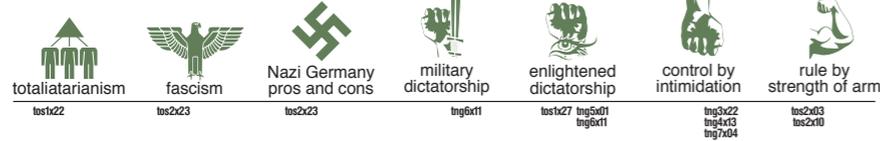


Society: Universal Social Issues

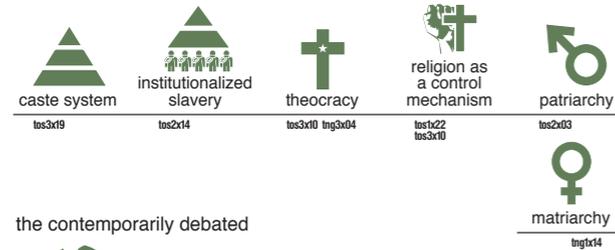
Philosophical questions around social order, ideology, morals and ethics. How should we interact with each other and what is the best way to structure society?

Social Orders and Ideologies

the generally despicable



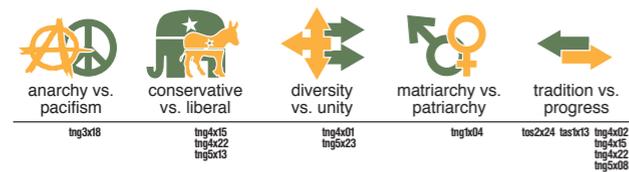
the mostly antiquated



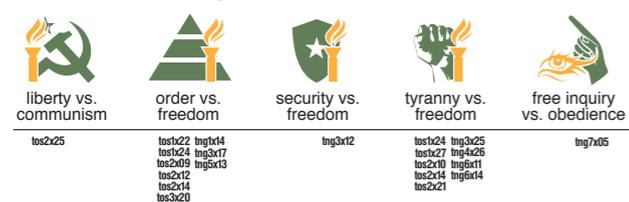
the contemporarily debated



Social Dichotomies



contrapositions involving freedom and liberty



Anarchy - The rejection of state, government and other kinds of authority.
Caste System - A grouping of people into immobile social roles such as peasants, merchants, clergy and aristocracy.
Communism - A modern political ideology that advocates common ownership of the means of production.
Conservative - A modern political stance that usually involves emphasizing traditional values, stability and self-sufficiency.
Diversity - Having many different strengths.
Fascism - A militaristic totalitarian movement of the 20th century Europe, defined mostly by its antagonism towards other ideologies.

Free Inquiry - The freedom to investigate and discuss any question.
Freedom - Another word for liberty.
Liberal - A broad modern political stance that usually involves emphasizing equal rights, free trade and various other freedoms.

Libertarianism - A modern political ideology that advocates a minimal government concerned only with law and order.
Liberty - Here "political freedom", the right to have a say in the shaping of ones society; the foundation for democracy.
Matriarchy - Political leadership belonging only to women.
Obedience - Respect for the prevailing power structure in society.

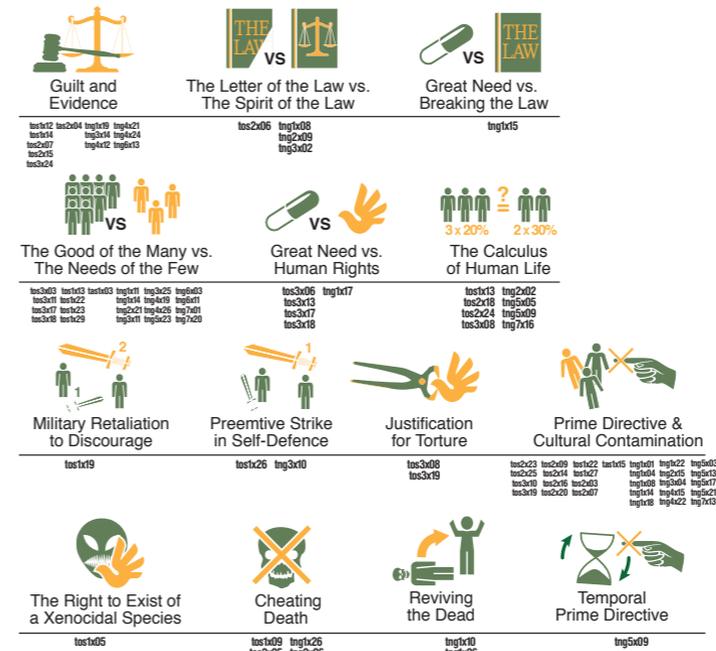
Order - Focus on social stability and efficiency.
Pacifism - The rejection of violence and the refusal to use it.
Patriarchy - Political leadership belonging only to men.
Progress - Finding new ways to do things.

Theocracy - A social system based on religious doctrine, usually hierarchical with its highest leaders said to be ordained by God.
Totalitarianism - The state has total authority over all aspects of public and private life.

Tradition - Following the time honoured ways of ancestors.
Tyranny - Absolute political power exclusively in the hands of one person or a small clique of autocrats.
Unity - Striving towards the same goals.

Note: The thematic contraposition of two of these concept does not mean that they are mutually exclusive except, perhaps, in some limited sense. Although a dichotomy suggests a binary choice, or possibly a one dimensional scale of choices, this is always a simplification that we may entertain briefly but ought better be vary of getting attached to.

Bona Fide Ethical Dilemmas



Law & Justice

The legal system is rich food for ethical dilemmas in stories. Nothing is certain so we must weight guilt against evidence. Language is ambiguous so we must consider what the law really means. And sometimes, perhaps, we must be prepared to think beyond laws that are by necessity limited in scope.

The Value of Human Life

Many of the most mind-boggling ethical dilemmas focus on how to weight some human life and welfare against other; there are limitless combinations. In a life and death situation where only some can survive and inaction would be most devastating, how can we choose who lives and who dies?

Military Conflict

War, where law barely exists and can't be reliably enforced, is another source of difficult questions. Sentimental values must be weighted against material facts. Can aggression, retaliation or even torture ever be justified as preventing more harm than they cause? In what way is it fair to interact with a foreign culture?

Hypothetical & Fictional

One of the many charms of (science) fiction is that the possibilities don't stop at situations that are presently known. What if we encounter a vicious alien race? Learn to stop aging or even to revive the dead? If you could travel in time, would you go back and kill Hitler?

Human-oid Rights and Freedoms

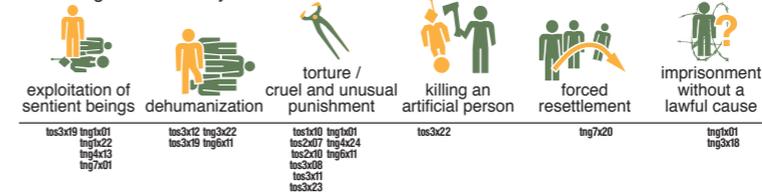
groups whose rights may require special protection



particular freedoms and liberties we claim



crimes against humanity



Medical Ethics

