

Joshi 2020, Debunking Partisanship

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(Seemingly) Rationally orthogonal issues:

Abortion: Abortion is morally wrong in most circumstances.

Climate: Taxing carbon emissions to reduce global warming is a good idea.

Immigration: Illegal immigration into the U.S. is a serious problem.

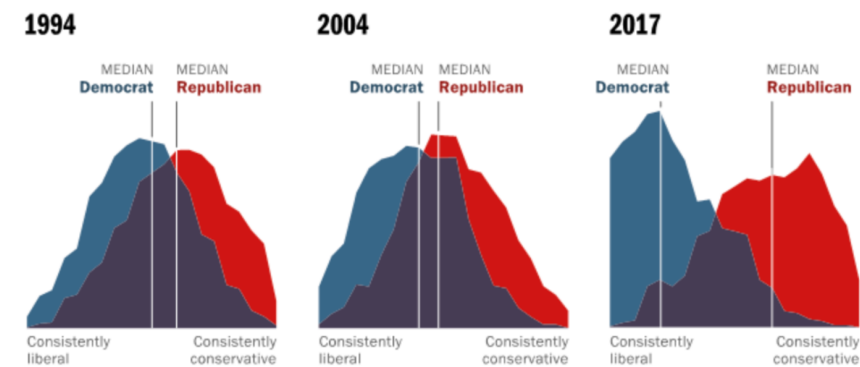
Guns: The U.S. should increase controls on gun ownership.

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Opinions on these are now quite correlated—much more than they used to be:

Democrats and Republicans more ideologically divided than in the past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values



Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see methodology). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents; the red area of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple.

Source: Survey conducted June 8-18, 2017.

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A regimentation of the argument:

P1: If you are rational to be a confident partisan, then you must believe that your party is reliable at assessing political issues.

P2: If you believe your party is reliable at assessing political issues, you must believe the other party is *anti*-reliable.

P3: There is no good explanation of how the other party would be anti-reliable.

Otherwise? Bootstrapping.

One cluster (physics) vs. two clusters.
Rational orthogonality is important.

Intelligence, confirmation bias, belief bias equal.
Negativity bias?
Moral foundations theory?