

# **Core Values and Ideological Frameworks in English Political Worldviews**

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## **ABSTRACT**

A political worldview is not an agglomeration of principles – it is a complex unity comprising values, historical legacies, ideologies, and cultural identities. The mentioned unity shapes how individuals and groups view and interpret political phenomena. The study aims to identify some values and conceptual dominants that mold the political space of England. Realizing the essence of political worldviews is essential for understanding the nature of the beliefs and principles molding a nation’s governance and policies. The study employs the following key methods: textual and Verbal Data Analysis - identifying themes, patterns, and underlying meanings related to political values and ideologies; categorization and coding - Organizing data based on recurring themes, concepts, and values found in political texts, speeches, policy documents, and media representations; content analysis: Analyzing political speeches, party manifestos, policy documents, and media content to identify dominant values and ideological orientations shaping political worldviews.

*Keywords:* Principles; central ideas; political perspectives; historical, cultural, economic and ideological influences

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The complex unity of interconnected factors molds political worldviews in England. The mentioned unity comprises historical, economic, cultural, and ideological factors. Understanding the essence of core values and conceptual dominants integrated into the political worldview provides a deeper understanding of the essence of political beliefs, as well as the specifics of behavior and policy formation. The study investigates core values and conceptual dominants that shape England's political landscape (Curtis et al., 2019).

What core values and conceptual dominants characterize political discourse in England, and how have they evolved over recent decades?

Political worldviews of England are embedded in key ideologies, including liberalism, social democracy, and conservatism:

In liberalism, individual freedoms, civil rights, social justice, free markets, and limited state intervention are prioritized.

In social democracy, a mixed economy with strong welfare provisions, such as maintaining social equality and fair taxation, is supported.

In conservatism, emphasis lies on preserving traditions and cultural heritage, and maintaining stability and social order is emphasized.

The mentioned ideologies are reinforced by fundamental values:

1. Freedom and liberty - Protection of personal freedoms, autonomy, and civil rights.
2. Rule of law and justice - Ensuring legal fairness, accountability, and judicial independence.
3. Equality and social justice – Providing fairness and social parity.

Economic ideologies influence the political worldviews of England:

1. Capitalism - Emphasizing free markets, private enterprise, and economic growth.
2. Social Market Economy - Balancing market-driven policies with social welfare provisions.

Social and environmental concerns guide public policy:

1. Social Policies - Focusing on healthcare, education, and social welfare.
2. Environmentalism – Emphasizing the importance of sustainability and global environmental justice.

Governance values mold democratic expectations:

1. Democratic Values - Focus on electoral integrity, citizen participation, and transparency.
2. Regionalism - Support for decentralizing powers to regional governments.

Historical and cultural factors also mold the political worldviews of England:

1. National identity implying sovereignty, perceptions of England's role in the world, and cultural distinctiveness.
2. Colonial legacy implying England's imperial history determining attitudes toward global relations and immigration.
3. European relations implying debates about national identity, sovereignty, and the EU.

Democratic procedures and the participation of diverse groups in society are crucial to this process, which creates the conditions not only for the more transparent and effective implementation of policies but also for decisions grounded in a broad range of perspectives.

New research that conducts comparative analyses of these values across different cultural and political contexts can help both policymakers and members of the political science community to gain a better understanding of the issues that most influence contemporary political discourse and processes.

The theoretical and empirical foundations of this research are derived from political culture and value systems. Typically, these systems are associated with various cultural, social, and economic characteristics that determine the main values and priorities of each society. Almond and Verba (1963) have examined how shared values influence political behavior. They emphasize that political worldviews depend not only on the actual economic and political context but also on individual citizens' value systems, which shape their political positions and behavior.

Schwartz's (1992) theory of core values and Lakoff's (2004) analysis of conceptual metaphors help contextualize the ideological divide in England. These theories serve as a basis for further research, as they not only explain how people's thinking and political positions are formed but also describe the underlying processes, such as hostile metaphors or political ideologies that differentiate between countries.

Empirical studies, such as those by Heath et al. (1991) and Evans and Till (2012), show changes in values, party affiliations, and political polarisation, especially in the context of events such as Brexit. These studies show how ideological polarisation limits the possibilities for solidarity and unity in society and what political events occur when a society's core values are misaligned.

Such research is important not only in the context of domestic relations but also in international relations, as it allows us to better describe and observe changes in political processes that continue beyond the region.

## ***METHODS***

To examine the values and conceptual foundations of England's political worldviews, textual analysis is employed. The mentioned political worldviews are actualized in political

speeches, party manifestos, media articles, and social media content. The study focuses on the texts produced over the past two decades. This timeframe allows for the observation of the evolution of political ideologies, values, and discourses relevant to significant political events such as the Brexit referendum and general elections (Rokeach, 1973).

This study aims to explicate and interpret the ideologies, values, and dominant conceptual frameworks shaping political discourse in England.

