

Let's unpack politics

Like you've never seen it unpacked before



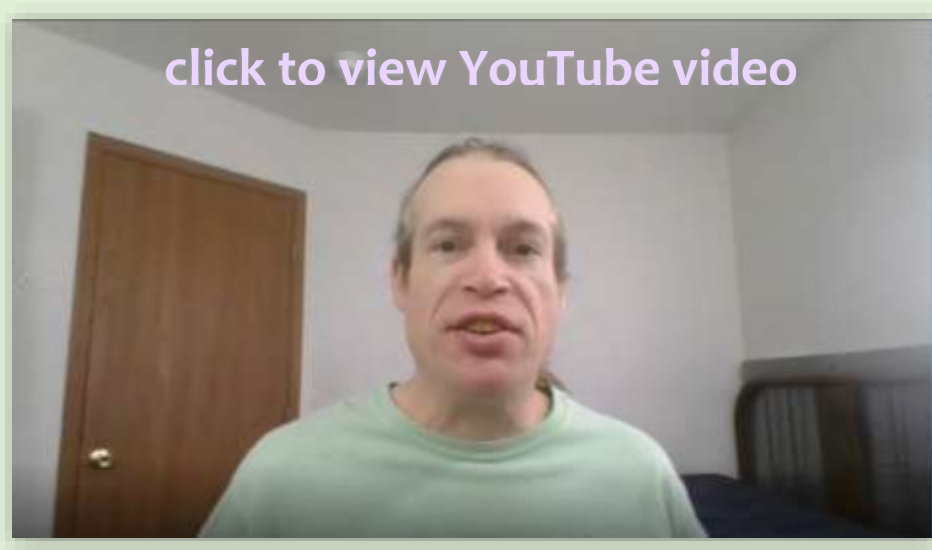
Ready to turn hostile politics
into opportunities to give and
receive some love?

Good! Then let's
spread
some
love.



CONTENTS

1. YOUR POLITICAL BELIEFS
2. YOUR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES
3. POLITICS DEFINED
4. YOUR NEEDS TAKE SIDES
5. YOUR POLITICAL ORIENTATION
6. DEEP & WIDE
7. FALSE BALANCE OR FALSE DICHOTOMY?
8. YOUR POLITICIZED NEEDS
9. HOLD YOUR GROUND
10. NO CONVERSION
11. ISSUE BY ISSUE
12. SPREAD THE LOVE



INTRO

Let's unpack politics, like you've never seen it unpacked before. Let's appreciate why it can be so difficult for you to politically agree with others. Or for others to agree with you. Then pave the way to overcome polarization, to ***spread some love.***

Welcome to **Unifying Politics**, a service of

Value Relating.

My name is **Steph Turner.**

I'm here for **solving general problems by resolving specific needs.** Including yours.

1. YOUR POLITICAL BELIEFS

Are you sure you **freely choose your political positions after carefully reasoning each option**? If so, others should be able to freely choose it too, and agree with you. But they don't, do they?



“I freely chose my political positions after carefully reasoning each option.”

Why? Because, in all honesty, you are **compelled to choose a position that best fits your painful needs**. As others are compelled to choose what best fits their needs. Reasoned arguments emerge after the fact. You politically **believe what you need to believe**.



“I’m compelled to choose a political position that best fits my painful needs.”

2. YOUR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES

Needs.

That's the frequently overlooked part of politics. While you need the same basic things as others, *how* you need them differs from how others need them. And they can't change how they need 'em any easier than you can change how you need whatever is vital for you.



The more your situation differs from theirs, the more differently you need from them. The more you need differently,



the more your politics naturally diverge.

3. POLITICS DEFINED

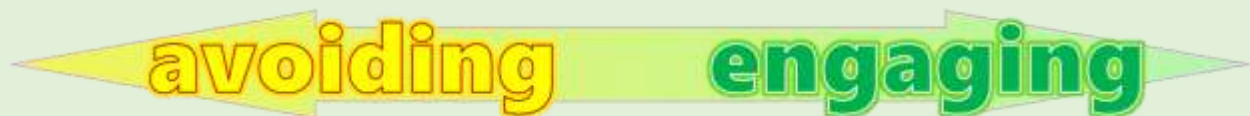
**Politics is
the art of generalizing
how to agreeably address needs
in differing social situations.**

Defining politics this way illuminates its risks for polarization.

