz is simplistic. But this is often a phony excuse to keep the present mess. And it ignores the important insights that the E-F map provides. A more refined (continuous) map provides even more insights, while the essential E-F vision remains.

If someone mentions left or right, ask them to define these labels. If they can't, you can now do this for them, which is better than CNN or Fox can do!
And push back: did you mean **UPPER** or **LOWER** left or right?

About the Author (Lloyd Sloan)



Co-founder “No MO Sales Tax” 2013
Talk show host, “The Sloan Ranger Show” on WGNU (2001-2007)
Graduated Harvard College 1978
Child actor, St. Louis Muny Opera

He is now an author and lecturer.

Written by Lloyd Sloan, Dec-2022, lloyd_sloan@yahoo.com

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