

awakening soul 2020

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**One opportunity of this
dangerous moment:**

**To understand what it was like
to live in an imperial cult
in biblical times.**

**One opportunity of this
apocalyptic (revelatory) moment:**

**To see what Jesus was up to,
and that he was
*brilliant.***

**One opportunity of this pregnant
moment:**

**To gain wisdom from how
he navigated his times
so we can better navigate our
own**

**One opportunity of this formative
moment:**

**To imitate Jesus' attitude/
mindset ...**

Beatitudes ...
“Blessed are”

?

Jesus¹⁴ went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news¹⁵ of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them.²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

We bless the poor and vulnerable, and those in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We bless those bereaved who mourn for loved ones they have lost to illness and violence, for they will be comforted.

We bless those brave enough to be non-violent, for they will inherit the earth.

We bless those who are insatiably hungry and thirsty for justice, for they will be filled.

We bless all who choose to be merciful rather than vengeful, for they will receive mercy.

We bless all who choose to be pure in heart rather than deceitful and hypocritical, for they will see God.

We bless all who choose to be spreaders of peace rather than spreaders of hate, for they will be called children of God.

We bless all who are persecuted, harassed, heckled, rejected, and mocked for standing for justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely for standing with Jesus, for standing for what he stood for.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

the poor (and those in solidarity)

the bereaved mourners

the non-violent meek

the hungry and thirsty for justice

the merciful

the pure in heart/genuine/non-deceptive/non-duplicitious

peacemakers

persecuted (You - the prophetic!)

In groups:

1. What is one insight, feeling, or impression from **the presentation** that you want to hold onto?
2. What is one insight, feeling, or impression from **your companions** that you want to hold onto?

The poor and vulnerable, and those in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable ...
WE SEE YOU. WE CARE. YOUR LIVES MATTER. WE BLESS YOU.

The bereaved who mourn for loved ones they have lost to illness and violence
... WE SEE YOUR PAIN. WE SHARE YOUR LOSS. WE BRING OUR
COMFORT. WE BLESS YOU.

All those who are brave enough to be non-violent ...
WE HONOR YOU. WE RESPECT YOU. WE BLESS YOU.

All who are insatiably hungry and thirsty for justice ... WE SHARE YOUR
HUNGER AND WE JOIN YOU IN THE STRUGGLE. WE BLESS YOU.

All who choose to be merciful rather than vengeful ... WE HONOR YOU AS HEROES. WE SEE HOW HARD IT CAN BE TO FORGIVE. WE BLESS YOU.

All who choose to be pure in heart rather than deceitful and hypocritical ... WE SEE GOD IN YOU. WE BLESS YOU.

All who choose to be spreaders of peace rather than spreaders of hate ... WE CALL YOU CHILDREN OF GOD. WE BLESS YOU.

All who are persecuted, harassed, heckled, rejected, and mocked for standing for justice ... WE CELEBRATE YOU. WE HOLD YOU IN HIGHEST REGARD. WE BLESS YOU!

And even you and I ... when people revile us and persecute us and utter all kinds of evil against us falsely for standing with Jesus, for standing for what he stood for ... WE ARE BLESSED INDEED.

WE REJOICE AND WE ARE GLAD TO MARCH WITH THE PROPHETS ... IN GOD'S ONGOING MOVEMENT OF JUSTICE, JOY, AND PEACE.

the pandemic:

covid-19

a virus

that affects the lungs (and more)

and is highly contagious

**The other pandemic:
authoritarianism.**

**a syndrome
that affects the brain (and
behavior) and is highly
contagious**

Authoritarian Followers: a percentage of the population (perhaps 30 - 35%?) whose brains are easily activated by anxiety, anger, or other strong emotions to willingly submit to an authoritarian leader, deriving great pleasure from that submission and the belonging it conveys.

**Right Wing Authoritarians: mobilize
around a threat or enemy (real or
concocted)**

**Left Wing Authoritarians:
mobilize around a desired gain**

Authoritarianism: a process of centralizing power in an individual, party, or cabal by using *fear* of a real or concocted enemy, radical *division* of society based on support for the regime, gross *distortion of/diversion from* the truth, and *suppression* of dissent.

