**LIBERAL VS. CONSERVATIVE**

**Thomas Paine vs. Edmund Burke**

The liberal, Tom Paine, and the conservative, Edmund Burke, debated furiously towards the end of the 18th century over such questions as human nature, the right to rebel, and especially how political and social change should be brought about. Here is a summary of their views. You must match the correct philosopher/statesman to the point-of-view.

**WHAT CONTROLS HUMAN ACTIONS?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Man is governed not by reason but by passion.  **Paine or Burke?** | I believe in the power and inevitable triumph of reason.  **Paine or Burke?** |

**HOW FREE CAN THE INDIVIDUAL BE IN SOCIETY?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Society requires that the inclinations of men should be frequently controlled, their will thwarted, their passion subjugated.  **Paine or Burke?** | In a free society, each man is his own governor.  **Paine or Burke?** |

**DOES TRADITION OR IMMEDIATE ACTION BEST ENSURE JUSTICE FOR EVERYONE?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The rights men crave are not metaphysical fancy or abstract speculation. They represent a determination to end the wrongs of centuries.  **Paine or Burke?** | High sounding, abstract phrases on paper do not automatically give men rights. The real rights of men in government are their advantages grown out of tradition and usage.  **Paine or Burke?** |

**WHAT IS THE VALUE OF PRESERVING OR ABOLISHING ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To say we should preserve a government because its oppressions have been long-suffered is the strongest argument for its overthrow.  **Paine or Burke?** | Rage and frenzy can pull down more in half an hour than deliberation and foresight can build up in a hundred years.  **Paine or Burke?** |

**HOW MUCH CAN THE PEOPLE CONTROL THE RUNNING OF GOVERNMENT?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Who are the “people”? What kind of group is this that can change, at its whim, governments and rulers?  **Paine or Burke?** | All persons who deign to lead… are the servants of the people. If such magistrates abuse their trust, the people have a right to depose and punish them.  **Paine or Burke?** |

**IS GOVERNMENT MORE THAN JUST PRESENT INSTITUTIONS?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| There never did, there never can, there never will exist any group of men… possessed of the right to command how future men can govern.  **Paine or Burke?** | Government is a partnership between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are yet to be born.  **Paine or Burke?** |