

# Ideologies

Social Studies 30-1

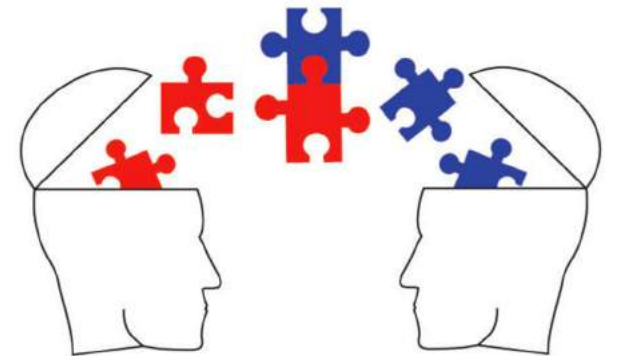
# What is an Ideology?

Ideologies are systems of thought that try to explain who we are and how we should live together, focus on several themes: nation, religion, class, and relationship to the land and the environment.

An ideology is based on a set of accepted beliefs about the nature of man, an interpretation of our past, a vision of the future and the role of government in society.

Ideologies include ideas about:

- How the world works
- How we should live together
- How we should interact with one another
- What society could – or should become in the future



# Ideology and You

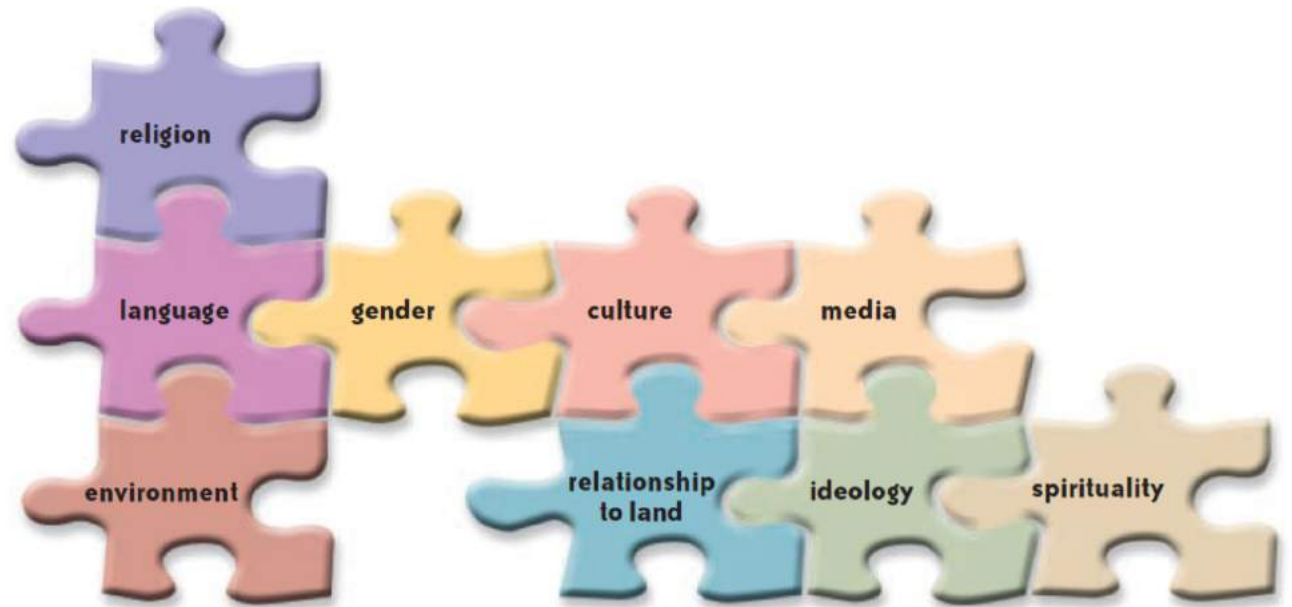
As we move through the course, you will map what your ideology is

- What is your ideology?
  - What are humans like, and why do they act the way they do?
  - What is the nature of society?
  - What is our role as individuals in society?



# Factors that Influence Ideology

- Culture
- Language
- Media
- Relationship to the Land
- Environment
- Gender
- Religion/Spirituality



# Culture

Culture is the combination of beliefs, customs, practices, and social behaviours of a particular group of people. Family and the society in which a person lives form integral parts of his or her cultural experience. This shared cultural experience may profoundly influence what ideology an individual or a group chooses to adopt.

A cultural community surrounded by a different majority culture—such as the early Ukrainian immigrants to Canada—may pass on to its members a strong sense of cultural identity. **The experience of living as a minority may emphasize the importance of the individual decision to retain identity, culture, and language.** It can also show the need for cultural institutions that maintain and protect the heritage and rights of the community's members.



# Language

Language and culture play an important role in shaping each person and each society's beliefs and values. A common language and culture often unite people. What happens, however, when a language is spoken by a minority group within a society?

Because language is an important factor in shaping our identities, Francophone parents in most provinces of Canada have fought for the right to have their children educated in French. These parents know that their children's loss of the French language would mean the loss of their Francophone identity.



# Media

Media refers to the tools used to pass along information and ideas.

- print media (books, newspapers, and magazines), electronic/digital media (radio, television, movies, the Internet, email, music, and video games), news media (journalists and reporters) who deliver information and opinions about what is happening in your community, across the country, and around the world.

Many sociologists agree that media have a strong influence on our beliefs and values. For example, advertising influences what we buy and how we see ourselves. Body image, for instance, could be seen to be heavily influenced by images in media. Magazine models have been criticized for being too thin or portraying an unrealistic body type.



# *Consider this...*

**How might the news media influence how we feel about a political event, such as a war, an election, or an issue such as global warming?**

What motives might the news media have when they report on sensational events such as accidents and tragedies, or the lives of celebrities?

News can present issues from certain points of view or perspectives that may challenge our beliefs and values. The reporting of news requires a selection of details that may include an interpretation of an event or issue, possibly removing objectivity or pure factual presentation of what is happening. The selection of what to report, whom to quote, and how much to include can sometimes support a society's worldview or challenge its beliefs and values regarding what they consider "correct."



# Relationship to the Land/Environment

If you and your ancestors have lived in the same area for hundreds of years, your connection to the land might be quite different from someone who is a newcomer to the area.. This relationship can have social, cultural, spiritual, political, and economic aspects. It also involves a responsibility for the environment and can be connected to a worldview, a way of seeing the world through interconnected relationships among all living things.



If your livelihood is connected to land or natural resources, this might also have an effect on your beliefs and values. An office worker living in a city might have a different worldview than a farmer, which would also differ from Aboriginal peoples.



# Gender

The way people understand gender is affected by their experiences, what they believe and value, and what their society says about gender. Sometimes the society will create laws about what is “appropriate” gender-based behaviour. This can positively or negatively affect the way people express gender, such as whether they follow traditional or non-traditional roles or how they express gender orientation.

*Consider this...*

What do these images reveal about changing gender roles for women in some societies? To what extent do you believe gender roles have changed for men in some societies?



# Religion/Spirituality

A religion is a formalized set of collectively-held beliefs and practices, linked to social groups and institutions that centres on the worship of and faith in a god or gods that tries to explain human existence and our place in the universe.

Spirituality can be closely tied to religion. Spirituality is a way of relating to the soul or the spirit, or perhaps to religious or sacred things rather than worldly things.



# Ideologies Focus on....

1. What is the nature of human beings?
2. What is your interpretation of the past?
3. What is your vision for the future?
4. What is the role of the government?



# Ideology and You

