

Radical Centrism

& the Redemption of Secular Philosophy

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What we will cover

- The Challenge of Secular Philosophy
- An Overview of Radical Centrism
- A new Interpretation of Civil Society

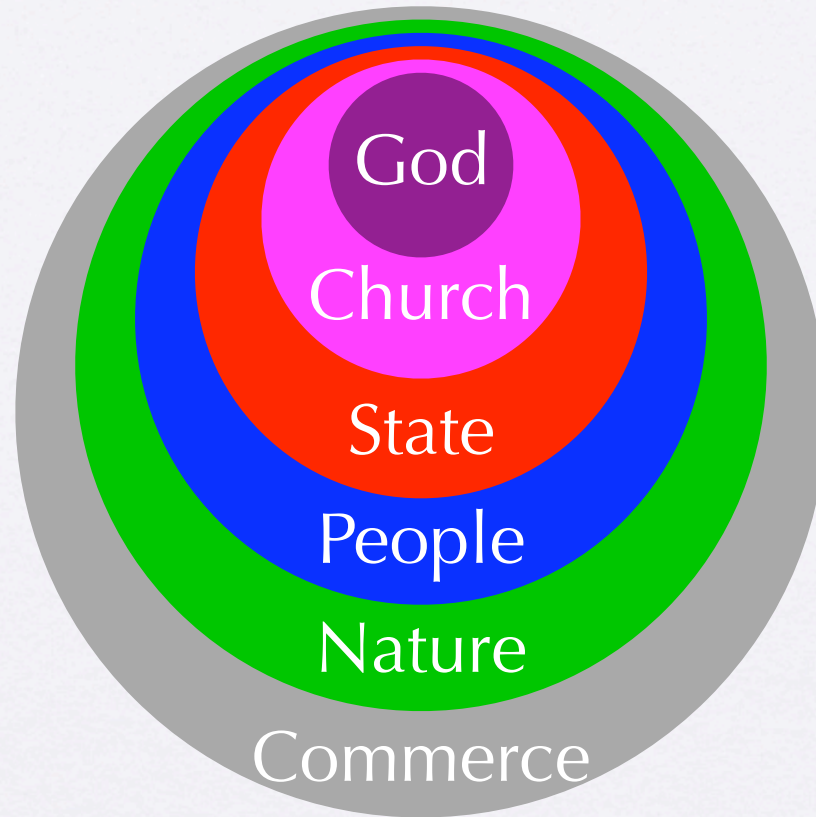
Why I care

- Immigrant
- Physicist
 - S.B., MIT '88 (Bitter Magnet Lab)
 - Ph.D., Caltech '95 (BEPC)
- Storyteller
 - Boston Consulting Group
 - Apple Product Marketing

