

Political Spectrum



Left of Moderate

- **Liberal** – (Left) – Believe that the government should actively promote social reform to increase individuals' well being. Favor change but work peacefully within the existing political system. (Democrats, Green Party)

Right Side of Moderate

- **Conservative** – (Right) – Government should stay out of the lives of citizens and businesses, except on moral issues. Favor the status quo, (the way things are). Hesitant to change. Will work peacefully within the existing political system.
(Republicans, Reform)

Middle of the Spectrum

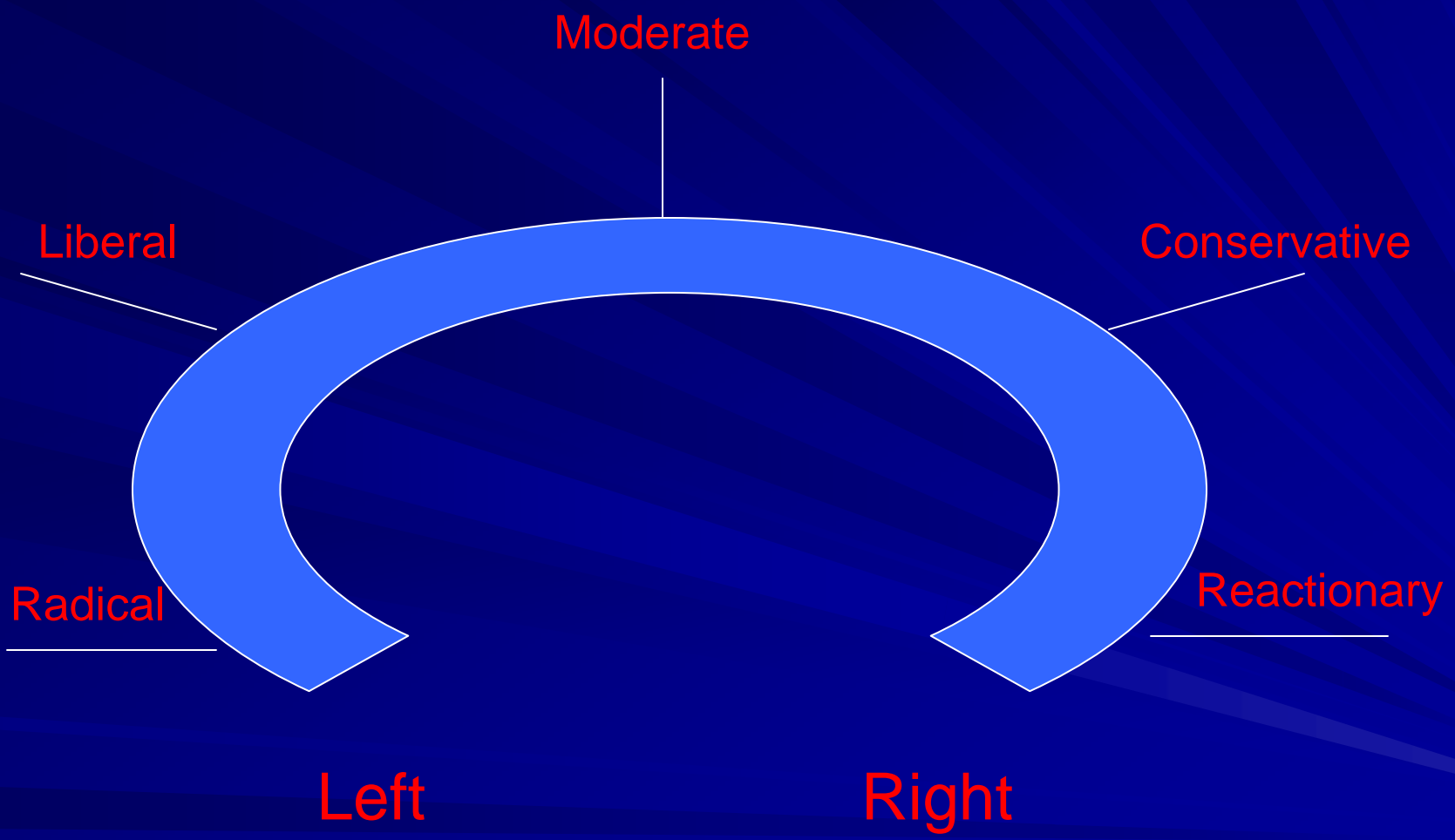
- Moderate – (Middle) – Moderates are people who have opinions between liberal and conservative and may include some of both. They are generally tolerant of many view points. They generally don't hold any extreme view points.

