**What is Conservatism?**

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* What is a conservative?
* Think of defining conservatism in a similar way as defining philosophy, broadly conceived
* Who are some of the major conservative thinkers in American history?
* What about black conservatism? Who are some of the major figures?
* What are some features of conservatism and how have they adapted in the context of crisis in American history?
  + While conservatism is not made up of some standardized set of orthodoxies, there are features shared over time from the eighteenth century to the present
  + human nature is inherently selfish, sinful—and this does not change

* + War a permanent part of human condition—impossible to abolish war
  + conservatives believe that people always pursue their own interests, but that pursuit of private interests can result in the public good
  + conservatives believe that all important questions facing humanity have been asked and answered
* Black conservatism—a neglected tradition
* Conclusion—conservatism is a way of thinking about change