**What is Conservatism?**

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* What is a conservative?
* Think of defining conservatism in a similar way as defining philosophy, broadly conceived
	+ Philosophy is a way of thinking about particular disciplines or activities
	+ Conservatism is a way of thinking about culture, politics, art, music, economics, war, and all sorts of human activities and the realities we live with
	+ With change as a frame of reference for thinking about what conservatism is, then conservatism entails a particular philosophy of history
		- Both conservative and progressive outlooks orient the person, the family, the
* Who are some of the major conservative thinkers in American history?
	+ Edmund Burke (1729-1797)
	+ Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804)
	+ John C. Calhoun (1782-1850)
	+ Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)
	+ Henry Adams (1838-1918)
	+ Herbert Hoover (1874-1964)
	+ John Foster Dulles (1888-1959)
	+ Henry Luce (1898-1967)
	+ Clare Booth Luce (1903-1987)
	+ Robert Maynard Hutchins (1899-1977)
	+ Richard Weaver (1910-1963)
	+ Russell Kirk (1918-1994)
* What about black conservatism? Who are some of the major figures?
	+ Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)
	+ Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)
	+ Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)
	+ Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)
* 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
	+ conservatives and change
	+ 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
	+ deep seated respect for Western civilization and American ideals and institutions
	+ emphasis on positive achievements in the face of obstacles
	+ present circumstances accepted, not enjoyed
	+ foundation of black conservatism is the African American Protestant ethic
* Conclusion