Secular Philosophy

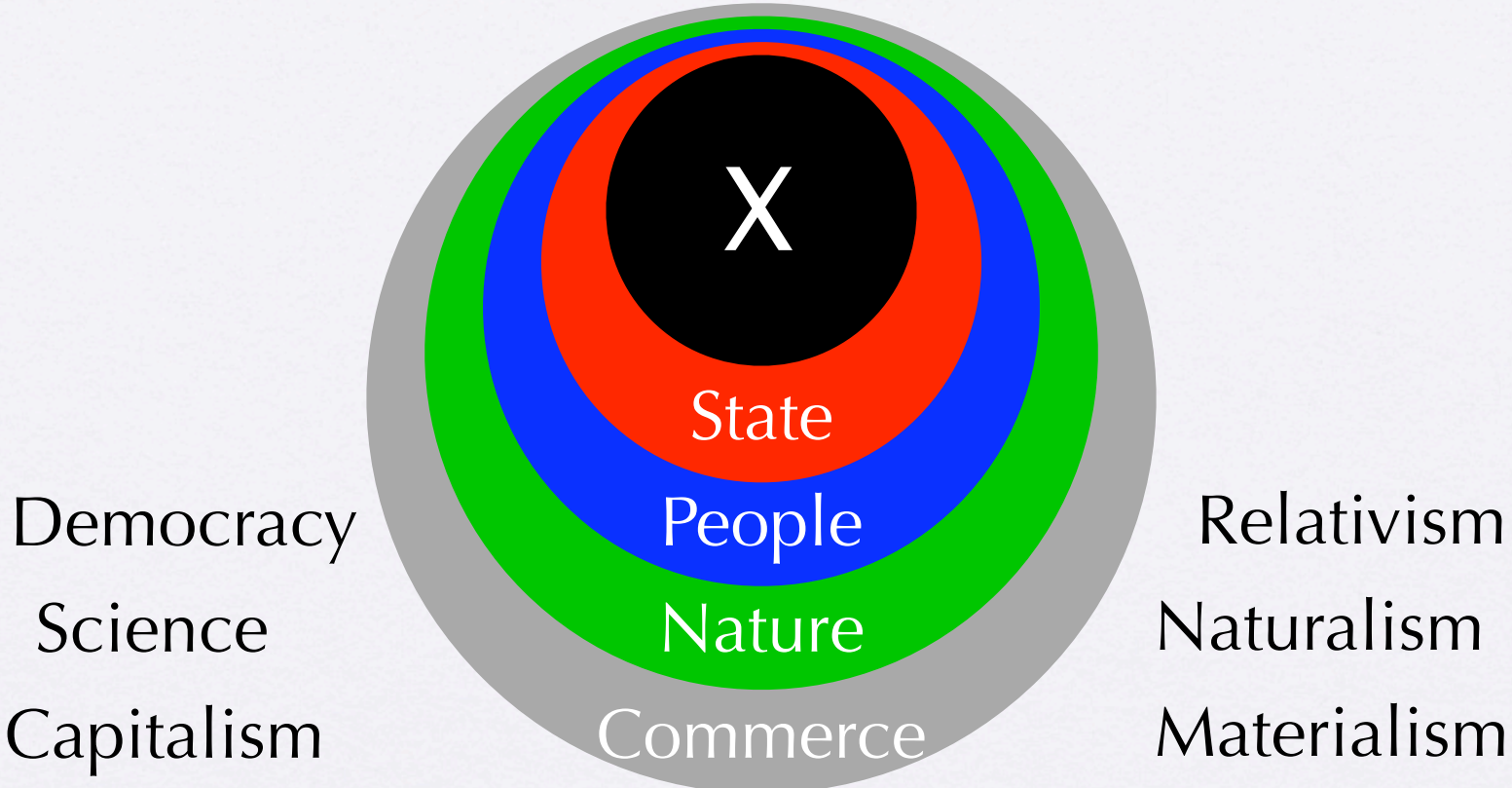
- Philosophy
 - “How we think about how we think”
- Secular
 - Centered on humanity
 - Free of external absolutes
- Appears to work better than theology
 - e.g., capitalism, science, democracy

