

Non-violent dialog 101

Why, how, when and relation with our spiritual practice



Organizer: Eco-Dharma Sangha

Co-sponsor: Our Sacred Earth

Who adds that last stone to build the bridge?





Does the Dharma Apply
to the Political and
Economic Worlds??

Image Credit: NASA's Earth Observatory



Is there “Other” in the
Political World?

Image Credit: NASA's Earth Observatory



"Your mother and I are separating because I want what's best for the country and your mother doesn't."

AllPosters

Stepping Across the Aisle

At Home, in the 'Hood and on the Hill

“reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions, and can never pretend to any other office than to serve and obey them.”

— David Hume

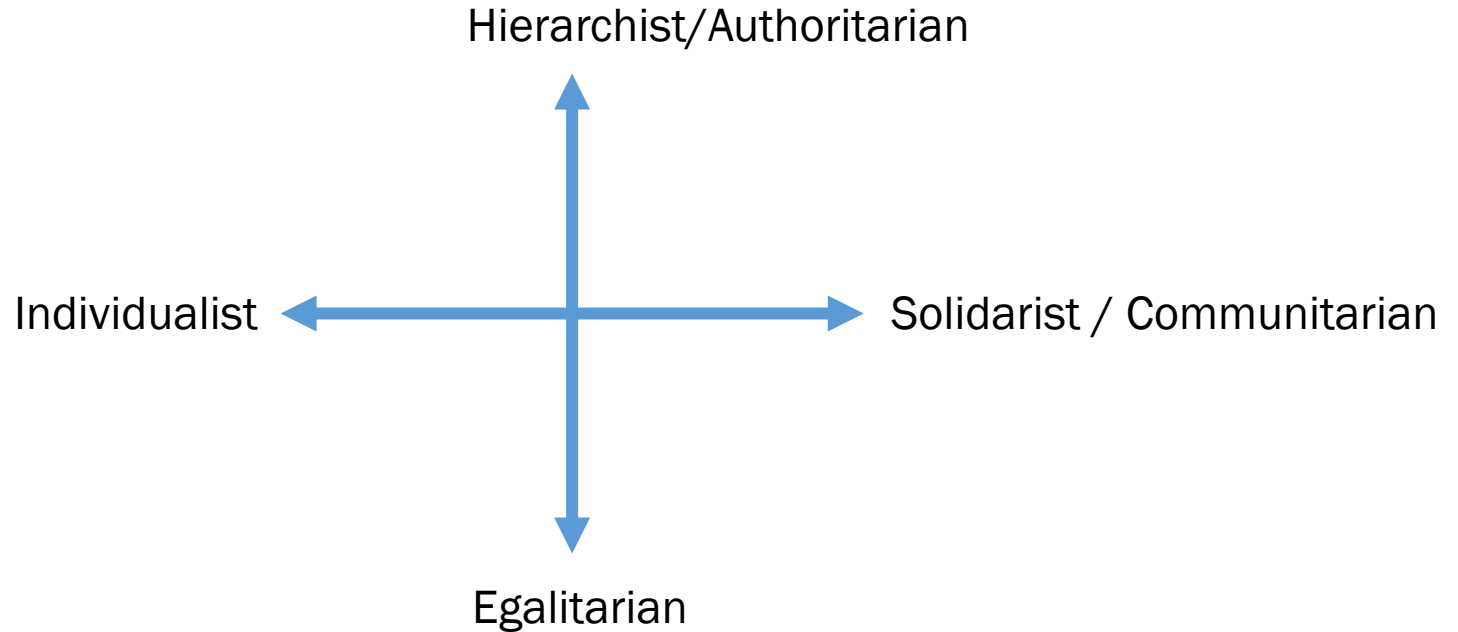
”In matters of public opinion, citizens seem to be asking themselves not ‘What’s in it for me?’ but rather ‘What’s in it for my group?’”

— Don Kinder

Agenda

- Understanding Ourselves and Others
 - Different Worldviews/Culture
 - Moral Foundations/Political
 - Religion/Faith
- Know – and Respect – the Differences
- What's Your Goal?

