



REVERSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH
IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE REQUIRES LISTENING TO
DONALD TRUMP

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The “so what” issue

- Atmospheric CO₂ levels are a “so what” issue.
- Public health is not
 - But what about adaptation and mitigation?

Assumptions About You

None of you have read President Trump's speech announcing that the US is leaving the Paris Agreement

(I hope I'm wrong)

Assumptions About You

- *Almost* all of you are convinced that global climate change is due to human activities, and that these changes are increasingly affecting public health
- Almost all of you will vote against the reelection of Donald Trump.

Assumptions About You

- A significant percent of you would qualify as “elitist foodies”
- Relatively few of you are from families with recent military experience

Speech by President Trump Withdrawing the US from the Paris Agreement: Contextual Issues

- Major underlying consideration of all first term Presidents is re-election (comparison with Reagan/Gorsuch)
- Debate within White House as to whether to withdraw from the Paris Agreement – he doubled down on his base
- Obama did it so it must be wrong

President Trump's Speech Withdrawing from the Paris Agreement

- What didn't he say?
- Rationale for withdrawal: The US as victim
 - Greed of other countries
 - Failings of previous US political leaders

Trump Speech

“There are serious legal and constitutional issues as well. Foreign leaders in Europe, Asia, and across the world should not have more to say with respect to (our) economy than our own citizens and their representatives. Thus, our withdrawal from the agreement represents a reassertion of America’s sovereignty. (Applause.) Our Constitution is unique among all the nations of the world, and it is my highest obligation and greatest honor to protect it.”

Primacy of Private Property Rights

John Adams, 1790. “The moment the idea is admitted into society, that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1816. “The right to procure property and to use it for one’s own enjoyment is essential to the freedom of every person, and our other rights would mean little without these rights of property ownership.”

Primacy of Private Property Rights

James Madison, 1792: Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals, This being the end of government, that alone is a just government, which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own.”

Noah Webster, 1787: “The liberty of the press, trial by jury, the Habeas Corpus writ, even Magna Charta itself, ..., are all inferior considerations, when compared with a general distribution of real property among every class of people.”

Is the US Constitution Unique?

- Longevity
- Reserved Powers (US Constitution 10th Amendment): “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people”
- Difficult to amend

US Constitution

Fifth Amendment:

Property Rights

“...nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

“We link the security of private property to our environmental agenda for the best of reasons: Environmental stewardship has best advanced where property is privately held.”

- *Republican Party Platform, 2000*

“...we pledge to ... ensure just compensation whenever private property is needed to achieve a compelling public use. This includes the taking of property ... by environmental regulations that destroy its value.”

- *Republican Party Platform, 2012*

“We strongly reject the U.N. Agenda 21 as erosive of American sovereignty.”

Republican Party Platform, 2012

Goldstein BD, Hudak JM (2016) Comparison of the role of property rights in right wing and left wing American and European environmental policy deliberations. *Environ Sci. & Policy* 68:28-34

<i>Republican Party Candidate</i>	<i>Concern stated about property or property rights (Yes/No)</i>	<i>Concern stated about Agenda 21 (Yes/No)</i>
<i>Jeb Bush</i>	Yes	No
<i>Ben Carson</i>	No	Yes
<i>Chris Christie</i>	No	No
<i>Ted Cruz</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Carly Fiorina</i>	Yes	No
<i>Jim Gilmore</i>	No	No
<i>Lindsey Graham</i>	No	No
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	Yes	No
<i>Bobby Jindal</i>	No	No
<i>John Kasich</i>	No	No
<i>George Pataki</i>	No	No
<i>Rand Paul</i>	Yes	No
<i>Marco Rubio</i>	Yes	No
<i>Rick Santorum</i>	No	No
<i>Donald Trump</i>	No	No