Medieval Theocracy



→ Reformation

Secularism

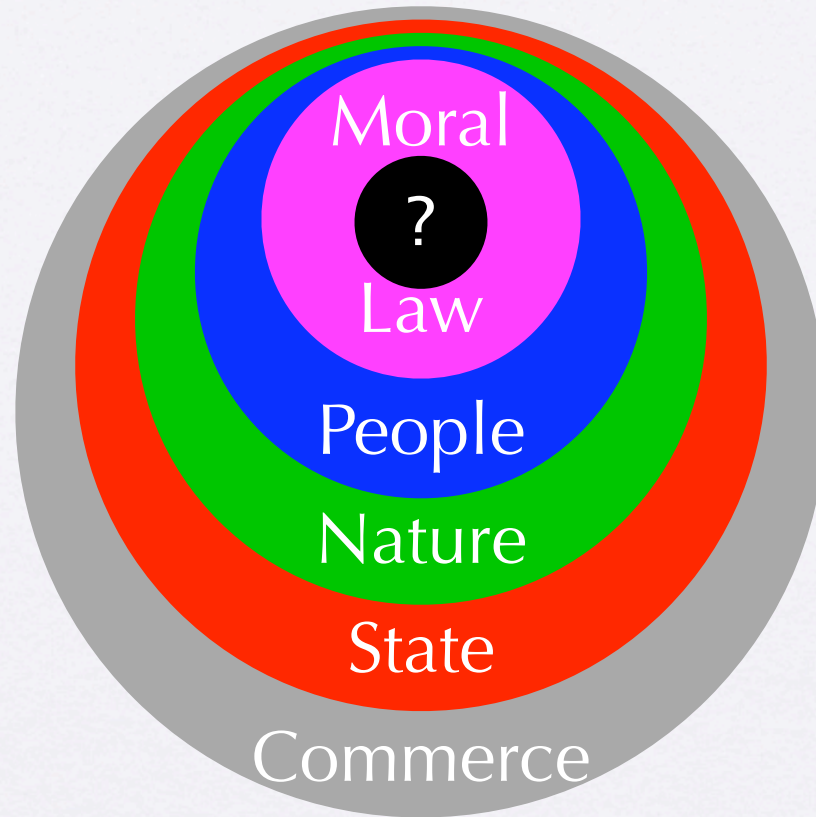


Democracy
Science
Capitalism

Relativism
Naturalism
Materialism

→ Nihilism

Secularism Redeemed

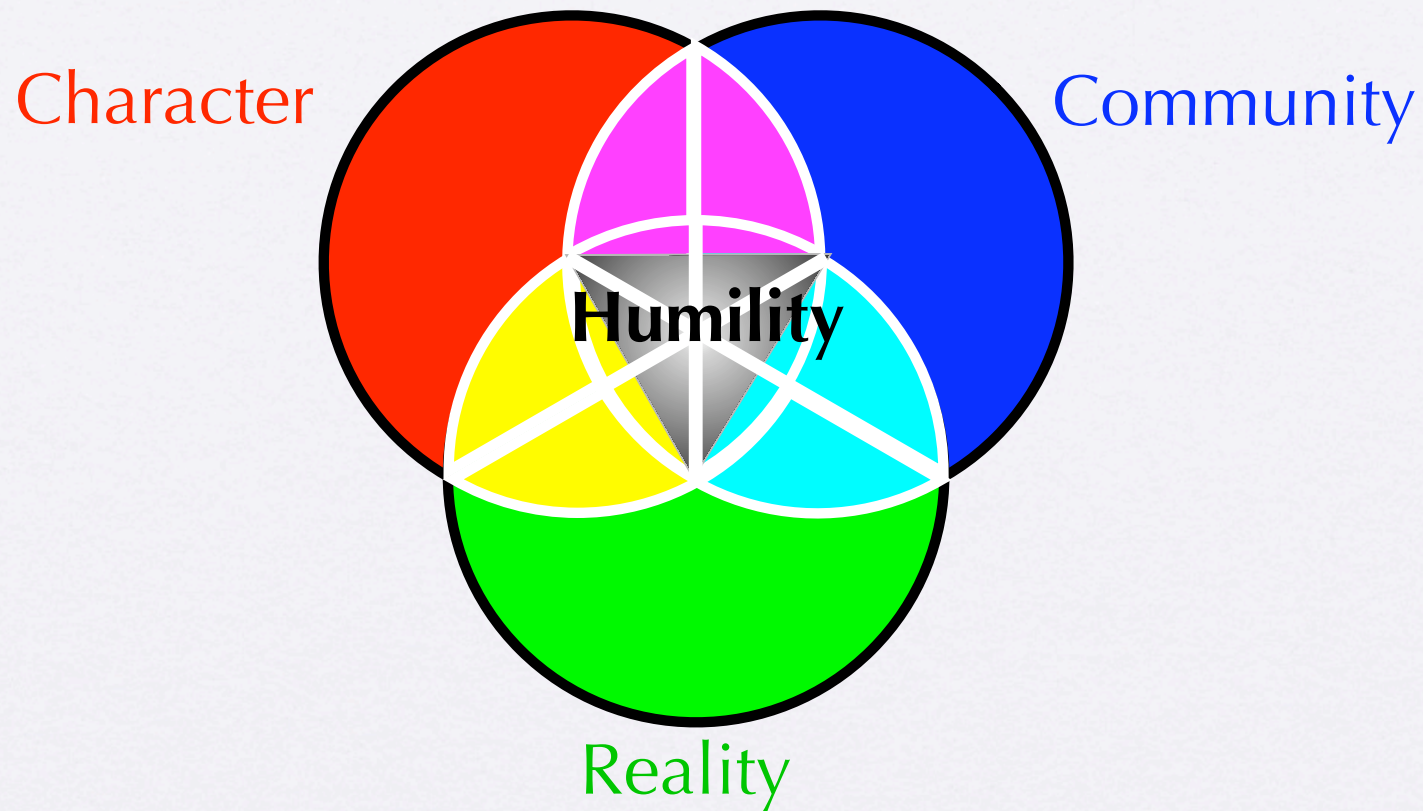


→ Radical Centrism

Radical Centrism

- Unifies complementary truths around a philosophy of Moral Law
 - General revelation (not Grace or Gospel)
- Defines a minimal set of shared assumptions needed to support modern civil society
 - Deliberately incomplete and open-ended
- Still secular (no explicit metaphysics)

The Radical Center



→ Ground Rules of Civil Society

Reality

- I believe beliefs matter
 - Truth is absolute
 - Knowledge is relative
 - Value is complex
- Shared understanding of Reason

Character

- I believe in Conscious Moral Choice μ
 - Conscious in Knowledge to estimate consequences