Instead of encouraging **specifics**, *status quo politics* spurs **generalizing**. You then avoid specifics that risk undermining party unity, and for agreeably relieving pain.



Instead of **engaging** your specific needs, *status quo politics* enables **avoidance**. You then use politics to avoid dealing with the cause of the pain, instead of resolving the needs in a way that stops the pain.



Instead of **unifying** around what can be done to resolve these needs, *status quo politics* favors **polarization**. You then get more out of fighting each other than fighting to resolve each other's affected needs.



conflict porn = enjoying the conflict more than the peace.

4. YOUR NEEDS TAKE SIDES

So why does anyone become a liberal? Or a conservative? Mostly, because each partisan side serves a particular way of experiencing needs.

One side experiences their **psychosocial needs** in the **opposite direction** as the other side. Your **psychosocial situation prioritizes the opposite set of psychosocial needs**.



Liberals

must **relieve unmet social-needs**. While **guarding** their more **resolved self-needs**.

If a **liberal**, you feel you *must relieve your social-need* for greater **acceptance**, for example, than your need for **personal resilience**. So you rely more on government protections against discrimination, than try to personally overcome repeated rejections.

Meanwhile, you *guard your more resolved self-need* for **personal authenticity**, like being culturally nonwhite, or being gay, or trans, or a Muslim, against pressures to **cooperate** and conform with more traditional norms.

The *vulnerability of being disadvantaged* can make that much more difficult. So you find solace among others of similar experience, and like-mind.

Whether **liberal** or **conservative**, you become oriented to this distinction. Arguments cannot change who you are, or how you experience your needs sharply different from others. Arguments provide you and your cohorts a guarded shell, a fence to protect your vulnerable differences. Arguments that tend to politically privilege dishonesty on both sides.



Conservatives

must **relieve unmet self-needs**. While **guarding** their more **resolved social-needs**.

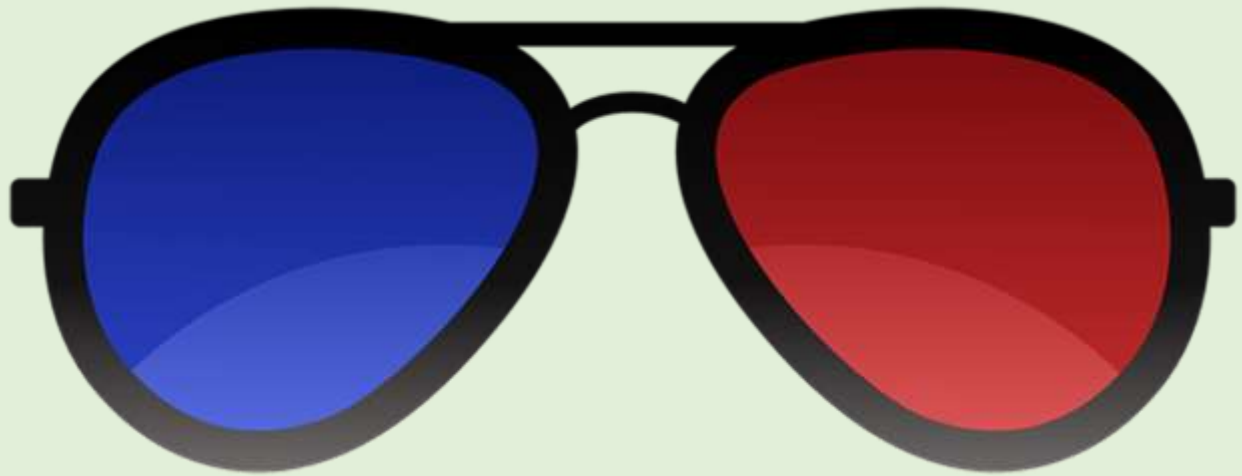
If a **conservative**, you feel you *must relieve your self-need* for **self-sufficiency**, for example, more than your need for **equal social treatment**. So you endeavor to provide for your own the best you can, before seeking fair help from others you don't personally know.