The study will draw data from multiple sources to ensure a comprehensive investigation of political discourse across various sources:

1. Party Manifestos: Official documents from the major political parties (e.g., Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Green Party) during election periods will serve as a primary source for understanding the official political platforms and the values espoused by each party. These documents are rich in political intent, presenting the conceptual dominants that each party aims to uphold in their policy proposals (Bryman, 2012).
2. Political speeches comprising speeches delivered by political figures such as Prime Ministers, key political spokespersons, and party leaders. These speeches offer insight into the rhetorical strategies political figures use to promote their ideological values.

### *Qualitative Content Analysis*

**Contextual Analysis:** Understanding the context in which specific terms and themes appear is essential to fully explicate their meaning and implications. Analyzing the socio-political context surrounding key phrases and terms, revealing their historical significance and the connotations they carry in political discourse, is critical for grasping not just what is being said, but how and why the public re-echoes it.

**Thematic Analysis:** Identifying and categorizing recurring themes and patterns across the selected texts involves coding the texts, uniting these codes into broader thematic categories, which allows for the identification of the dominant political values and conceptual dominants embedded within the political discourse.

A coding scheme is developed based on key theoretical frameworks, including political culture, value systems, and conceptual dominants. The mentioned scheme allows the identification of core values and conceptual dominants (democracy, freedom, social justice, security, and economic growth) that recur throughout the texts.

Cross-validation of findings ensures the reliability of the findings. This involves comparing findings across different sources and texts to assess consistency and accuracy.

Synthesis of findings involves comparing the political values and conceptual dominants expressed by different parties and political figures and interpreting how these values align with broader social and cultural trends in England.

The synthesis draws connections between the empirical findings and the theoretical frameworks of political culture. This synthesis offers a comprehensive view of England's political worldviews. It explores how shifts in public opinion correspond with changes in party platforms and social media discussions.

The interpretation of results focuses on understanding political ideologies. By identifying recurring values, conceptual dominants, and themes in political discourse, the study provides a deeper understanding of how media and political figures mold public perception, and how political ideologies evolve and adapt over time in response to changing societal needs and challenges.

## **RESULTS**

### *Understanding the English Political Landscape: Conceptual Dominants and Values*

Conceptual dominants provide a transparent framework that influences the political perceptions of individuals and groups. Values play a significant role in the process of determining what is “just”, “reasonable,” or “right” in politics.

As mentioned, the political landscape of modern England is profoundly reflected in its historical development and social changes. It is especially important to analyze in depth the conceptual foundations and values to understand their influence on political behavior, decision-making processes, and the formation of the electoral system.

The development of English political culture and identity was influenced by several important historical events, including the signing of Magna Carta in 1215, the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and the Industrial Revolution. These events were shaped by values that still define the country's political landscape.

### *Magna Carta and the rule of law*

The Magna Carta of 1215 took one of the first steps towards limiting government and the rule of law. Its purpose was to limit the strengthened monarchy, and among other things, it marked the first step towards controlling royal rights. Magna Carta also established the foundations of equality before the law and individual rights, which remain alive in England's political and legal system to this day. These ideologies, including the principles of justice and limited government intervention, remain valid in modern political discourse.

### *Industrial Revolution and Economic Liberalism*

In the late 18th century, the Industrial Revolution became a transformative force not only in economics but also in political thought. The rise of capitalism and the support of individual entrepreneurship became the main political values that determined the social dynamics of the era. During this period, economic liberalism emerged, holding that the state should not

interfere with individual freedom or economic processes. This idea had a significant influence on British political thought and established the main conceptual foundations that still characterize English political culture today.

### *The Post-World War II Period and the Idea of the Welfare State*

After World War II, the welfare state was established in Britain, which markedly changed existing political values. The political changes of this period, such as the state financing of the social services system and health care, strengthened the values of equality and social justice in society. The state was perceived not only as an institution exercising power, but also as an entity with social responsibility, ensuring the well-being and health of citizens.

This change was, to some extent, attributed to the concept of collective responsibility, which was essentially the pillar of social equality. Public welfare programs largely determined the form of British political thinking, where the role of the state was to ensure the economic and social well-being of citizens (Inglehart, 1997).

Conceptual dominants can vary across contexts and include concepts such as freedom, equality, justice, democracy, security, sovereignty, nationalism, etc. These conceptual dominants influence not only rhetoric - the specificity of messages constructed by politicians, but also public opinion and the mobilization of support for a particular political position by society. Conceptual dominants offer society a relevant “framework” for understanding and interpreting political events and decisions.

In short, conceptual dominants represent the central elements around which political discourse “revolves”. Conceptual dominants appear to us as the orienting and organizing principles of politicians’ actions and public opinion.

Political discourse is a dynamic and multidimensional communication process that plays a significant role in shaping societies, governments, and policies. The landscape of political discourse is changing over time: new conceptual dominants emerge, while old conceptual dominants either recede or disappear. It is precisely the shift in conceptual dominants that reflects changing social needs and priorities.

At its core, political discourse is defined by conceptual dominants – the core ideas, values, and themes that underlie political communication. Conceptual dominants provide the foundation upon which political ideologies, agendas, and narratives are built.

The analysis of British political discourse allows for the identification of the specifics of the conceptual dominants and values reflected in society.

