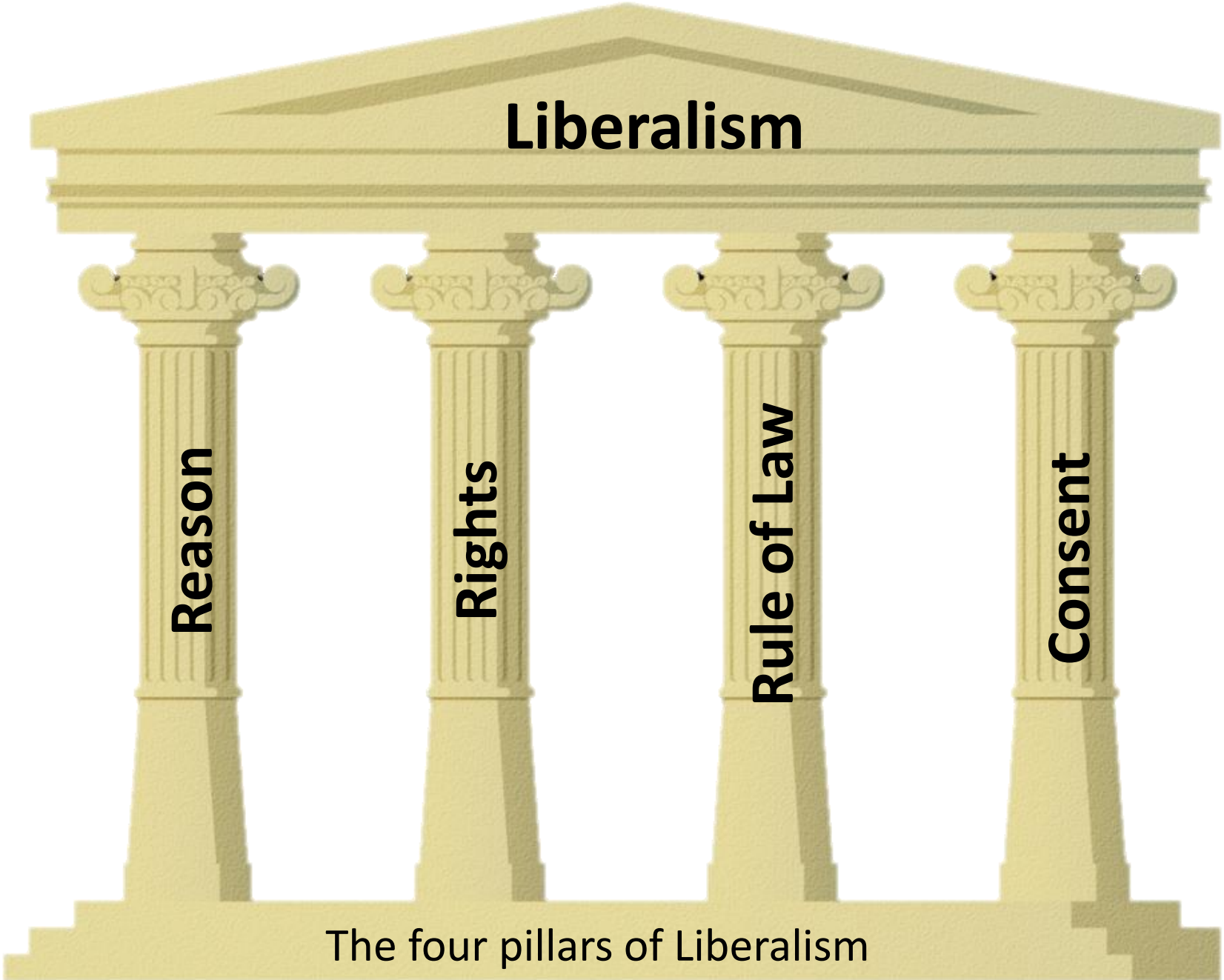


Professor Beverly Crawford Ames

OLLI FALL 2018

Liberal "Truths"

- "We hold these truths to be ~~sacred and undeniable~~ : *Self-evident* , that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."



Liberalism

Reason

Rights

Rule of Law

Consent

The four pillars of Liberalism

What is the role of the Liberal State?

- Liberals want limited state power, but that's not the whole story.
- Liberal states are not weak states
 - Liberal principles make the state strong
 - Liberal states must have the resources to protect Rights
 - Human rights and civil rights are only meaningful if they can be enforced.
 - Only a powerful state can defend the weak against the strong and protect minorities.
- Statelessness means rightlessness

And the role of the Economy

- Liberals are not socialists
- They are tolerant of economic inequality
- Wealth is not a social evil
- Liberals believe in economic competition and individual merit as the basis for success.
- Consistent with a commitment to freedom

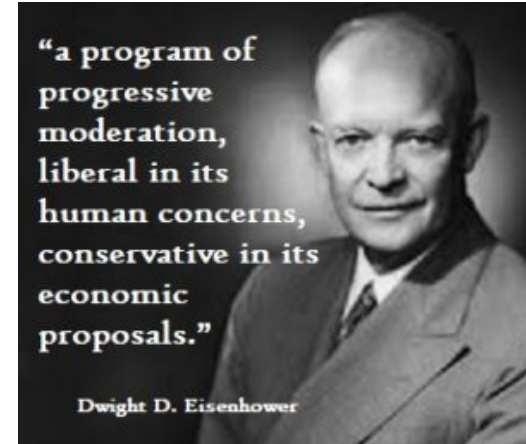
Historical Roots and evolution of U.S. Liberalism