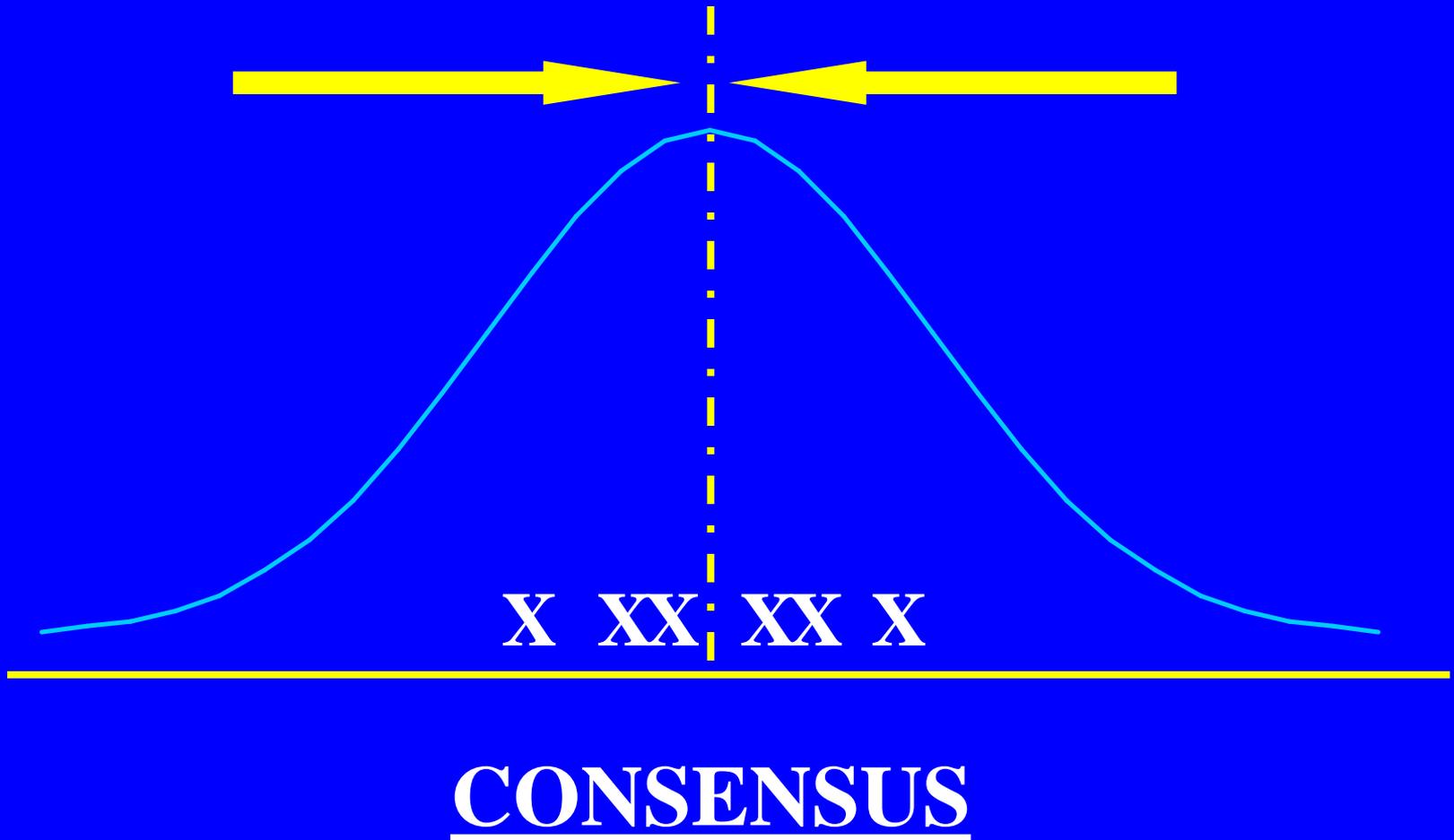
Senator Joni Ernst, responding to President Obama's January, 2016 veto of a bill passed by Congress that would roll back EPA's regulatory decision to extend the "Waters of the United States" to include a broader definition of ponds and wetlands.