 - Moral in Wisdom to optimize total value
 - Choice in Freedom to find alternatives for creating or rewarding value
- Shared understanding of Will

Community

- I believe value needs to be
 - χ created
 - ρ recognized
 - v normalized
- Shared understanding of Good

Community (cont.)

- χ The best human act
is the Conscious Moral Choice μ
to use my resources
to create value for others
- ρ The next best act
is to reward others
as they create value for me
- ν Relative value
is best determined
by honest collaborative inquiry
into competing alternatives

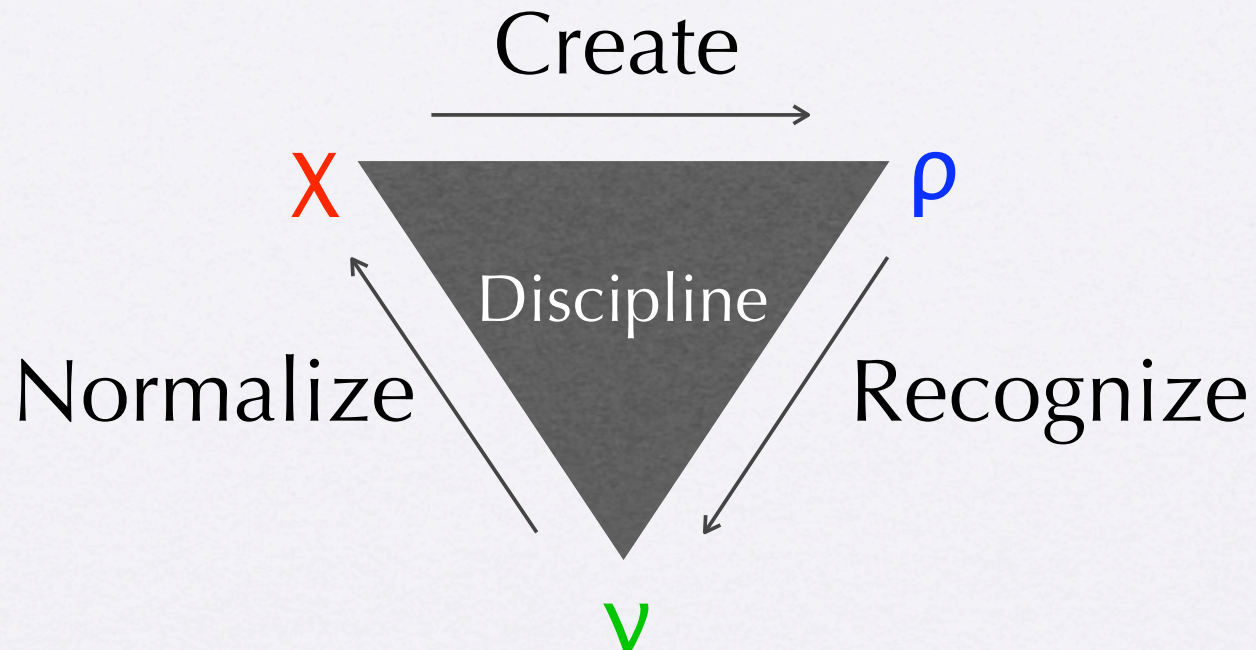
Humility

- I believe everyone wants to believe they are good
 - The Wise examine Character
 - The Wicked shrink Community
 - Fools deny Reality
 - & All of them are me
- Shared understanding of Evil