Far Left Side of the Spectrum

- **Radical** – (Far Left) – Favor a rapid, fundamental change in the existing social, economic or political order. Will use extreme measures including violence to achieve their goals.
(Communist)

Far Right of the Spectrum

- **Reactionary** – (Far Right) – Advocate a return to a previous state of affairs, often a social, political or economic order that existed earlier in history. Will use extreme measures to achieve their goals including violence. (Dictatorships, Monarchies, Oligarchies (Taliban))



Liberal

Conservative

← Change
Tradition →

← Problems are circumstantial
Problems are individual →

← Gov't is responsible for social reform
Gov't needs to be less involved →

Freedom – personal choices →

← Equality–fairness–level the playing field

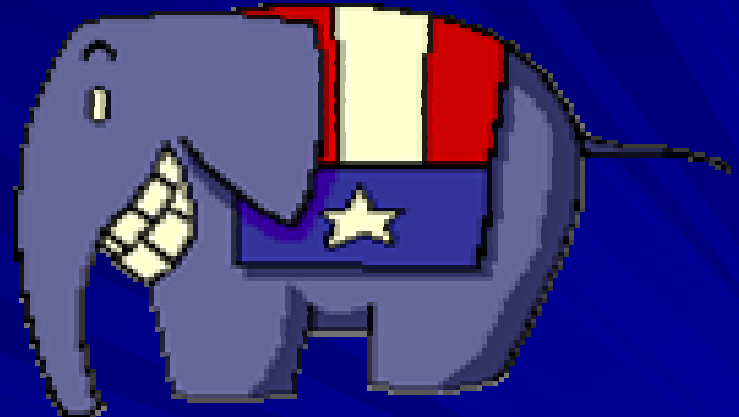
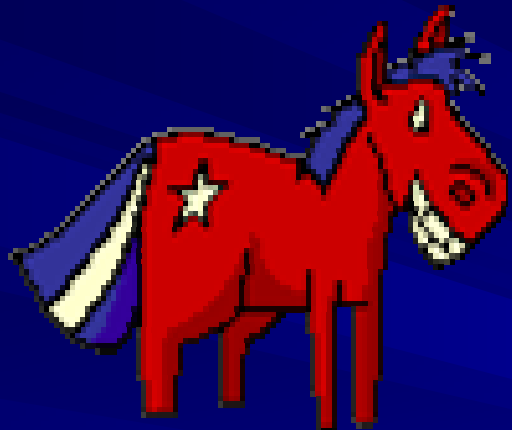
← Human rights