"We all want clean water. This rule is not about clean water. Rather, it is about how much authority the federal government and unelected bureaucrats should have to regulate what is done on private land"

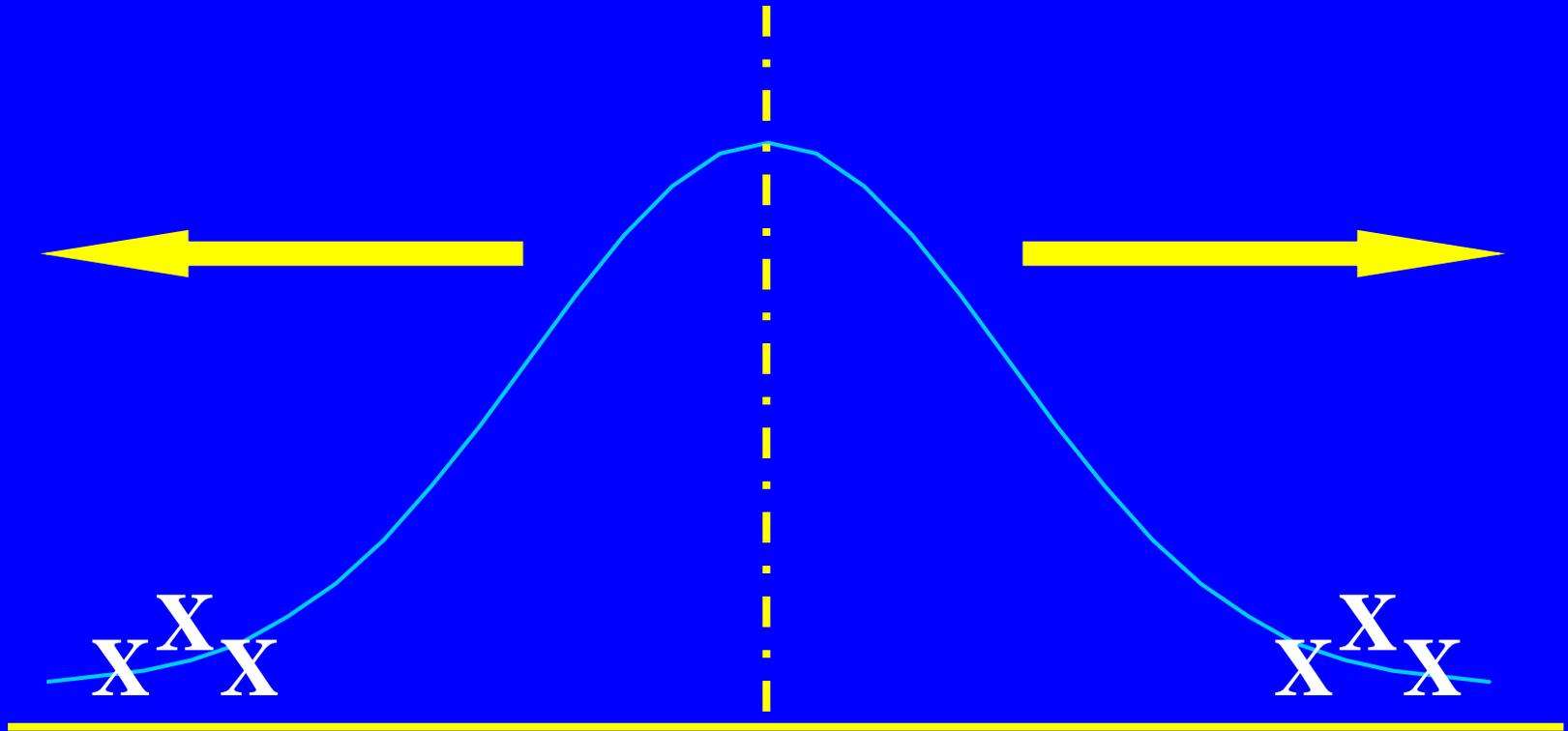
Trump's Speech

Compliance with the terms of the Paris Accord and the onerous energy restrictions it has placed on the United States could cost America as much as 2.7 million lost jobs by 2025 according to the National Economic Research Associates. This includes 440,000 fewer manufacturing jobs ... The cost to the economy (in 2040) would be close to \$3 trillion in lost GDP and 6.5 million industrial jobs, while households would have \$7,000 less income

