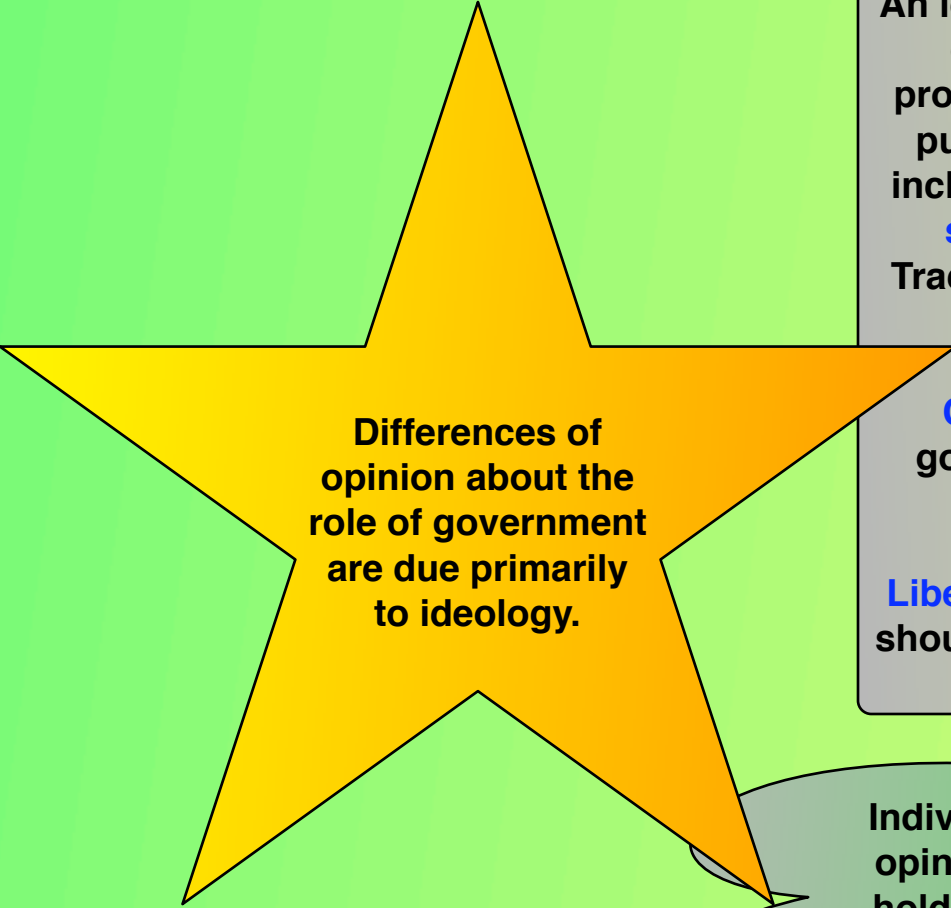


Individuals have different opinions about the role of government in shaping public policy.

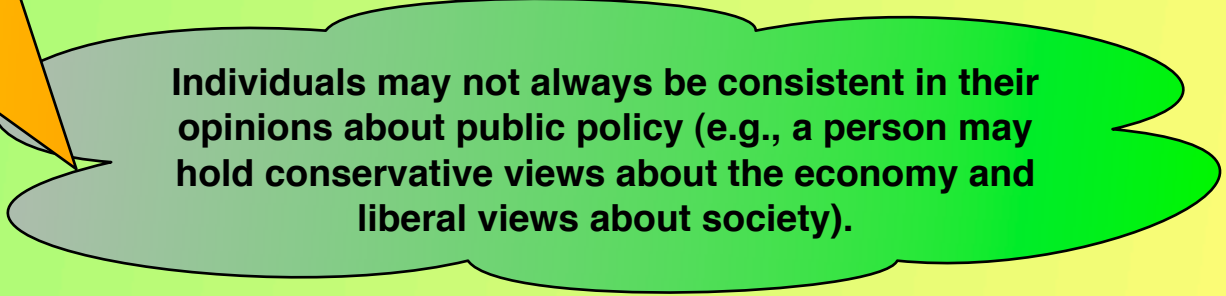


Differences of opinion about the role of government are due primarily to ideology.

An ideology is a set of basic beliefs about life, culture, government, and society. A person's ideology provides a framework for looking at government and public policy. Ideology is shaped by many factors including family, education, religion, socio-economic status, race and ethnicity, gender, and religion. Traditionally, American political perspective falls into two broad categories of opinion:

**Conservatives** generally believe that the role of government should be limited and that freedom of opportunity should be promoted.

**Liberals** generally believe that the role of government should be active and that economic equality should be promoted.



Individuals may not always be consistent in their opinions about public policy (e.g., a person may hold conservative views about the economy and liberal views about society).

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the process by which public policy is made by  
a) examining different perspectives on the role of government.