

# **Critique of the Contemporary Left: Unveiling the Flaws of Modern Political Discourse**

In the ever-evolving landscape of politics, the left has played a pivotal role in advocating for social justice, equality, and progressive policies. However, like any movement, the contemporary left is not immune to criticism. In this article, we delve into a comprehensive critique of the contemporary left, shedding light on its ideological inconsistencies, challenges, and potential shortcomings.

Piotr Radkiewicz\*

### Ideological Inconsistencies on the Left and Right as a Product of Coherence of Preferences for Values. The Case of Poland

**Abstract:** The terms 'left' and 'right' cannot describe two extremes of a single ideological dimension. Instead, a bi-dimensional model including socio-cultural and socio-economic facets of leftism/rightism is postulated. Several studies conducted in the USA and Western Europe show a relative coherence of left-wing and right-wing orientation regarding both dimensions, whereas very diverse patterns can be found in the countries of Eastern Europe. In Poland cultural and economic leftism-rightism seem to be clearly negatively related. The general hypothesis in this paper claims that such ideological inconsistency is a product of coherence at the level of preferences for values, i.e. covariance within individualistic (Openness to change and Self-enhancement) as well as within collectivist values (Conservation and Self-transcendence). Based on a survey study ( $N = 730$ ) conducted on a representative sample of Poles, it was shown that preferences for values made up two distinct dimensions: Openness to change vs Conservation, and Self-enhancement vs Self-transcendence. They are positively related but have fundamentally different relationships with political self-identification and ideology.

**Key words:** Left-Right, preferences for values, political ideology, political polarization

#### Bi-dimensionality of the left and right orientation

The division of politics into left and right orientations is one of the most widely used in the social sciences. Historically, it derives from late eighteenth century France. In the French parliament of the nineteenth century it generally corresponded to the supporters of the republic (left) and monarchy (conservatives, right). Modeled on the French reality, leftism and rightism were traditionally associated with orientation on two fundamentally separate systems of values. The Left came to the fore of the social change directed at providing citizens economic security as well as assuring them equality of economic, political, and social rights. The core of the right-wing views was commitment to traditional values (religion, nation, family) and conservatism meant as a will to maintain the *status quo* (e.g. Rokach, 1973; Kirschelt, 1994; Sierzyński & Henne, 2011).

According to many researchers, using the terms 'left' and 'right' cannot describe two extremes of a single, coherent ideological dimension (Middendorp, 1978;

Feldman, 1988; Knight, 1999; Ashon, Damo, Maio, Esses, Bond & Keung, 2005; Choma, Ashton & Hafer, 2010). The main weakness of this concept seems to be one-dimensionality – an underlying assumption that a variety of philosophical beliefs, social values, and economic issues are so closely connected that they can be ordered on a linear continuum of political views. Instead, it may be argued that the bi-dimensional model with the dimension concerning culture and social identity, and the second one concerning socio-economic issues fits contemporary politics better. Based on such a model, someone whom we recognize as a supporter of the Left would show a distinct preference for redistribution of income and extended welfare policy as well as openness to change in culture and morals. In opposition, a follower of the right-wing orientation would show economic liberalism and a conservative attitude to cultural and moral changes. More and more studies show that these are separate, though positively correlated sets of ideological beliefs (e.g. Feldman, 1988; Boski, 1991; Ashton et al., 2005; Choma et al., 2010).

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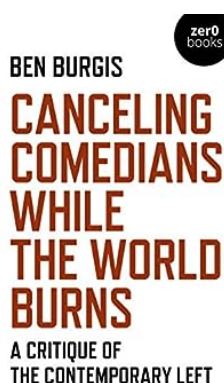
# CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIA OVER A DECADE IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMY

BY-Saksham Dewan

	What to do?	What to do in detail?	Why?	Potential shortcomings
1	Clarification of terms and concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ask for explanation of words or concepts that are not understood</li> <li>if illustration: discuss what picture shows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide common starting point, i.e. every group member should understand the assignment text as it stands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students already drift into detailed discussion of concepts</li> <li>students provide wrong explanations for words/concepts → tutor intervene</li> <li>students wait for tutor to answer their questions instead of collaborate efforts</li> </ul>
2	Formulation of Problem Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide "title" for the session or formulate wider research question, i.e. "what is it about"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students dive into topic and grasp the "underlying problem" of the assignment</li> <li>By discussing in the group, students establish a common ground of the problem – they</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sloppy formulation of a very broad problem (e.g. "EU integration")</li> <li>Students just name topic but do not identify "problem";</li> <li>When assignment has title –</li> </ul>

## 1. Ideological Inconsistencies

The contemporary left encompasses a diverse array of ideologies and perspectives, ranging from progressivism to socialism. While this diversity promotes inclusivity within the movement, it also leads to ideological inconsistencies and divisions.