Property rights →

Moral Absolutes →

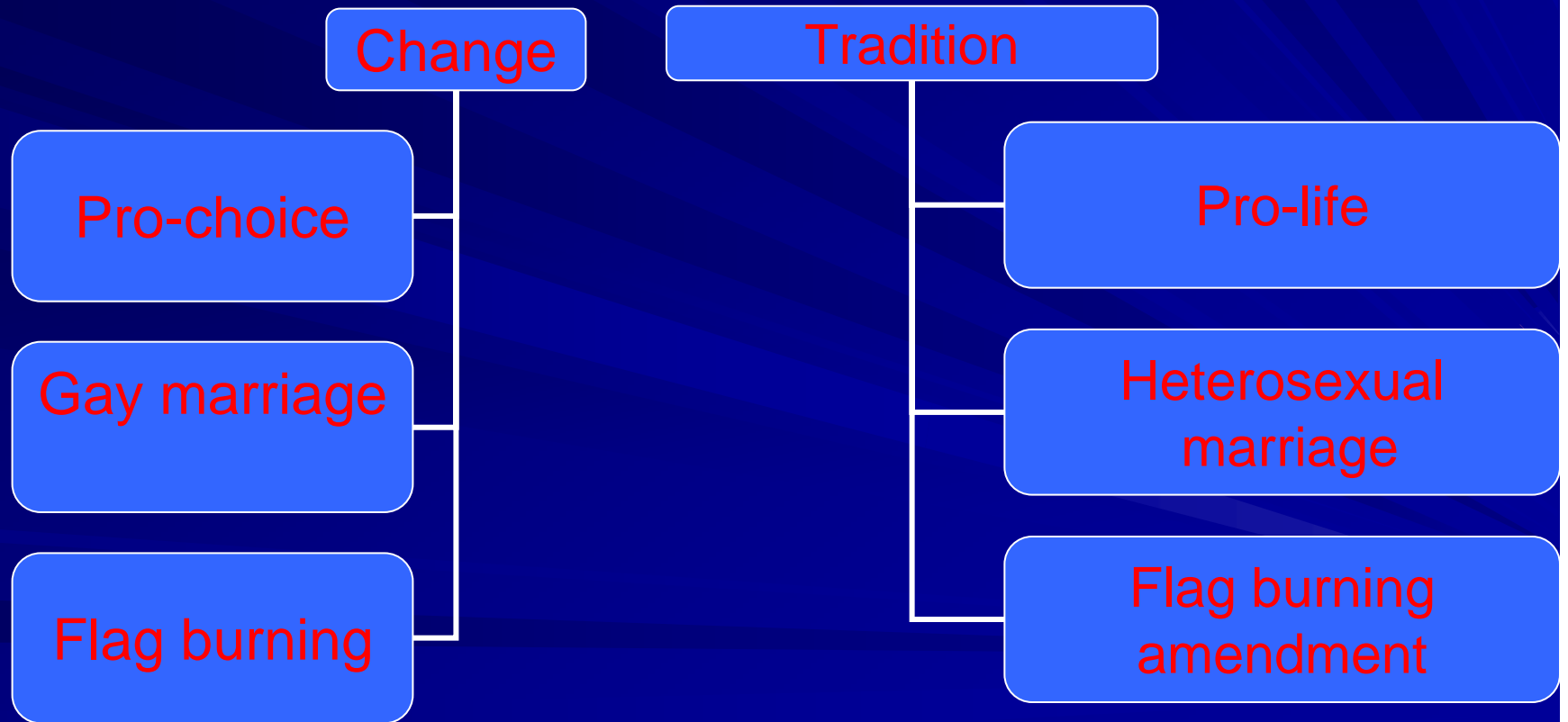
← Relative Values

Democrat vs. Republican

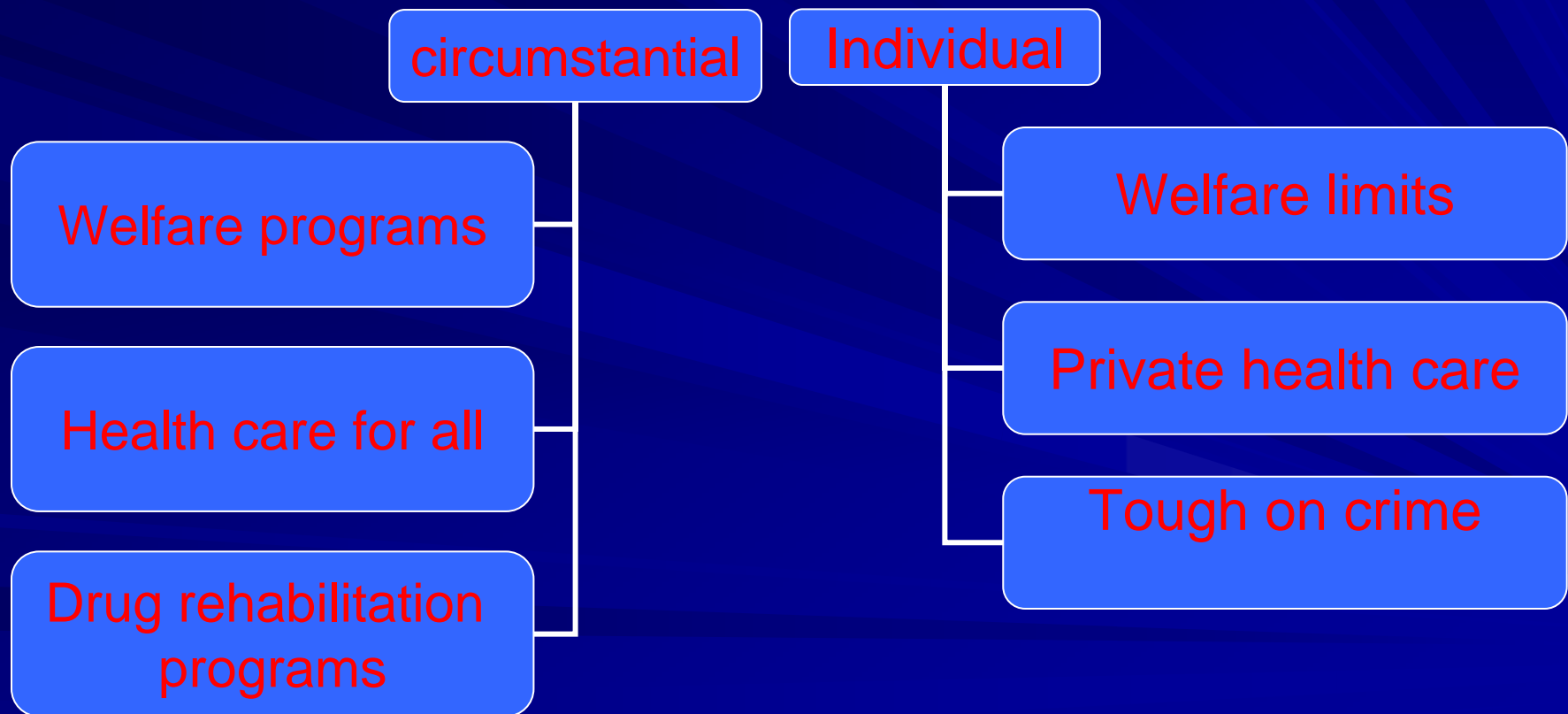


Liberal vs. Conservative

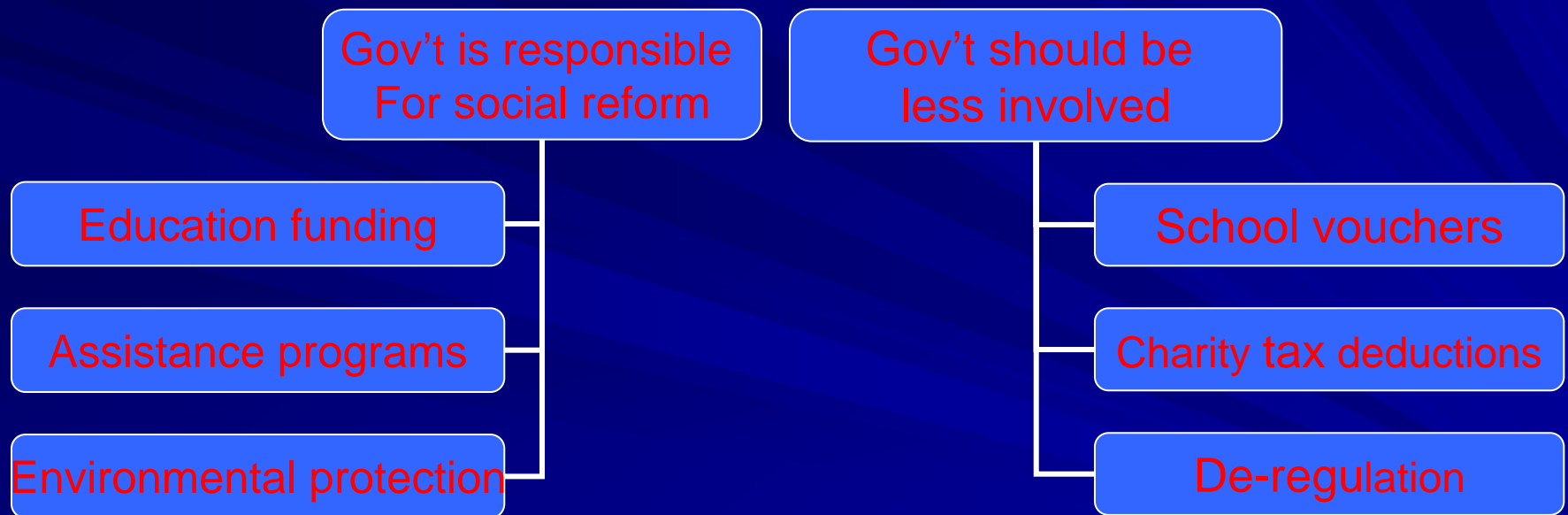