Different Worldviews



Source: Cultural Cognition and Public Policy by Dan M. Kahan and Donald Braman

"A landmark contribution to humanity's understanding of itself."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

THE RIGHTEOUS MIND

WHY GOOD
PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED
BY POLITICS AND
RELIGION



JONATHAN HAIDT

Moral Foundation — 6 Building Blocks

Liberty/Oppression : *the loathing of tyranny*

Care/Harm : *cherishing & protecting others*

Fairness/Cheating : *rendering justice according to shared rules*

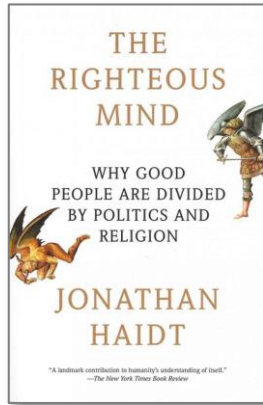
Loyalty/Betrayal : *standing with your group, family, nation*

Authority/Subversion : *obeying tradition & legitimate authority*

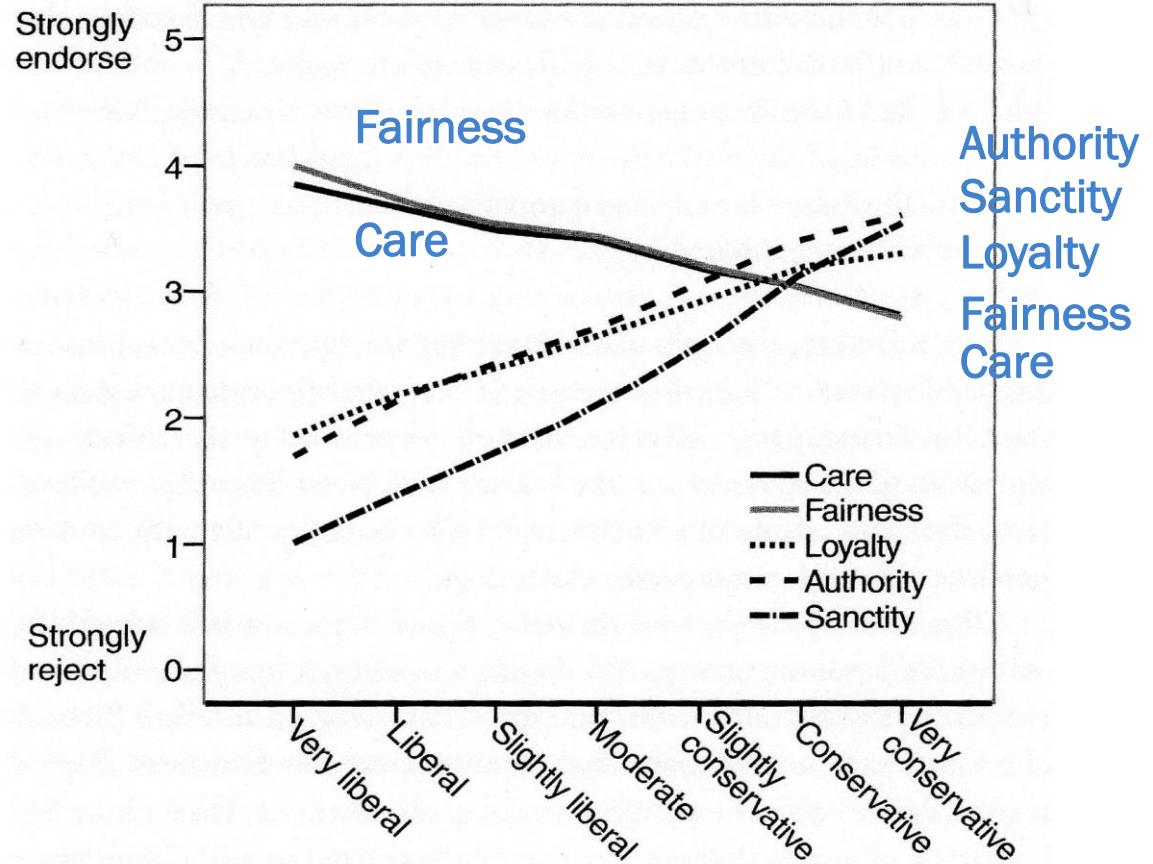
Sanctity/Degradation : *abhorrence for disgusting actions, things, foods*

Source: The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt

Moral Foundations



Moral Foundations Questionnaire



RELIGION

Five Narratives That Work Across Faiths

- Earth Care – a precious gift
- Climate change is a moral challenge
- Climate change is disrupting natural balance
- We live our faith through our actions
- I take a personal pledge

Faith & Climate Change

Different Faiths, Different Meanings - BEWARE

- Justice
- Blame
- Punishment
- Disobedience
- Natural Limits

Faith & Climate Change – Narrative Arc

1. **Validation** - what you care for
2. **Challenge** - how what you care for is threatened
3. **Action** - how change can reflect your values
4. **Restoration** - a return to your values and reinforcement of the world you wish to see

Now you **KNOW** the **DIFFERENCES**

Where's the Common Ground?