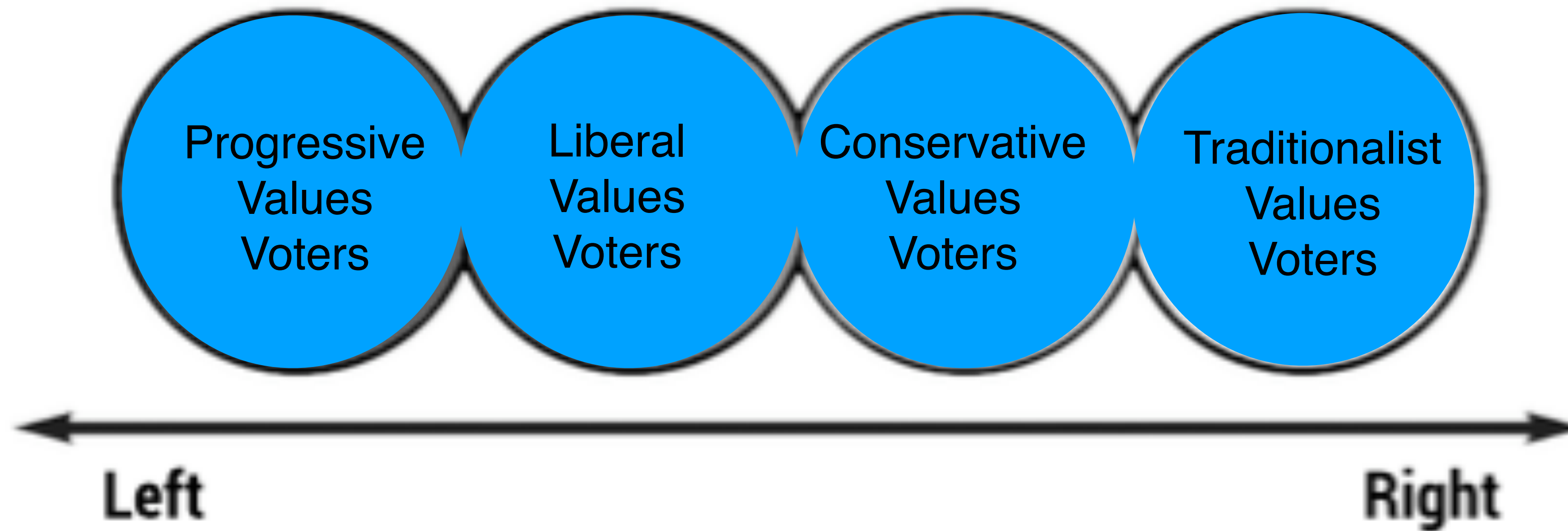
Authoritarian Leaders have Global Networks - sharing information, tactics, for mutual advantage.

**Iron Triangles - 1. Mafia/Crime Syndicates,
2. Corrupt Government Leaders and
Officials, 3. Business Leaders**

<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/speeches/the-evolving-organized-crime-threat>

The Five Electorates

All voters are values voters.



from Steve McIntosh, *Developmental Politics* (March 2020)



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PROGRESSIVE MORAL VALUES:

1. COURAGEOUSLY FACE CLIMATE CHANGE
2. PROTECT THE EARTH for future generations
3. HONOR THE DIGNITY/ DIVERSITY OF ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY MOST VULNERABLE
4. RESPECT AND PROTECT local economies/environments and BE GOOD GLOBAL CITIZENS.
5. HUMBL Y TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH about past & present

LIBERAL MORAL VALUES:

1. PROTECT the working and middle classes
2. PROMOTE AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP
3. BE A GOOD GLOBAL NEIGHBOR/STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
4. PROMOTE DEMOCRACY globally through diplomacy, aid, and education
5. VALUE GOOD GOVERNMENT, big enough to do what is most needed in "the fierce urgency of now."

CONSERVATIVE MORAL VALUES:

1. PROTECT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS
2. PROTECT PROPERTY & PRIVACY.
3. FREE AND FAIR MARKETS.
4. SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.
5. ADDRESS THE DANGERS OF DEBT.