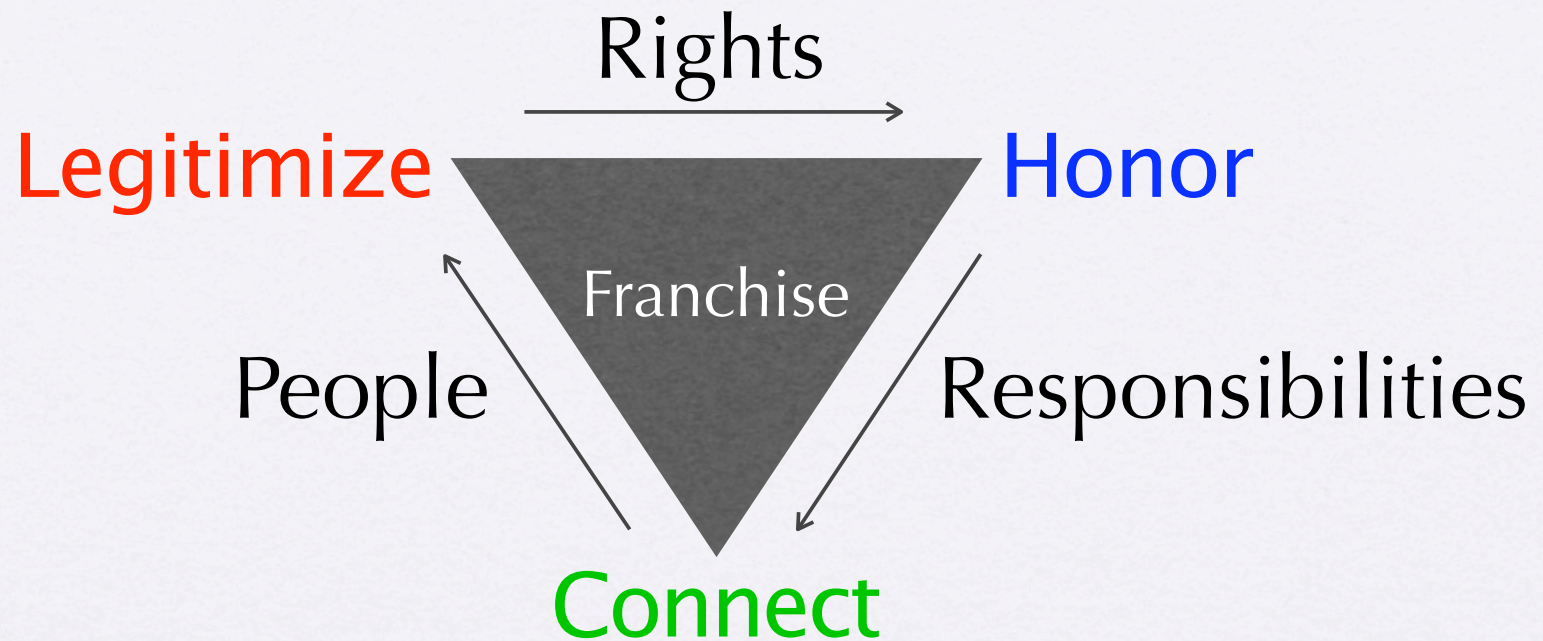
Moral Value Cycles

- Alternative basis for modern institutions
 - μ rather than rationality or self-interest
 - Provide a unified framework across disciplines
- Contain both absolute and relative values
 - Each context defines a local standard of value
 - Evaluated against global standards for χ , ρ , & ν

