



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY - 02/18/08

In a heated political argument, we often hear the most radical positions are held by either a right-wing conservative or a left-wing liberal.

HOW DID TERMS “*RIGHT-WING / LEFT WING*” ORIGINATE?

Origin: During the French Revolution (1789-91) in the National Assembly, the nobles (The Second Estate) sat to the right of the President's chair and the commons (The Third Estate) to the left.

This original reference is obsolete as, over time, the terms “left” and “right” evolved across distinct linguistic, societal, and national boundaries. As a result, they often have taken on meanings that contrast sharply with those in another time and another place.

Definition (Wikipedia): “In politics, the concept of *left-wing* refers to a segment of the political spectrum that considers a high priority the achieving of social equality through collective rights (social), as opposed to purely individual interests (private) and a traditional view of society, represented by the *right-wing* policy.”

Oxford English Dictionary: *Right-wing* is the conservative or reactionary section of a political party or system. *Left-wing* is the radical, reforming, or socialist section of a political party or system.

CW: Left-wing versus Right-wing = Opposing philosophies/principles

Moment of Zen: Equilibrium or turmoil is a question of balance