



Government must protect the public interest

All of these quotations are by President Teddy Roosevelt. He was a Republican in 1900, but the Democratic Party adopted his ideas. (Especially his cousin, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.) Break into groups. Translate each quotation into your own words.

1. Government

"The object of government is the welfare of the people."

2. Big Business

"There should be relentless exposure of and attack upon every evil practice, whether in politics, in business, or in social life. I hail as a benefactor every writer or speaker, every man who, on the platform, or in book, magazine or newspaper, with merciless severity makes such attack, provided always that he in his turn remembers that the attack is of use only if it is absolutely truthful."

3. Government regulation of business

"We demand that big business give the people a square deal; in return we must insist that when anyone engaged in big business honestly endeavors to do right he shall himself be given a square deal."

4. Government regulators

"The greatest good for the greatest number."

5. Taxes

"The progressive tax."

6. Welfare

"There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him, and then shame upon him who will not stretch out the helping hand to his brother."

7. Social programs

"This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in."

8. Jobs

"No man needs sympathy because he has to work. Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

9. Relying on government to solve your problems

"We must treat each man on his worth and merits as a man. We must see that each is given a square deal, because he is entitled to no more and should receive no less."

10. A conservative

"The only man who makes no mistakes is the man who does nothing."

Here's what we came up with . . .

1. Government should protect the public interest.
2. The press should expose problems that harm the public interest.
3. Government must make sure that business does not harm the public interest.
4. Government looks out for the majority.
5. The income tax began during President Teddy Roosevelt's administration. Congress passed it in 1909 and it became the 16th Amendment in 1913.

A *progressive* income tax: The wealthy pay a higher % than the poor.

The term *progressive* refers to the way the rate progresses from low to high.

The opposite is a *regressive* tax: the poor pay a higher % than the wealthy.

6. Welfare is necessary, but temporary.
7. Government must money for the public good.
8. Work is good. Everyone must have a job.
9. Government must make sure everyone gets a fair shake.
10. A President must take action.



Government is the problem

All of these quotations are by President Ronald Reagan.
He was a Republican in the 1980s.
Break into groups.
Translate each quotation into your own words.

1. Government

"Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

2. Big Business

"The best minds are not in government. If any were, business would hire them away."

3. Government regulation of business

"The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

4. Government regulators

"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'"

5. Taxes

"The current tax code is a daily mugging."

6. Welfare

"We should measure welfare's success by how many people leave welfare, not by how many are added."

7. Social programs

"Government is like a baby. An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."

8. Jobs

"Recession is when your neighbor loses his job.
Depression is when you lose yours."

9. Relying on government to solve your problems

"To sit back hoping that someday, someday, someone will make things right is to go on feeding the crocodile, hoping he will eat you last - but eat you he will."

10. Liberals

"Sadly I have come to realize that a great many so-called liberals aren't liberal - they will defend to the death your right to agree with them."

Here's what we
came up with . . .

1. Republicans don't like big government.
2. Republicans do like Big Business.
- 3-4. Republicans don't like government regulation of business.
5. Republicans don't like high taxes.
6. Republicans don't like welfare.
7. Republicans don't like social programs.
8. Republicans are often employers, not employees.
9. Republicans believe government is the problem, not the solution.
10. Republicans don't like liberals.