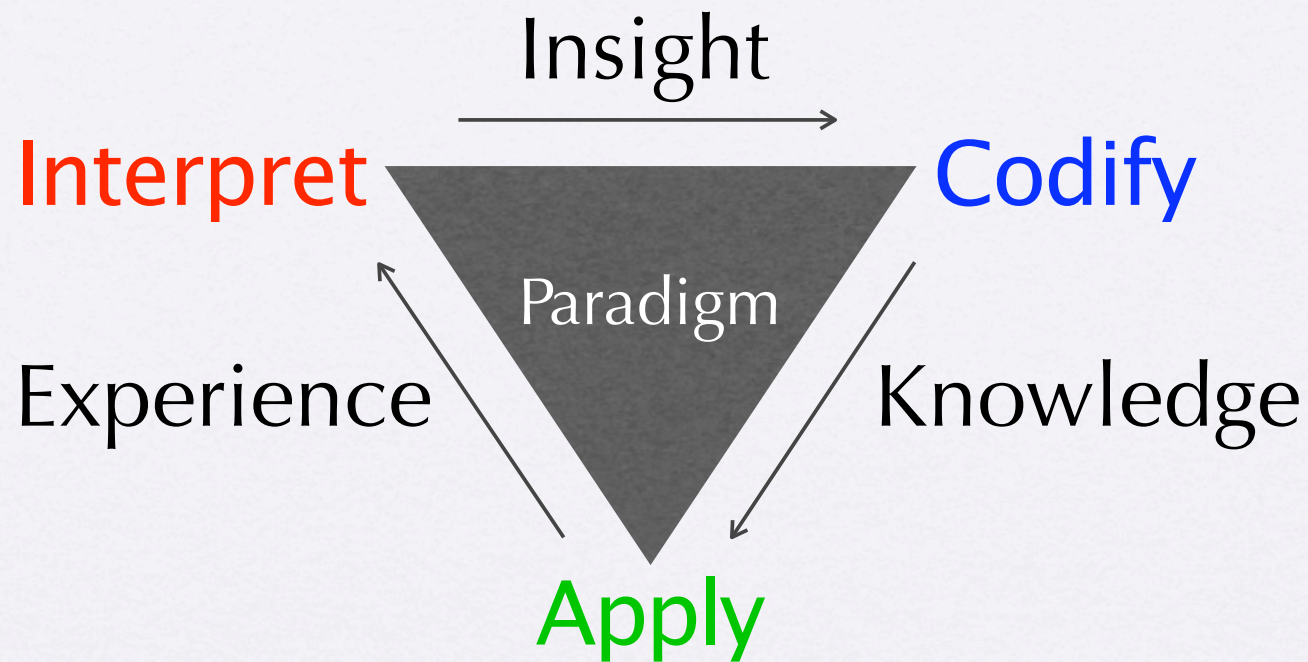
The Moral Value Cycle



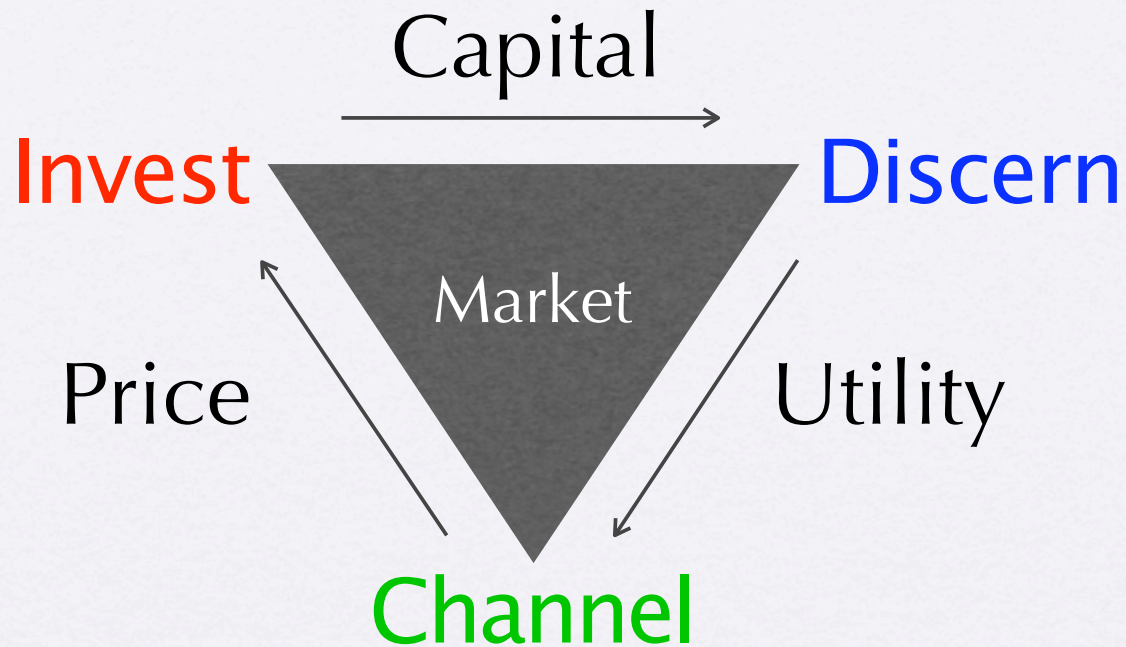
Application: Politics



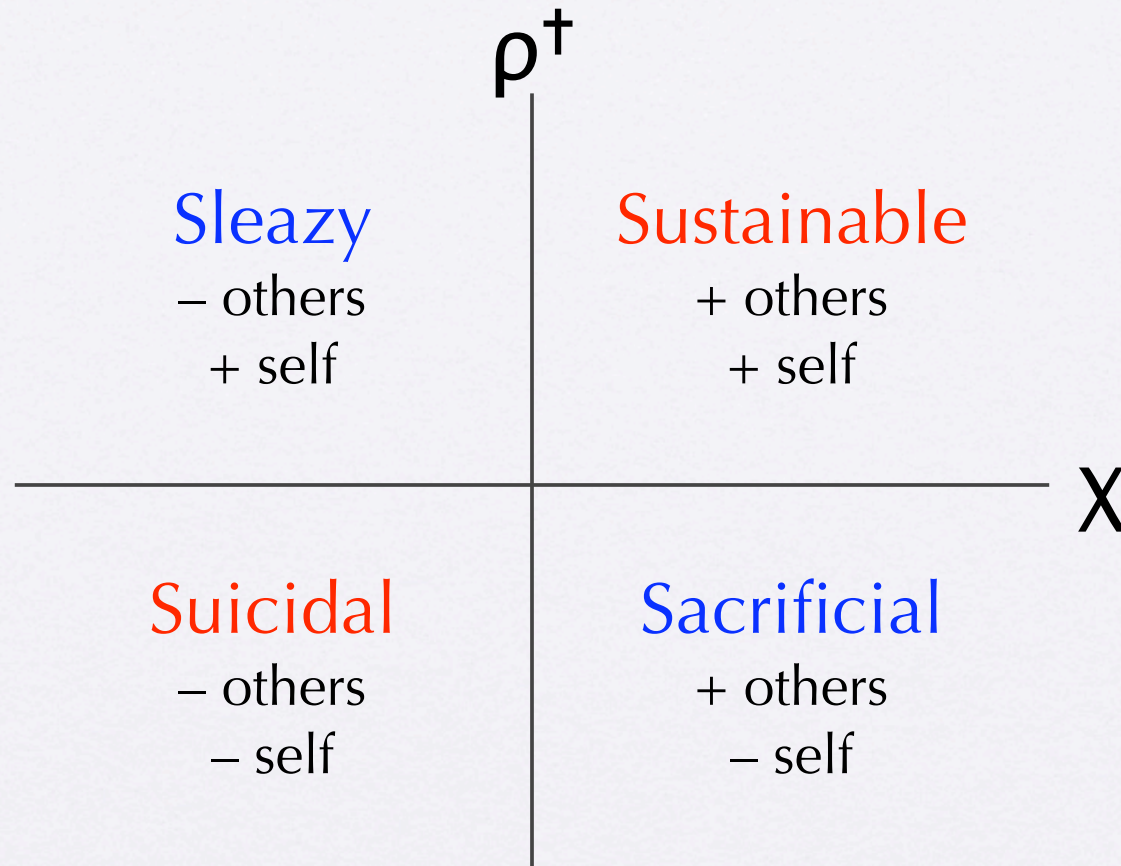
Application: Epistemology



Application: Economics



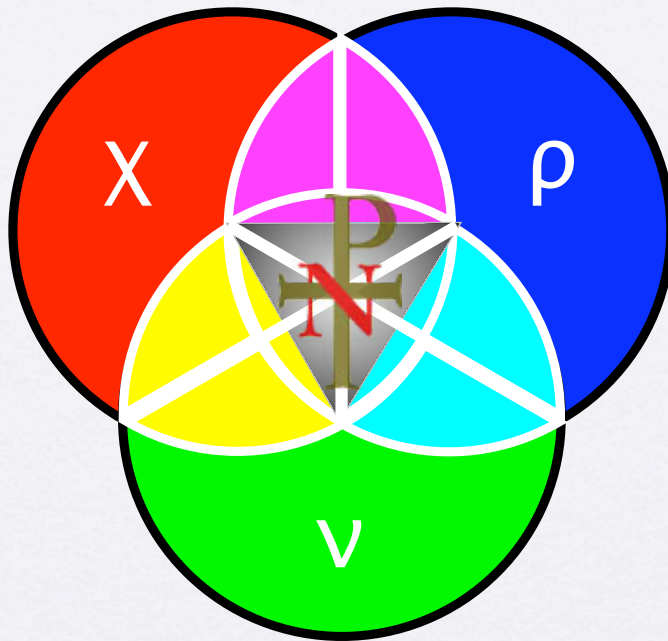
Value Quadrants



→ Beyond Selfish or Altruistic

Summary

Radical Centrism