Ideology applied to issues



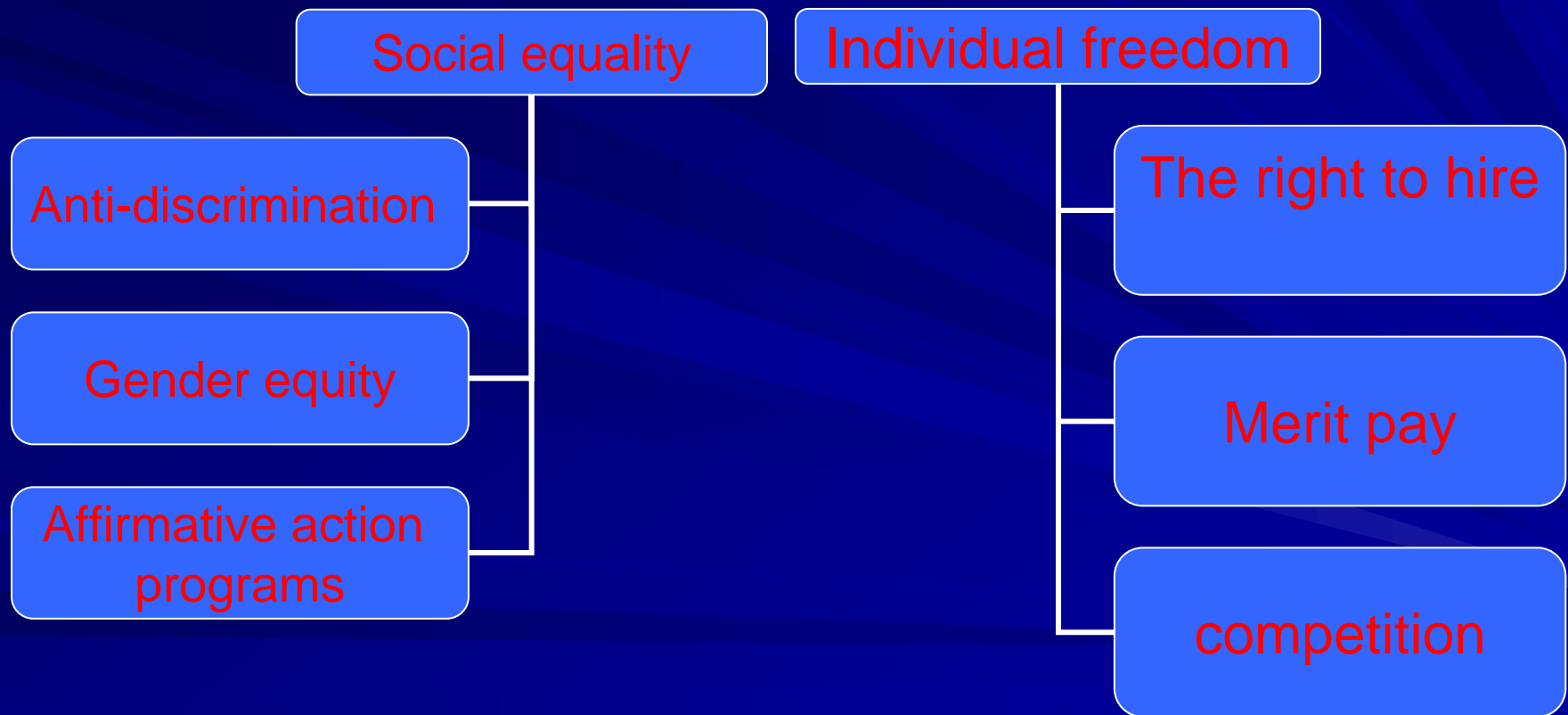
Problems in society



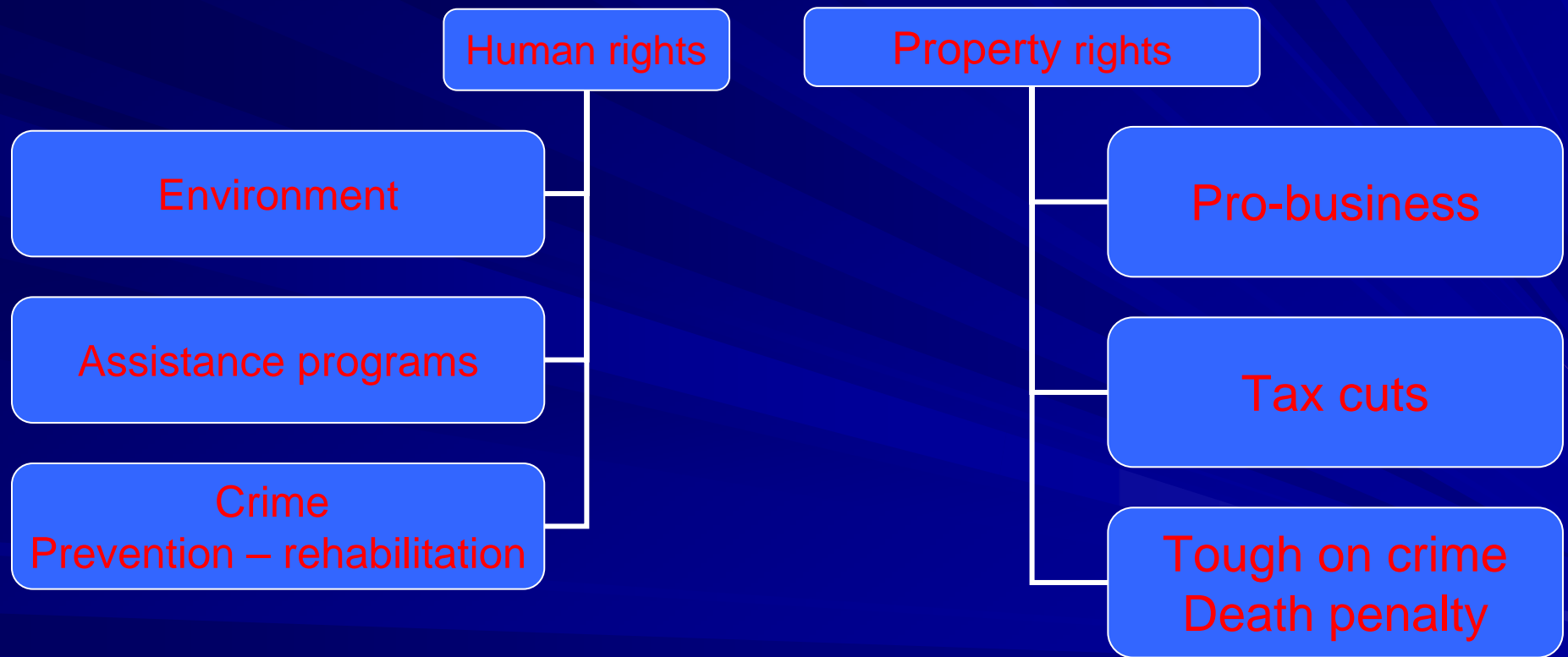
The role of government in society



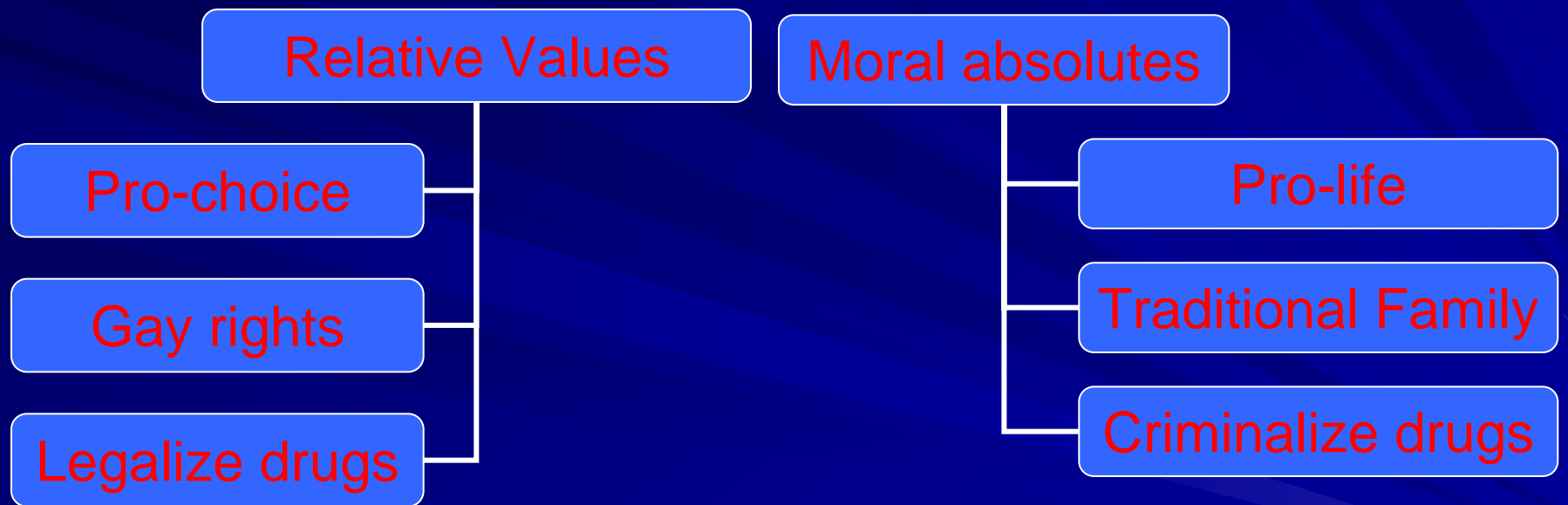
Equality - Freedom



The people's rights



Morality



Rex Tugwell, an advisor to president FDR, said that different attitudes toward change characterize adherents to different political philosophies. He wrote that if a community needed a new train station. Or education reform, crime control, etc.

liberal

would like to rebuild the train station while the train is running;

radical

prefer to blow up the train station and forgo service until the new structure is built.

conservative

would prefer to keep the old station, being satisfied with it,

reactionary

While, would abandon the station entirely since they do not approve of trains in the first place.