- Ask/Explore – Really Listen
- This is important to me – What's important to you?
- Understand Areas of Disagreement – and Respect them
- This is a Marathon – not a Sprint
- **AND REMEMBER YOUR GOAL!**

Are You...

Apart from
the Earth

or

A part of
the Earth



Are “They” ...

Apart from
the Earth

or

A part of
the Earth



POP QUIZ:

You're a Democrat going to a "right to life" gathering because abortion makes you uncomfortable. How do you feel if you're challenged by your presumed belief in "normal" Democratic ideals?

- "Do you really think climate change is real?"
- "Do you really think a high minimum wage helps the poor?"
- "So you're not a baby killer?"

OR...

- "Thanks for coming. What brings you here?"
- "Do you have any other friends who share your concern?"

Further Reading

Cultural Cognition and Public Policy by Dan M. Kahan and Donald Braman

http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1102&context=fss_papers

The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt

Climate Outreach

<http://climateoutreach.org/resources/climate-change-faith/>

Conservative Quotes

<http://conservamerica.org/conservativequotes/>

World Resources Institute - Putting a Price on Carbon

http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/carbonpricing_april_2015.pdf

AEI - To Tax or Not to Tax?

<https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Transcript.pdf>

Reference Slides

Don't be Fooled...

Both Sides Offer a Climate Challenge

But there is hope...

Top 10 Priority Issues, by Party Identification

“How important is it to you that the president and Congress deal with each of the following issues in the next year?”

| Priority | Democrat/Democrat leaners (%) | Republican/Republican Leaners (%) |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Economy (91) | Economy (88) |
| 2 | Education (91) | Terrorism (77) |
| 3 | Poverty and homelessness (82) | Military and defense (76) |
| 4 | Healthcare policy (79) | Healthcare policy (75) |
| 5 | Social Security and Medicare (77) | Education (70) |
| 6 | Distribution of income/wealth (72) | Taxes (69) |
| 7 | Crime (71) | Social Security and Medicare (67) |
| 8 | Environment (71) | Crime (65) |
| 9 | Terrorism (68) | Immigration (54) |
| 10 | Gun policy (64) | World affairs (53) |

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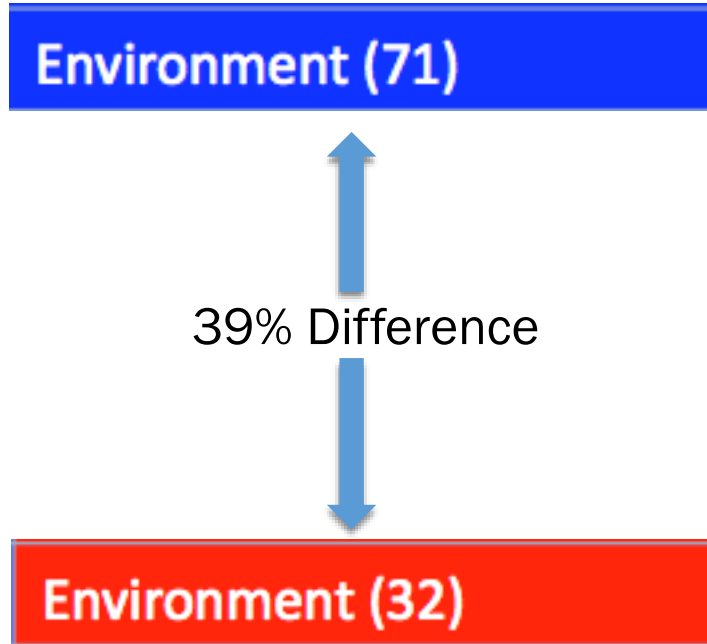
Mood of the
Nation
Survey,
2014

% Extremely or
Very important

1,018 adults,
living in all 50
U.S. states &
D.C.