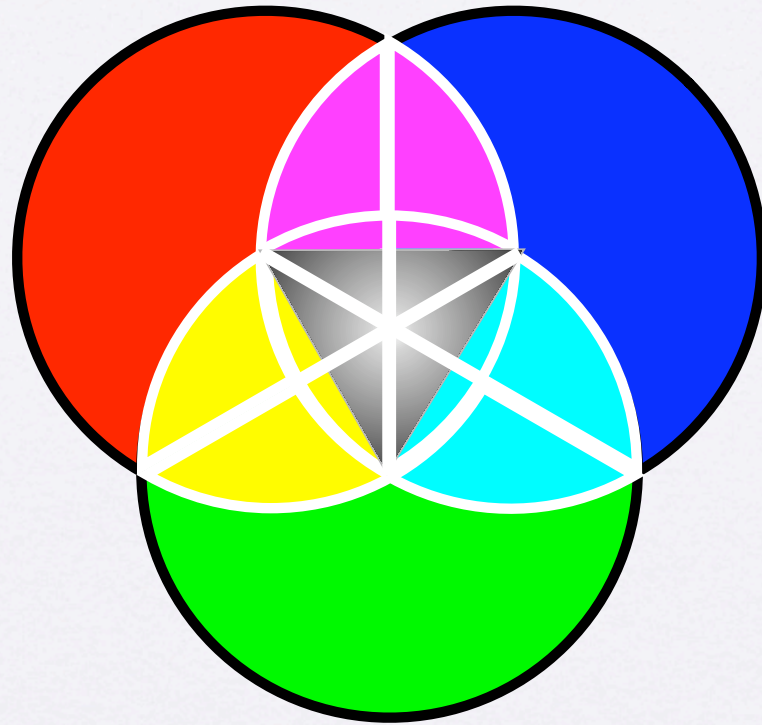
- Provides a:
 - Metric for truth
 - Process for knowing
 - Motivation for wisdom
- Explains the success – and weakness – of secularism
- Opens the door for religious dialogue

For More Information:

<http://RadicalCentrism.org>

- The Kernel Philosophy of Radical Centrism
- Hope for Bridging Communities: *Radical Centrism and the Politics of Hypocrisy*
- Finding Truth in a Postmodern World: *The Epistemology of Empirical Essentialism*
- Beyond Capitalism versus Socialism: *Towards a Unified Economy of Value*

Q & A



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The End

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