In this paper, we focus on the essence of the primary conceptual dominants of political discourse, in other words, on the essence of the conceptual dominants that shape the landscape of political discourse:

1. Freedom: Freedom is a fundamental conceptual dominant of political discourse. It encompasses discussions about civil liberties, human rights, and individual autonomy. Discussions about freedom often center on issues such as freedom of speech,

privacy, and the role of government in protecting or restricting individual freedoms.

2. **Equality:** Equality is another central theme of political discourse. It concerns issues of social justice, economic inequality, and the distribution of resources and opportunities. Political debates often focus on ways to achieve equality in education, employment, and access to healthcare.
3. **Justice:** Justice is a conceptual dominant of political discourse that is closely related to the principles of the rule of law, the rule of law, and ethics. Discussions about justice include reforming the justice system, addressing human rights violations, and related issues.
4. **Power dynamics:** Power dynamics are an integral part of political discourse.
5. **Security:** Issues of security concern shape political discourse, especially in the field of international relations.
6. **Identity:** Identity is one of the dominant and dynamic conceptual dominants of political discourse. It encompasses discussions about race, ethnicity, gender, and religion. Political actors and social movements use identity as a prism through which issues of discrimination, representation, and inclusion are particularly clearly articulated;
7. **Economy:** Economic issues such as fiscal policy, taxes, and economic growth are fundamental to political discourse (see Table 1).

The conceptual space of political discourse is dynamic and constantly evolving, reflecting changes in society, technology, and political priorities. The conceptual space of political discourse is a complex landscape where ideas, values, and narratives intersect. Understanding the dynamics of this conceptual space is crucial to understanding how political discourse shapes public opinion and the political environment.

The conceptual dominants and the values gained from experience, and their impact on British politics, provide evidence that these conceptual dominants and values constitute a powerful tool for exploring the specifics of England’s political landscape.

Conceptual dominants	Core values	Political ideology
Freedom	Civil liberties, human rights, individual autonomy	Liberalism
Equality	Social justice, economic equality	Social democracy
Justice	Rule of Law, ethics	Liberalism
Security	Stability	Conservatism
Identity	Inclusion	Liberalism
Economy	Equity	Social democracy

**Table 1.** *Conceptual Dominants and Core Values Shaping England’s Political Worldviews*

## ***DISCUSSION***

Each party seeks to shape its platform and program in line with these conceptual dominants and values in order to gain support from specific demographic groups.

In this way, political parties constantly seek to align their agendas with the values that most appeal to voters. These values and conceptual dominants do not develop solely in party politics and policy-making processes; they also influence the opinions of the broader public, social movements, and broader political discourse.

These tensions can be reflected in important issues beyond various political ideals, such as trade policy, migration management, or the financing of social programs. Dealing with heightened emotions and tensions becomes part of the political process.

Studying them in historical, contemporary, and global contexts allows us to understand more deeply how political ideologies and power structures develop in social and cultural dynamics, and how their influence can be felt in both domestic and international politics.

In this sense, analyzing the current values and conceptual dominants in British political life better illustrates the processes and value fusions shaping current politics, which open up possibilities for better political behavior and policy formation.

## ***CONCLUSION***

In English politics, the core conceptual dominants and values, such as sovereignty, freedom, equality, tradition, security, environmental sustainability, and cosmopolitanism, play an important role in political behavior and discourse. These principles, historically established, remain relevant today and are shaped by contemporary challenges such as social, economic, and environmental changes. The constant evolution of these values is important for English political culture because they not only determine the current political decision-making process but also represent a permanent moral and ideological balance between political leaders and society. Sovereignty implies national self-determination and control over laws.

English political thought is deeply rooted in the idea of freedom, encompassing both economic and personal freedom. The protection of individual rights, business freedom, and civil rights that underpin a market economy remains an important issue in political discourse. The concept of freedom develops strategies that serve the well-being of individuals both within and outside the country.

The importance of tradition in English political discourse is still relevant. Conservative forces are constantly reminded of the importance of historical heritage, cultural obligations, and gradual steps taken. Tradition is associated with maintaining public order and strengthening cultural values, which are underpinned mainly by the continued stability of English society.

Security, as national defense, economic stability, and public order, is perceived as a key issue.

Climate change, the preservation of natural resources, and, in this regard, the sustainability of the conceptual environment are important to government policy. Attention is paid to the use of renewable energy, carbon reduction, and the transfer of responsibility to future generations, which new political decisions always require.

In England, the value of cosmopolitanism is widespread, which implies global involvement, multiculturalism, and international cooperation. Cosmopolitanism emphasizes multicultural integration, social equality, and the protection of human rights. This principle is equally leading in both domestic and foreign policy.

Various conceptual dominants, such as sovereignty, freedom, equality, tradition, security, environmental sustainability, and cosmopolitanism, shape England's political culture and continually determine its path. These values not only drive party discourse but also often serve as the basis for adapting and changing specific policies.

### **Ethics Approval and Conflict of Interest**

This study was conducted in accordance with relevant ethical standards. The authors declare that there are no financial, personal, professional, or institutional conflicts of interest that could have influenced the design, conduct, interpretation, or publication of this work.

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### **Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have influenced the work reported in this paper.

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