TRADITIONALIST MORAL VALUES

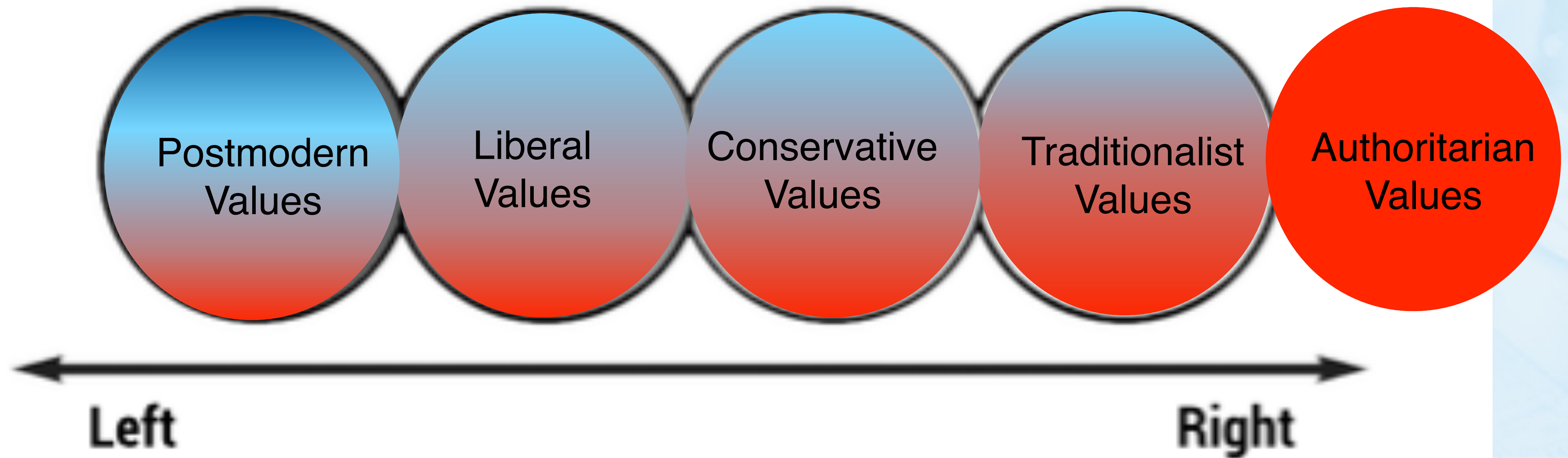
1. HONOR HARD PHYSICAL WORK & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.
2. STRENGTHEN & SUPPORT FAMILY LIFE esp. CHILDREN, MOTHERS, and the ELDERLY.
3. STAND TALL FOR TRADITIONAL CHARACTER QUALITIES.
4. DEFEND THE CHECKS AND BALANCES PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION and RESIST TYRANNY.
5. CELEBRATE THE VALUE OF SINCERE FAITH AND DEDICATED FAITH COMMUNITIES that seek and serve the common good.



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THE RISE OF THE FIFTH ELECTORATE



AUTHORITARIAN VALUES

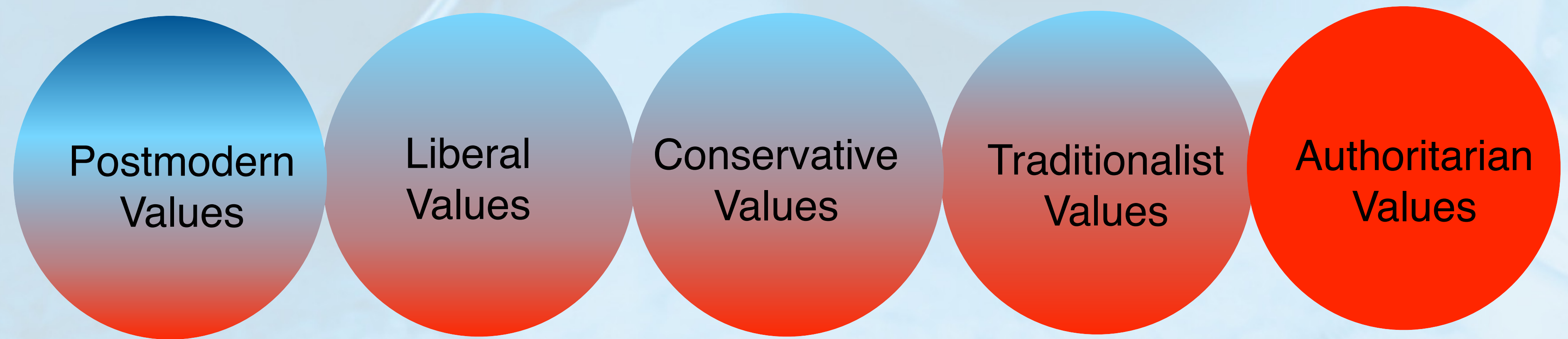
Winning is everything/US vs. Them
Truth doesn't matter/Lie & Mock freely
Physical force (guns, threats, torture)
Power/submission is the ultimate value



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THE RISE OF THE FIFTH ELECTORATE