## Canceling Comedians While the World Burns: A Critique Of The Contemporary Left

by Ben Burgis (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 508 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 136 pages



For instance, some factions of the left advocate for open borders and unrestricted immigration, arguing for solidarity and global inclusiveness. However, this stance can clash with the desire to protect domestic economies and safeguard the interests of the working class.

Moreover, the left often champions identity politics, aiming to eradicate systemic oppression based on race, gender, and sexuality. While this goal is noble, critics argue that an excessive focus on identity can sometimes overshadow the shared economic struggles faced by people of all backgrounds.

## 2. Challenges Faced

The contemporary left encounters numerous challenges, hindering the effective realization of its goals. One major obstacle is the polarization of political discourse, with increasingly divisive rhetoric and an erosion of civil discourse.

Furthermore, the left struggles to communicate its message effectively to those outside its own ideological bubble. The failure to convince a wider audience often results in political stagnation, preventing the implementation of progressive policies.

Additionally, internal divisions within the left can undermine collective action and broader cooperation. Disagreements between different factions weaken the overall movement, making it difficult to present a united front against conservative or right-wing forces.

### **3. Potential Shortcomings**

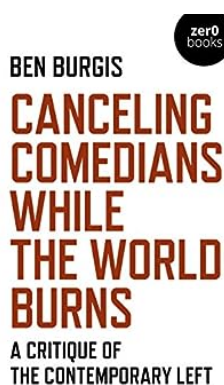
No political movement is immune to criticism, and the contemporary left is no exception. Critics argue that certain aspects of the left's approach may have unintended negative consequences.

For instance, some policies designed to address income inequality and redistribute wealth may have a detrimental impact on economic growth and job creation. Additionally, critics argue that overemphasis on political correctness can stifle freedom of speech and impede productive dialogue.

Furthermore, the left's reliance on government intervention and regulation to solve societal issues is seen by some as an unwelcome intrusion into personal freedoms and individual liberties.

While the contemporary left embodies important values and aspirations, it is essential to engage in constructive critique to ensure a well-rounded political

discourse. By examining its ideological inconsistencies, addressing challenges faced, and acknowledging potential shortcomings, the left can grow and adapt, strengthening its ability to achieve tangible progress towards a more equitable society.



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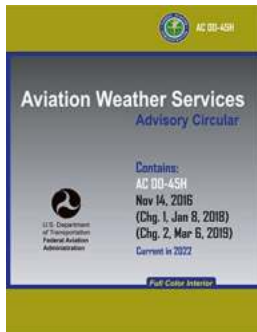


Between the decline of the labor movement, the aftershocks of the falls of so-called "actually existing socialism," and the long exile of even social democrats from the levers of real power, we have gotten far too used to thinking of leftism as a performative exercise in expressing our political commitments rather than a serious effort to achieve left-wing goals in the real world. Cancelling Comedians While the World Burns calls for a smarter, funnier, more strategic left.



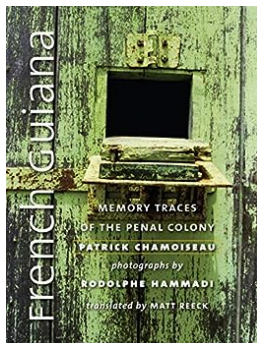
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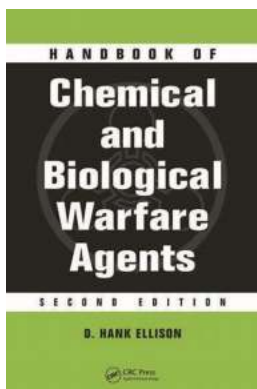
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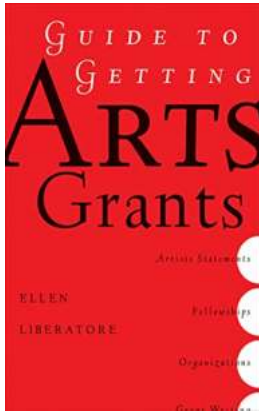
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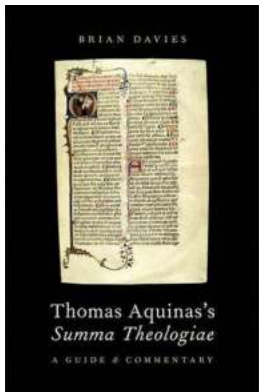
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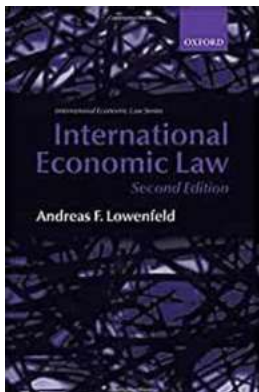
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