**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