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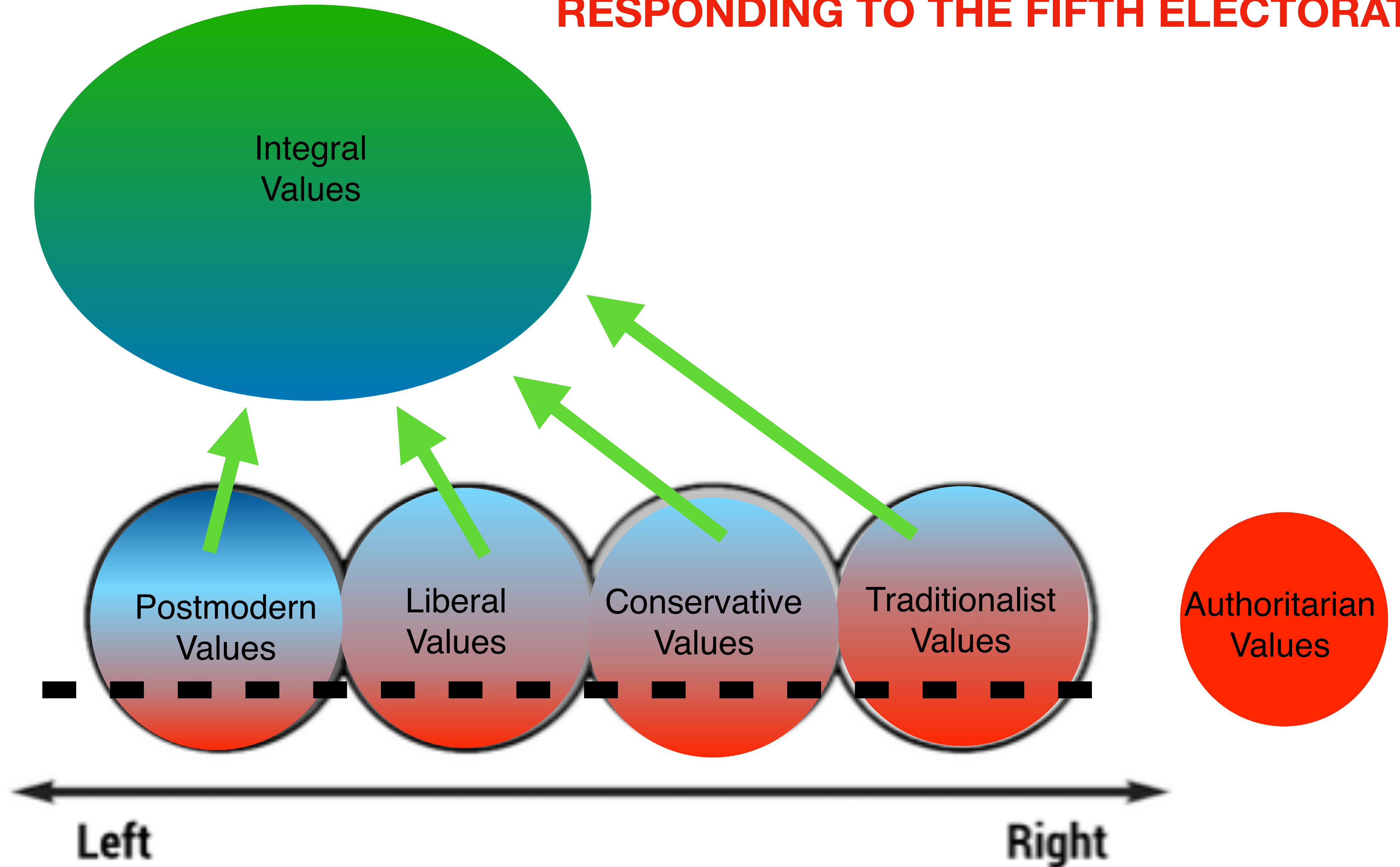
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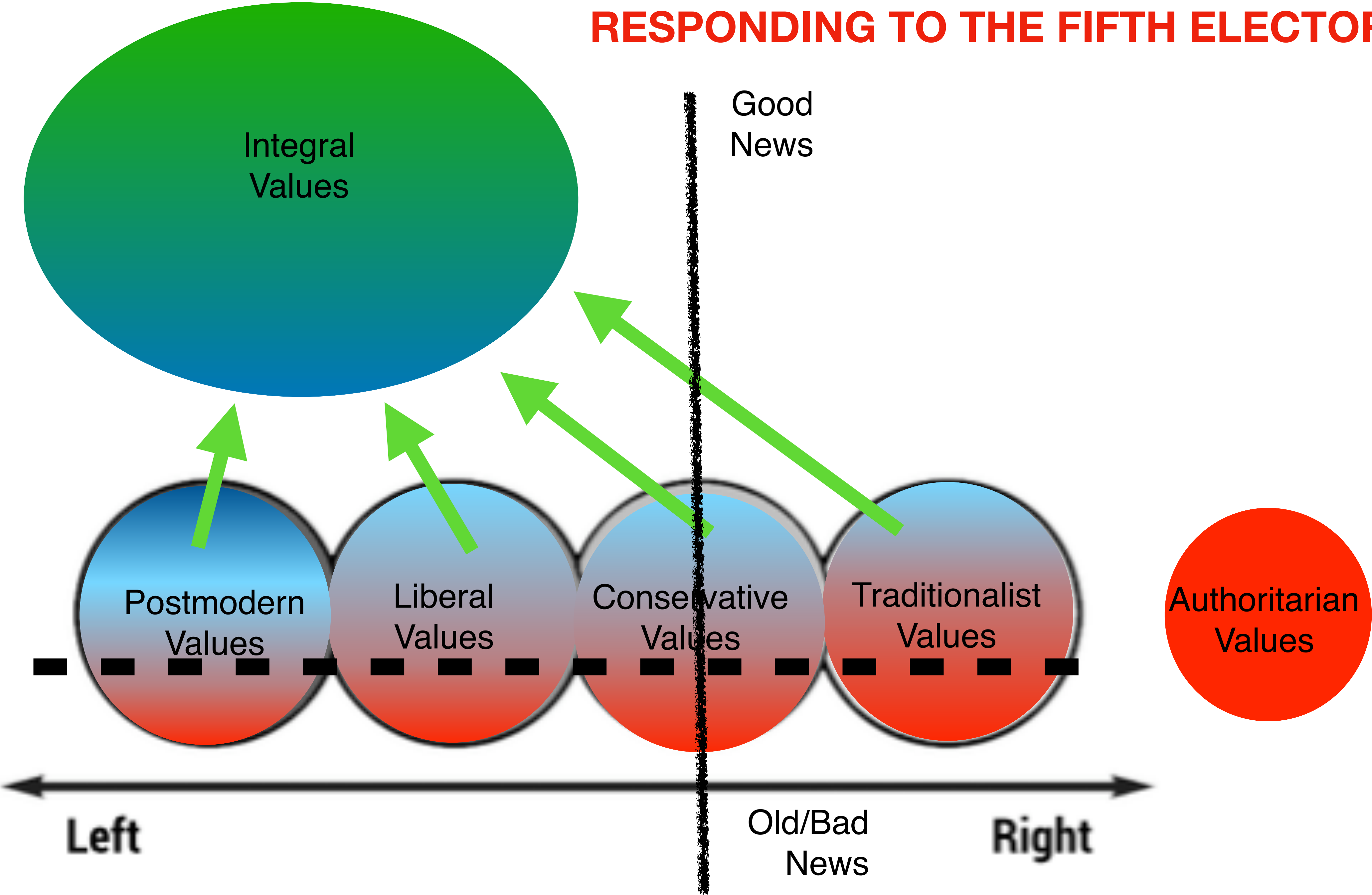
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RESPONDING TO THE FIFTH ELECTORATE