Range of Expert Judgment



Range of Expert Judgment



CONFRONTATION

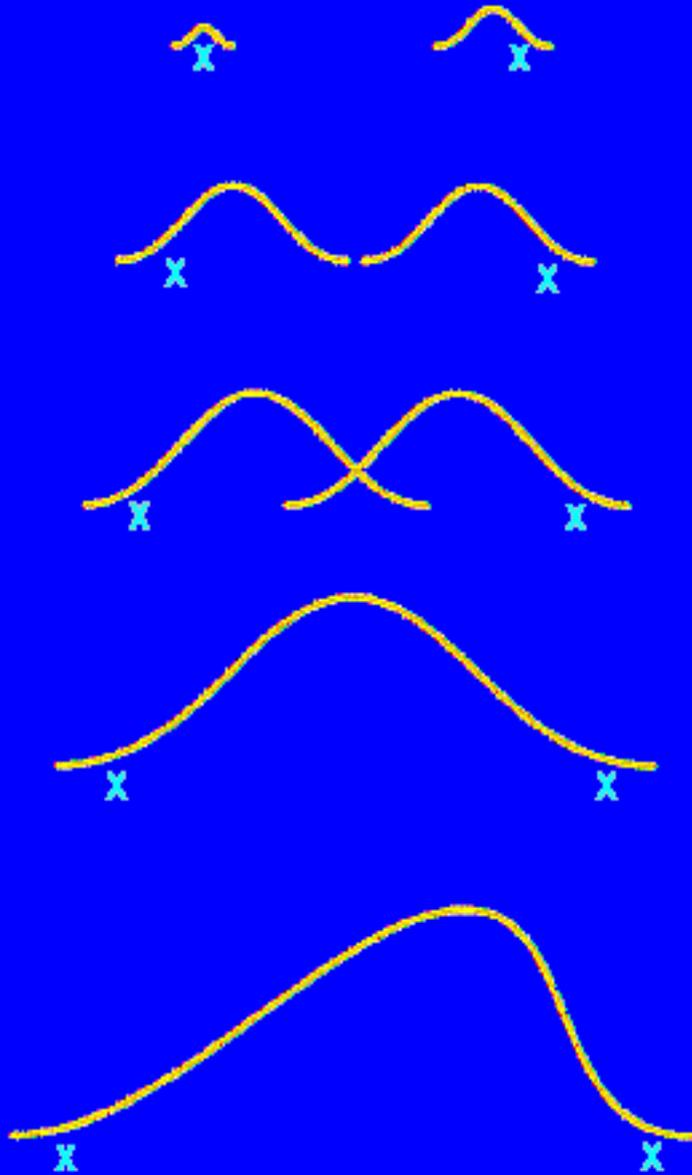
Scientists manipulate formulas to match the real world.

Policymakers manipulate the real world to match formulas.

Science without policy is science.

Policy without science is gambling.

(Goldman and Dominici. Don't abandon evidence and process on air pollution policy. *Science* 363:1398-1400, 2019)



Communication of Science

Why EPA needs potent external advisory committees more than does OSHA

- Both formed in 1970
- EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) is administratively at same level as other EPA offices, all of which are headed by an EPA Asst Administrator who is a presidential appointee confirmed by the US Senate.
- OSHA headed by an Asst Secretary for Labor who is a presidential appointee confirmed by Senate. NIOSH is part of HHS/CDC. NIOSH head does not require Senate confirmation

ORD MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO POLITICAL PRESSURE

How scientific processes based on consensus are being changed into confrontational processes used in law