Meanwhile, you *guard your more resolved social-need* for **family cohesion**, like safeguarding traditional marriage and the nuclear family, against pressures to allow **self-expressions** that risk destabilizing established cohesion.

The *expanding role of impersonal government* can make that much more difficult. So you find solace among others of similar experience, and like-mind.

5. YOUR POLITICAL ORIENTATION

Your political orientation is the outward expression of your inward psychosocial orientation. Any tension between your **self-needs** and **social-needs** creates the **lens** through which you see all things political.



For example, if your undermined self-need for **privacy** floods your thinking, you can hardly find space to consider another's affected social-need for **intimacy**. What you do with your own reproductive organs is too private a matter for you to open to another's prying eyes.

Or if your strained social-need for reliable **local supports** feels threatened by government mandates, you can barely appreciate another's vulnerable dependence upon such government provisions. You struggle to stick with your **self-initiative**, against temptations to depend more on impersonal others.

6. DEEP & WIDE

You believe *with others* what you need to believe. Your painful needs prioritize your perspective, to compel you to see what the other oriented side cannot easily see.

WIDE oriented

DEEP oriented

If your **social-needs** are less resolve than your guarded **self-needs**, you are inwardly **wide-oriented**.
If your **self-needs** are less resolve than your guarded **social-needs**, you are inwardly **deep-oriented**.

If **wide-oriented**, you're compelled to **prioritize inclusion of the historically excluded**. You feel the injustices they endured.

If **deep-oriented**, you're compelled to **prioritize cohesion of traditionally grouped**. You feel the necessity to remain grounded.

If **wide-oriented**, you're compelled to **prioritize the most vulnerable, to serve widening demand**. For you, "Each according to their need."

If **deep-oriented**, you're compelled to **prioritize the most productive, to ensure a deep supply**. For you, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

If **wide-oriented**, you **rely on public goods, like public welfare**. A safety net for the disadvantaged.

If **deep-oriented**, you **rely on private rights, like private enterprise**. A meaningful service bringing depth to lives.

If **wide-oriented**, you wonder **if it is effective for the many**. You likely see an active role for government, to effectively provide for the many who can barely provide for themselves.

If **deep-oriented**, you wonder **if it is efficient for the few**. You likely see a minimal role for government, to efficiently produce *for us all* only what we cannot do for ourselves.

If **wide-oriented**, you **yearn to improve collective capacity**, for those vulnerable to others.

If **deep-oriented**, you **yearn to improve individual capacity**, for those with untapped potential.

If **wide-oriented**, you call for **freedom from oppression** for those historically **deprived**.

If **deep-oriented**, you call for **freedom to provide for your own** against pressures to accept disincentivizing handouts.

If **wide-oriented**, you generalize about wider **inclusion, wider public supports, wider efficacies, and wider freedoms from oppression**.

If **deep-oriented**, you generalize about deeper **cohesion, deeper private rights, deeper efficiencies, and deeper freedoms to provide** for your own.

Liberal beliefs express these inner priorities.

Conservative beliefs express these inner priorities.

7. FALSE BALANCE OR FALSE DICHOTOMY?

inclusion	cohesion
demand	supply
consumers	producers
public	private
effective	efficient
collective	individual
freedom from oppression	freedom to provide

These are mutually exclusive mostly to those who are not *whole*. *"It's best to hold onto one without letting go of the other."* Sweeping generalizations make them appear more contradictory than they actually are.

Sure, there are **false balances** in politics. Some policies lead to better results than others. But comparing the underlying needs is a **false dichotomy**. Your needs are no more important than another's. When their needs go unmet, they cease to function as well as you when your needs go unmet.

You could affirm the need for **inclusion**
without neglecting **cohesion**.

You could honor **private** property
without neglecting **public** services.

You could be both **effective** and **efficient**.

