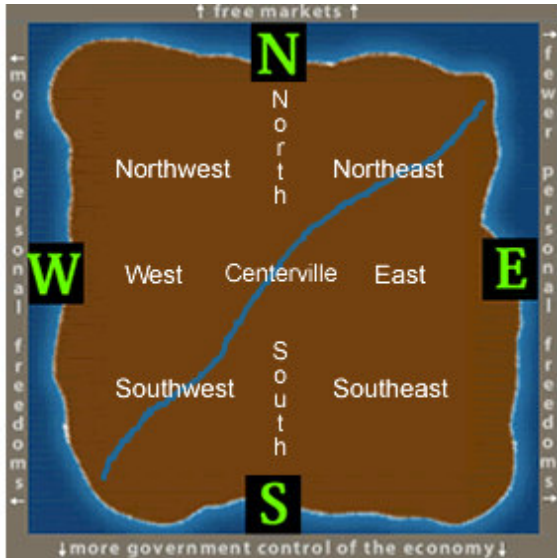


# Introduction to Politopia.com



Politopia - a magical land where you can customize your government simply by moving. Here's how it works:

- The government's role in your economic affairs diminishes as you move North, and increases as you move South.
- The government's role in your personal affairs diminishes as you move West and increases as you move East.
- The Left / Right model we're all familiar with is a river (the Main Stream) that runs from the SW corner to NE corner.
- Politopia.com is a project of the Institute for Humane Studies ([www.theIHS.org](http://www.theIHS.org)), an educational non-profit organization.

Though you can customize your government in Politopia, there is no Utopia in Politopia (or anywhere else, for that matter). Rather, where you live in Politopia represents your opinion as to the proper role of the government—that is, the extent to which you believe the government should determine social goals and attempt to achieve them.

But not all visions of ideal societies depend on the government leading the way. The alternative is to allow individuals, communities, and organizations to determine their own goals (for themselves and the larger society) and to strive to achieve them using voluntary and/or persuasive means.

## More on Political Quizzes and Models

The two dimensional political model that Politopia is based on was originally proposed by [David Nolan](#) in an article he wrote in the summer of 1970. "Classifying and Analyzing Political-Economic Systems" appeared in the January 1971 issue of Society for Individual Liberty's newsletter The Individualist. Since then, there have been many innovations on the idea.

[USA Today Weekend's Political Quiz](http://madrabbit.net/webrabbit/quizshow.html) (<http://madrabbit.net/webrabbit/quizshow.html>)

[The Challenge of Democracy Political Quiz](http://uspolitics.org/student/Chapter01/01ideallog.html) (<http://uspolitics.org/student/Chapter01/01ideallog.html>)

[The Political Compass](http://www.politicalcompass.org/) (<http://www.politicalcompass.org/>)

[Kelley L. Ross's Three-Dimensional Political Model](http://www.friesian.com/quiz.htm) (<http://www.friesian.com/quiz.htm>)

[World's Smallest Political Quiz](http://www.self-gov.org/) (<http://www.self-gov.org/>)

[World's Second Shortest Political Quiz](http://yoyo.cc.monash.edu.au/%7Emongoose/quiz/) (<http://yoyo.cc.monash.edu.au/%7Emongoose/quiz/>)

[David Boaz's Libertarianism: A Primer](http://www.libertarianism.org/) (<http://www.libertarianism.org/>)

[The Banneker Center's Political Quiz](http://www.progress.org/banneker/posquiz.html) (<http://www.progress.org/banneker/posquiz.html>)

[IDEALog](http://ideallog.org/index.asp) -- an application for analyzing political values (<http://ideallog.org/index.asp>)

## **Descriptions of each Region of Politopia**

### **Northwest:**

This region has a large degree of economic and personal freedom. People in this region are referred to as “classical liberals,” “libertarians,” “market liberal,” “old whigs,” “objectivists,” “propertarians,” and “anarcho-capitalists.”

### **North:**

As you move North, the government’s role in economic affairs diminishes. Taxes are lower there, there are fewer regulations, and there are fewer government-sponsored programs. The North is a land of free markets and the voluntarism.

### **Northeast:**

This region has a large degree of economic freedom (a.k.a. “fiscal conservatism”) and a large degree of government control over personal affairs. People in this region are referred to as “conservatives,” “right-wing conservatives,” and “free-market conservatives.” The section of the Mainstream that corresponds to the “right” half of the “left/right” political model passes through the middle of the Northeast region.

### **Centerville:**

Centerville has precisely the same government policies as those of the United States today. If you choose to live in Centerville, this means you are content with the role of the US government in your life. Both the democratic and republican parties live in suburbs just outside of Centerville.

### **West:**

As you move West, the government’s control over personal affairs decreases. There are fewer restrictions on speech, drugs, the sale of sexual services, and individual lifestyle choices. The West is a land of “live and let live.”

### **East:**

As you move East, the government’s control of personal affairs increases. Drugs, alcohol, obscene speech, and the sex industry are extensively regulated. The East is a socially conservative land with an enforced moral code.

### **Southwest:**

This region has a large degree of personal freedom and a large degree of government control over the economy. People in this region are referred to as “liberals,” “left-wing liberals,” “civil libertarians,” “democratic socialists,” “egalitarians,” and “anarcho-socialists.” The section of the Mainstream that corresponds to the “left” half of the “left/right” political model passes through the middle of the Southeast region.

### **South:**

As you move South, the government’s role in economic affairs increases. There are more government-sponsored programs, more regulations to ensure equity and safety, and, of course, taxes are higher. The South is a land of state-sponsored welfare and increasingly centralized control over the economy.

