

Dates	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Conservative</i>
1790–1824	Thomas Jefferson spokesman Favored farmers Best government is the least government Advocated states' rights Opposed National Bank Supported low taxes/tariffs Supported reduced army and navy <i>Laissez-faire</i>	Alexander Hamilton spokesman Favored commercial, mercantile groups Government should be strong Wanted centralized government power Favored National Bank Believed that tariffs were necessary Strong national defense
1824–1840	Personal liberty, weak government Free competition, egalitarian opportunity Anti-National Bank, anti-tariffs States should fund roads, canals Supported Andrew Jackson	Supported compact theory of government Weak presidents Pro-National Bank National government should fund roads, canals Whigs—opponents of Andrew Jackson Supported Henry Clay
1840–1865	Pro-union Antislavery Favored national program of roads/canals Opposed westward expansion Opposed extending slavery into territories Opposed secession	States' rights Proslavery Opposed national program of roads/canals Favored westward expansion Favored extending slavery into territories Supported secession
1865–1900	Supported Radical Reconstruction Wanted honesty in government Supported Reform Darwinism Anti-imperialist Expanded money supply (paper, silver) Supported government regulation of business Wanted low tariffs	Resisted Radical Reconstruction Tolerated spoils system Supported Social Darwinism Expansionist Supported gold standard <i>Laissez-faire</i> High tariffs Gospel of Wealth
1900–1940	Government intervention in society Progressive social and labor reforms Regulations and limitations of trusts Collective security (League of Nations) Promoted consumer protection Presidents: T. Roosevelt, W. Wilson, and FDR Direct government relief/welfare in 1930s Square Deal, New Deal Low tariffs	Old Guard Republicans Extremely favorable to business interests Isolationism Leaders: Taft, Lodge, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover Rugged Individualism Normalcy in 1920s Best government is least government No direct relief or welfare High tariffs