All without the self-serving **generalizing**, or pain-avoidant outrage, or echo-chamber **polarizing**.

The real political difference is *not* between

left and right,

between

liberals and conservatives,

between

wide and deep.

No, the overlooked political difference is between

overgeneralizing and understanding,

between

avoiding and engaging,

between

polarizing and unifying.

A politics that overlooks the needs of others is not a legitimate politics at all.

So **generalizer**, beware. **Avoider**, beware. **Polarizer**, beware. Judgment begins in earnest, as a helpful evaluation for how well you did or did not *love* your political friend and foe alike. Instead of waiting for the ballot box, let's measure your impact now. After all, what gets measured gets done. By overcoming polarization, we can do it together now.

8. YOUR POLITICIZED NEEDS

Politics socially conveys your needs. No matter what position you or others take on any issue, your only honest difference is how to respond to needs. Not in the needs themselves.

If I told you I'm thirsty, hot and tired, would you ever say, "I disagree"?



If I said I'm lonely and need someone to talk to, would you debate it?



The needs themselves are **not** open to debate.

You can choose how you respond to these needs. You generally cannot choose the needs themselves.

9. HOLD YOUR GROUND

So don't let anyone trick you into giving up your political values for theirs. Their political values evolved to fit
their needs,
their situation,
their prioritized needs.

Not yours.

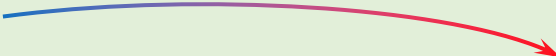
- Your politics don't require **replacement**. They need **refinement**.
- Less **pain-relieving** generalizing, that doesn't get to the cause of your pain. More **need-resolving** specifics, that removes the pain.
- Less **mutual defensiveness**. More **understanding and engaging** of one another's differing situations.

You don't have to blindly *compromise*. You love in how you give, and convey the costs of that love.



When political debating slips into disputing the needs themselves, *reject this threat to **love**.*

10. NO CONVERSION

If you held to one side  and then switched to the other,
your **needs** allowed you to *convert*.

It wasn't the persuasion of political arguments alone. You can hardly go against what you painfully need.

Your needs resist debate.

Their needs resist your best arguments.

As long as you experience a certain *priority of psychosocial needs*, your **psychosocial orientation** will not let you convert.

Not any easier than to convert

a lefthander to righthandedness,
or introversion to extraversion,
or same-sex attracted to opposite-sex attraction.

It's time to stop trying. It's time to **stop hating on others for differences they cannot change.**



It's time to accept each other as

WIDE oriented or **DEEP** oriented

It's time to replace the status quo of

politically privileged hate

with this vitally needed

unifying understanding love.

11. ISSUE BY ISSUE

Issue by issue,



we step back from

hostile arguments

to appreciate the underlying

inflexible needs.

Together, we'll replace the status quo of

mutual hostilities

with better

loving understanding

of each other's affected needs.

**If we don't,
who will?**

So let's apply this to the issue at hand. Ready?

12. SPREAD THE LOVE

You will never find a lasting political solution until you first appreciate your difference in needs.

**If you want to be understood,
seek first to understand.**

Look at your situation. How does it prioritize your needs?

When looking into situations others face, do you only see your own familiar needs?

If raised in a more **urban environment**, do you only see the need for **cultural diversity** in rural situations?

Do you not see their need to maintain **local initiative**, for **resourceful responsibility**, to **provide for their own** in the middle of nowhere? Do you think they chose these needs?

If raised in a more **rural environment**, do you only see the need for **private property** rights in urban situations?

Do you not see their **vulnerabilities to insensitivities**, their need for **government protections against** less visible forms of **exploitation**, to **avoid being re-traumatized**? Do you think they chose these needs?

If you do not love others in how you respect their difference in needs, why on earth would you expect them to respect your differing needs?

Issue by issue, we pull you out of your shell. Together, we cross a **bridge** to the other political side, to respect their needs as we would have them respect our own. Issue, by issue, we dare you to love. If you don't, who will?

So, please,

SPREAD THE LOVE.



Unifying Politics

a service of

Value Relating.

<https://www.valuerelating.com/unifyingpolitics>

3 April 2019