Classical Liberalism



Progressive Liberalism
Or
New Deal Liberalism



Dynamic Conservatism



Right Wing Conservatism
.... back to
Classical economic Liberalism but
Social conservatism

The Rise of Right Wing Conservatism

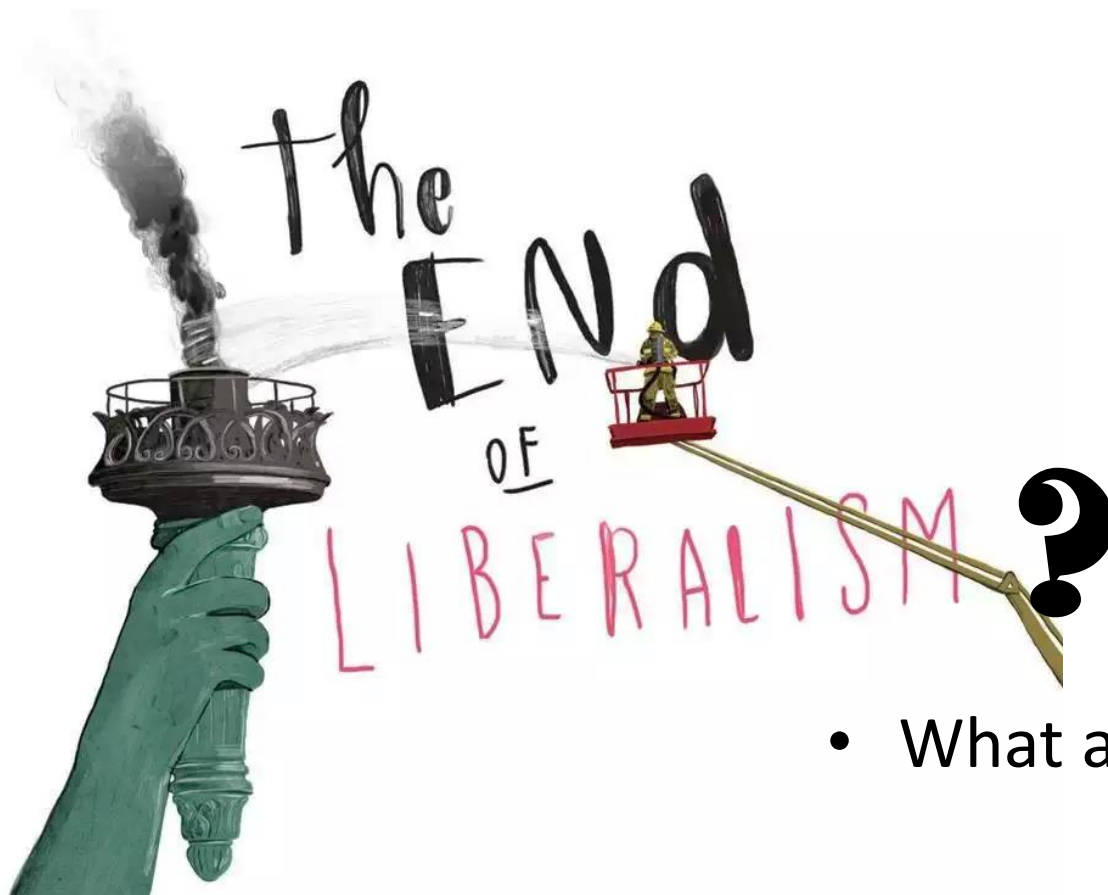
- Growing power of social conservatives
- Social Conservatives unite with Economic Conservatives (19th Century “classical liberals” —now “neo-liberals”
- Liberalism gets a Bad Name



The American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism, but under the name of liberalism, they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program until one day America will be a Socialist nation without ever knowing how it happened.

(Norman Thomas)

And now....



- What are the Signs?

The rise of anti-Liberal public Attitudes

- More openness to Military rule
- Indifference to Russia's meddling in the US Election
- Rising intolerance
 - toward political opponents
 - Rise of White Nationalism
 - Rising Antisemitism
 - Intolerance toward Islam

Breakdown of the Norms of Liberal Democracy

- Breakdown in “The Soft Guardrails of Democracy”
- The Decline of Civic Virtue
 - Presidential pandering to fears and resentments deepens prejudices –Us vs. Them
 - Condoning and inciting violence
 - Violating ethics rules
 - Conflicts of Interest
 - Weakened commitment to truth

Breakdown in a Commitment to Liberal Democratic Institutions among political elites

- North Carolina.....Losers block winner's ability to govern
- Georgia.....closing of polling places
- West Virginia.....impeachment of entire State Supreme Court
- 2016: Unprecedented blocking of a Supreme Court Nominee
- Politicians pandering to fears and resentments, racist sentiments, Condoning and inciting violence

The Very Scary Signs

- The global rise of the illiberal one-party state
 - China, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Russia, Poland, Hungary
- Illiberal parties are part of government coalitions and/or enjoy wide support
- The Rise of Authoritarian Governments
 - Poland
 - Hungary

A rise in “fascist tactics” on the part of national leaders (Jason Stanley)

- Promotion of an “us vs. them” mentality
- Nostalgia for a mythic past
- Propagation of conspiracy theories
- Obsession with the “corruption of traditional values” while creating kleptocracies