Top 10 Priority Issues, by Party Identification

“How important is it to you that the president and Congress deal with each of the following issues in the next year?”



#1

Largest difference
of all priorities
between
Democrats & Republicans

GALLUP®

Mood of the
Nation
Survey,
2014

% Extremely or
Very important

1,018 adults,
living in all 50
U.S. states &
D.C.

Top 6 Issues Millennials want Supported by any Candidates

| | TOTAL | MEN | WOMEN |
|----------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| 1) Fixing public schools | 58% | 50% | 65% |
| 2) Promoting clean energy | 50% | 51% | 50% |
| 3) Reducing the nat'l debt | 49% | 47% | 50% |
| 4) Pay equality for women | 48% | 37% | 59% |
| 5) Addressing poverty | 47% | 45% | 49% |
| 6) Student loan reform | 42% | 50% | 65% |

Source: College Republican National Committee – Millennial Survey June 2016 - www.millennial.gop

Millennials Top Six Desired Political Party Attributes

| | TOTAL | MEN | WOMEN |
|--|-------|-----|-------|
| 1)Racial and gender equality | 14 | 7 | 7 |
| 2)New ways to pay for college | 13 | 7 | 6 |
| 3)Raising teacher salaries and school funding | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| 4)Reducing income inequality | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 5)Making it easier to move up out of poverty | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| 6)Taking action to address climate change | 9 | 4 | 4 |

Source: College Republican National Committee – Millennial Survey June 2016 - www.millennial.gop

The Conservative Focus

What Appeals to Conservatives

- ✓ Free Market
- ✓ Eliminate Subsidies
- ✓ Reduce Risks (to economy, businesses, infrastructure, defense, etc.)
- ✓ American Ingenuity & Leadership
- ✓ Energy Freedom
- ✓ Individual Responsibility
- ✓ Reduce Regulations
- ✓ National Security
- ✓ Increase US Economy/Employment

Terms to Avoid

X Failure of capitalism

X Corporate greed

X Evil oil companies

X Avoid exaggerations

X Climate crisis

X Save the planet

X Environmental justice

X Hysterics

Arguments Against Pricing CO2

- No universally accepted SCC (& is it for global or US?)
- DK how much GW is caused by man
- Other GW contributors are big (i.e. land use)
- DK how much pricing carbon would help GW
- Disruption of established industries & jobs
- DK L/T impact on US economy
- Disproportionate impact on red states
- Hurts low income (w/o dividend)
- DK what the emission path should be
- Cannot guarantee emission path
- DK Int'l community reaction
- Won't change behavior (i.e. European cars)
- Non-linear risk - doesn't handle catastrophic "fat tail"
- "Benefits" are far in the future (&?value/discount rate?)
- Dividends could be used to buy lottery tkts

Revenue-Neutral F&D vs. C&T & CPP

POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES

| CONSEQUENCE\POLICY | F&D | C&T | CPP |
|--|-----|------|-----|
| Covers each point of consumption - each source of GhG | YES | NO | NO |
| Prevents export of pollution and jobs | YES | NO | NO |
| Transparent | YES | NO | NO |
| Predictable & Gradual | YES | NO | NO |
| Offsets regressive nature of higher energy prices | YES | NO | NO |
| Increases US economy & jobs | YES | NO | NO |
| Easily replicable internationally | YES | NO | NO |
| Allows for reduced regulations | YES | NO | NO |
| Consistent national policy* | YES | YES* | NO |

*Assumes a national – not a state-by-state program

Revenue-Neutral F&D vs. C&T & CPP

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

| CONSEQUENCE\POLICY | F&D | C&T | CPP |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Expands government oversight & regulation | NO | YES | YES |
| Opportunity for corruption in weaker international states | NO | YES | N/A |
| Opportunity for market manipulation | NO | YES | NO |

Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax

Income Tax Offset vs. Household Dividend

| EFFECT\POLICY | ITO | DIVIDEND |
|---|-----|----------|
| Greater acceptance on the right (S/T viability) | YES | NO |
| Greater increase in GDP | YES | NO |
| Lasting constituency (L/T viability) | NO | YES |
| Offset regressive nature of higher energy prices | NO | YES |
| Guarantee Revenue Neutrality? | NO | YES |