- The consensus processes at EPA are being altered by:
 - Favoring membership of experts with biases consistent with political leadership
 - Avoiding disciplines that may be unfavorable to interpretations desired by political leadership
 - Avoiding consensus by processes that lead to a menu of individual viewpoints from which political leaders can select the one they want
 - Restricting available science by requirements that remove from consideration unwanted scientific findings

The two-pronged attack on EPA science. Bills passed by the House in 2017

- 1) The Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017; The HONEST Act: Transparency vs “Secret Science”. (Poster Child: The Harvard Six City Study)
- 2) The EPA Science Advisory Reform Act of 2017. Excludes EPA grantees from serving on EPA advisory committees

Implications to academic scientists

- 1) Both implicit and overtly stated is that university environmental health scientists will falsify scientific advice to get funding from EPA and are therefore biased. But industry consultants are not (think Johnnie Cochran)
- 2) Academic scientists whose research displeases an industry can expect to have their raw data used in ways that can destroy their careers.

Arguments Against These Charges (Rarely Heard)

- Against charge of bias: The importance of maintaining scientific credibility for academic advancement, and for publication success and other grants awarded through peer processes (NIEHS/NSF)
- Against magnification of “blemishes”: Necessary to distinguish the gold standard of double blind randomized control trials from usual environmental health studies. Replication is by different studies, not by recalculating the same data

Columbia Law School, Sabin Center,
Silencing Climate Science Tracker

Web site with 258 entries describing US government action related to minimizing or dismissing climate change science – as of August 21, 2019

<http://columbiaclimatelaw.com/resources/silencing-science-tracker/silencing-climate-science/>

It's not just Donald Trump and
Global Climate Change

Language of the Executive Orders Creating Unconventional Natural Gas Drilling Advisory Committees

“...task the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) with establishing a subcommittee...to develop, within six months, consensus recommended advice to the agencies on practices for shale extraction *to ensure the protection of public health and the environment*” (emphasis added)

-President Barak Obama in
Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future (March 2011)

The Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative will assist State policymakers and regulators in determining how gas production from the Marcellus shale in Maryland can be accomplished *without unacceptable risks of adverse impacts to public health, safety, the environment and natural resources*” (emphasis added)

-Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley in
Executive Order 01.01.2011.11: The Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative (June 2011)

“WHEREAS, the Commonwealth takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the development of natural gas in a manner that *protects the environment and safeguards the health and welfare of its citizens*” (emphasis added)

-Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett in
Executive Order 2011-011: Creation of Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission (March 2011)

(Goldstein et al, Env Hlth Persp 120:483-486, 2012)

It is not just the US protecting
our own industry

The Paris Agreement handicaps the United States economy in order to win praise from the very foreign capitals and global activists that have long sought to gain wealth at our country's expense.

The same nations asking us to stay in the agreement are the countries that have collectively cost America trillions of dollars through tough trade practices and, in many cases, lax contributions to our critical military alliance. You see what's happening. It's pretty obvious to those that want to keep an open mind.

At what point does America get demeaned? At what point do they start laughing at us as a country? We want fair treatment for its citizens, and we want fair treatment for our taxpayers. We don't want other leaders and other countries laughing at us anymore. And they won't be. They won't be.

Agricultural Trade: The EU's misuse of the precautionary principle to protect its agriculture

- Presidents Trump and Obama (etc.) agree that the EU is inappropriately banning US agricultural products
- These include grain (GMO); beef (growth hormone); and chicken (originally disinfectant issues)
- While they have all said the same thing, Mr Trump is saying it very differently

Difference between the underlying assumptions of the Precautionary Principle and World Trade agreements

- For assessing environmental threats, the PP correctly puts the burden of proof on the manufacturer of a chemical or physical agent to demonstrate safety
- To ban products from other countries, the WTO puts the burden of proof on the country that bans the product to show that the risk is greater than the like product used in the trade recipient country

Why was the office of EU Chief
Science Adviser abolished?

Why the office of EU Chief Science Adviser was abolished

EU's first chief science adviser, Dr Ann Glover on the safety of GMO: "There is no substantiated case of any adverse impact on human health, animal health or environmental health, so that's pretty robust evidence . . . there is no more risk in eating GMO food than eating conventionally farmed food."