RESPONDING TO THE FIFTH ELECTORATE



Before mass leaders seize the power to fit reality to their lies, their propaganda is marked by its extreme contempt for facts as such, for in their opinion fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.

— Hannah Arendt, 1951 (The Origins of Totalitarianism)



The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. What makes it possible for a totalitarian or any other dictatorship to rule is that people are not informed; how can you have an opinion if you are not informed? If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. This is because lies, by their very nature, have to be changed, and a lying government has constantly to rewrite its own history. On the receiving end you get not only one lie — a lie which you could go on for the rest of your days — but you get a great number of lies, depending on how the political wind blows. And a people that no longer can believe anything cannot make up its mind. It is deprived not only of its capacity to act but also of its capacity to think and to judge. And with such a people you can then do what you please.





In an ever-changing, incomprehensible world the masses had reached the point where they would, at the same time, believe everything and nothing, think that everything was possible and that nothing was true. [...] under such conditions, one could make people believe the most fantastic statements one day, and trust that if the next day they were given irrefutable proof of their falsehood, they would take refuge in cynicism; instead of deserting the leaders who had lied to them, they would protest that they had known all along that the statement was a lie and would admire the leaders for their superior tactical cleverness.

The secret strategy of authoritarians:

TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.

The Authoritarian Transaction:
I will tell you what you want to hear
about your innocence, your superiority, your right to
vengeance ...
If you support me unconditionally.

APPEAL TO THEIR BIASES ...

confirmation
complexity
community
complementarity
competency
consciousness
comfort
conservative/liberal
catastrophe
contact
confidence
cash
conspiracy



Cursed are the ...

Blamed are the ...

To be shamed and excluded are the ...

The lives/rights of ... don't matter

Blessed are ...

We bless ...

We say, “Your lives matter.”

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