### **Southeast:**

This region has a large degree of government control over both economic and personal affairs. People in this region are referred to as “authoritarians,” “traditionalists,” “communitarians,” and “statists.”

# **POLITOPAIA—The land of custom-made government**

Where would you feel most at home in Politopia? Fill out this questionnaire to find out.

## **East or West? The realm of personal freedoms.**

### **1) The government should:**

- A) Close borders to immigrants.
- B) Increase regulations to allow only a select few immigrants in the country.
- C) Maintain current immigration policies.
- D) Decrease regulations to allow more immigrants into the country.
- E) Allow all peaceful immigrants into the country.

### **2) The government should:**

- A) Develop a universal public school curriculum that develops an appreciation for civic ideals, and ensures that all children have an equal opportunity to attend college.
- B) Move towards a more standardized curriculum in the public school system.
- C) Continue to fund and maintain current level of involvement in establishing curriculum in public schools.
- D) Adopt voucher system for grade schools and high schools and reduce federal regulations.
- E) Privatize the public school system and allow competition to improve education.

### **3) The government should:**

- A) Execute anyone convicted of trafficking drugs.
- B) Step up efforts to fight the war on drugs—stiffer sentences, increased use of civil forfeiture, etc.
- C) Maintain current efforts to fight the war on drugs—including the use of mandatory minimums and civil forfeiture.
- D) Legalize marijuana and ban only hard drugs (e.g., heroin).
- E) Repeal laws prohibiting possession, sale, and use of drugs.

### **4) The government should:**

- A) Prohibit suicide and all potentially risky behavior (including smoking, drinking, and eating fatty foods)
- B) Increase regulations to encourage people to lead healthier and safer lives.
- C) Maintain current level of safety regulations (e.g., helmet laws, seat belt laws, smoking regulations).
- D) Remove penalties, but discourage risky behavior through taxation.
- E) Abolish penalties and excise taxes; allow people to take responsibility for their own safety.

### **5) The government should:**

- A) Ban pornography "non-traditional" sex, and all sex outside of conventional marriage.
- B) Ban pornography, strip clubs, and prostitution.
- C) Maintain current level of regulation of the sex industry.
- D) Allow, but regulate the sale of sexual services.
- E) Make no regulations involving consensual sexual activities between adults.

### **6) The government should:**

- A) Ban all obscene, indecent and discriminatory speech; prosecute all unauthorized speech.
- B) Increase regulations to prevent obscene, indecent and discriminatory speech (print, television, and Internet).
- C) Maintain current level of regulations on speech and the press.
- D) Decrease regulations on speech and press; prohibit only "harmful" speech.
- E) Make no restrictions regarding speech or the press.

**North or South? The realm of economic freedom.**

**7) The government should:**

- A) Guarantee a "living income" for all Americans.
- B) Increase the scope and size of federally administered anti-poverty programs.
- C) Maintain welfare programs at current levels.
- D) Overhaul anti-poverty programs; only provide a temporary "safety net."
- E) Rely solely on private charity to provide aid to the poor.

**8) The government should:**

- A) Provide a national social security system; nationalize health care.
- B) Invest more taxpayer money in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Social Security system.
- C) Maintain the Social Security system, Medicare, and Medicaid at current levels.
- D) Require private retirement savings and private health insurance.
- E) Not be involved in retirement saving or healthcare provision.

**9) The government should:**

- A) Create and operate state-owned enterprises to promote national economic and environmental goals.
- B) Promote national business and environmental goals through extensive use of subsidies, tax breaks, regulations, and tariffs.
- C) Maintain current level of corporate regulation and support to protect national business interests and promote environmental goals.
- D) Cut back on subsidies, tax breaks, regulations, and tariffs.
- E) Eliminate subsidies, tax breaks, regulations, and tariffs – eliminate corporate welfare.

**10) The government should:**

- A) Increase tax rates to levels approaching 100% and redistribute in an equitable manner.
- B) Increase taxes and make the system more progressive (tax the rich at a higher percentage than the poor).
- C) Maintain current levels of taxation.
- D) Decrease taxes and move toward a flat tax (everyone taxed at the same rate, regardless of income).
- E) Cut taxes to a level approaching 0%.

**11) The government should:**

- A) Prop up and support developing countries.
- B) Increase aid and assistance to developing countries and forgive past debts.
- C) Maintain current levels of foreign aid.
- D) Provide loans to developing countries.
- E) Stay out of the affairs of developing countries.

**12) The government should:**

- A) Guarantee a job for every American.
- B) Raise the minimum wage and increase labor regulations to promote equity and safety.
- C) Maintain minimum wage and labor regulations at current levels.
- D) Lower the minimum wage and decrease labor regulations.
- E) Abolish the minimum wage because it causes unemployment; only enforce labor contracts.

## Scoring:

For each question, assign points using the following values:

<b>A= 2</b>	Your total score for questions 1-6 give you your position on the East-West axis.
<b>B= 1</b>	Your total score for questions 7-12 give you your position on the North-South axis.
<b>C= 0</b>	
<b>D= -1</b>	For example, if questions 1-6 totaled 6, and questions 7-12 totaled -2, then you would be in the East region of Politopia. Generally, a C answer supports maintaining the status quo for the relevant policy. For the online version of this quiz, go to <a href="http://www.Politopia.com">www.Politopia.com</a> .
<b>E= -2</b>	

**Politopia Map:** Use the following map to place yourself in the magical land of Politopia.