US Armed Forces and Global Climate Change

In 2017 over 40 Republican Congressman joined with Democrats to defeat an amendment to remove GCC from the National Defense Authorization Act

Are we too focused on polar bears?

- Shouldn't we be talking more to members and veterans of the armed forces, and their families, about the role of global climate change in “threat intensification”?
- Shouldn't we be talking more to the US agricultural community about the impact of global climate change on agricultural productivity?

Is Climate Change a Test of Democracy?

- Daniel J. Fiorino. Can Democracy Handle Climate Change. Policy Press, Medford MA, 2018
- Stehr N. (2016) Exceptional circumstances: does climate change trump democracy? Issues Sci Technol 32:37-44
- Robert Sapolsky. This is your brain on nationalism: The biology of us and them. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2019.

Pew Global Survey: What is More Important

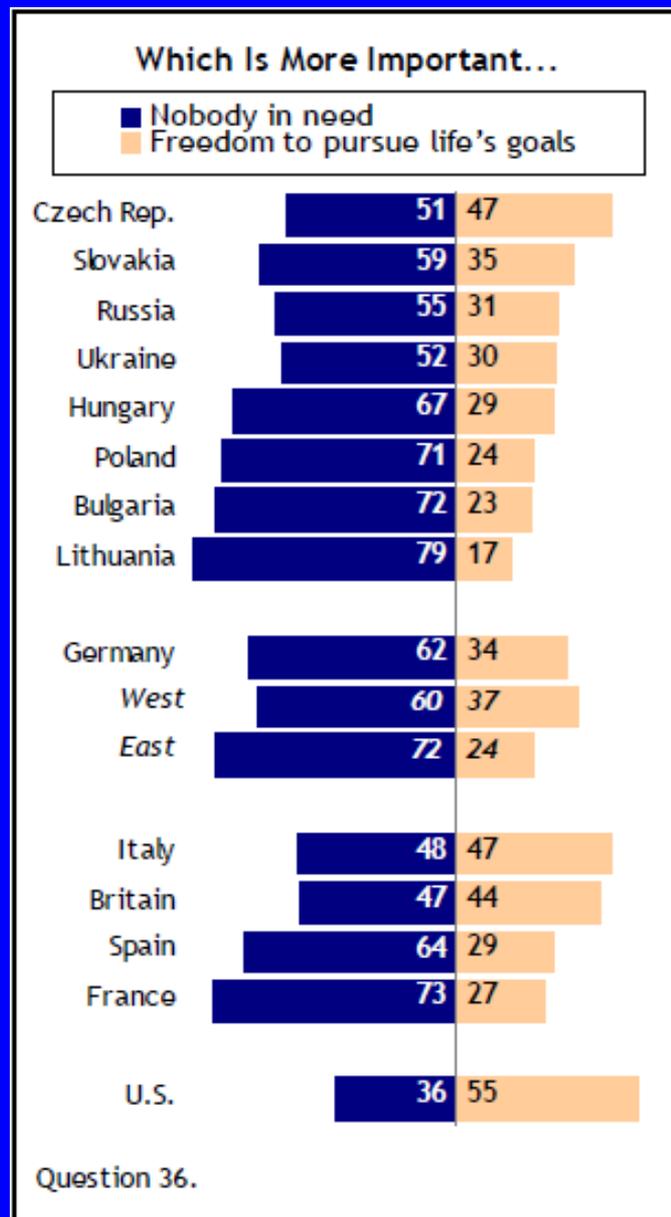
State guarantees that nobody is in need:

OR

Freedom to pursue life's goals without state
interference

Pew Research Global Attitudes Project 2011

Available from: <http://www.pewglobal.org/2009/11/02/chapter-2-democratic-values>



Three Overlapping Phases in the Past, Present and Future of Environmental Management

- 1) Command and Control
- 2) Risk Assessment / Risk Management
- 3) Sustainability and Resilience