

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:1-14

Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. ² This was after King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the court officials, the other officials of Judah, and all the craftsmen and artisans had been deported from Jerusalem. ³ He sent the letter with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah when they went to Babylon as King Zedekiah's ambassadors to Nebuchadnezzar. This is what Jeremiah's letter said:

Jeremiah 29:1-14

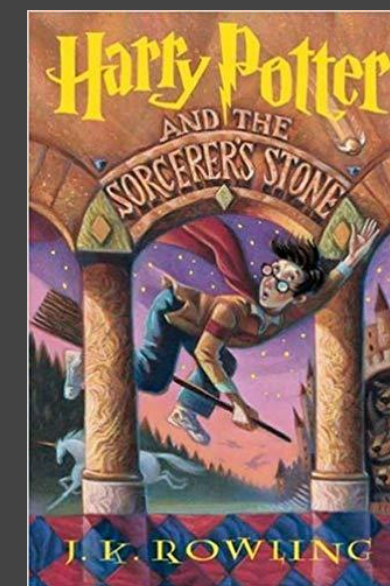
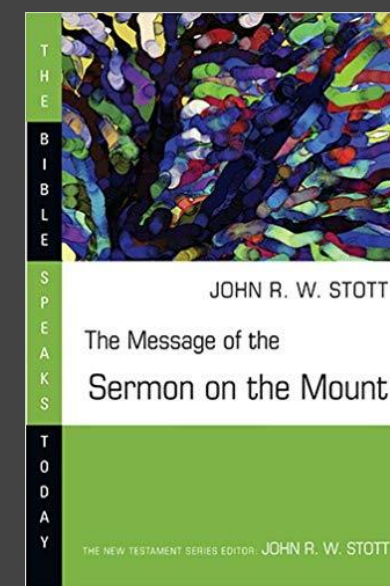
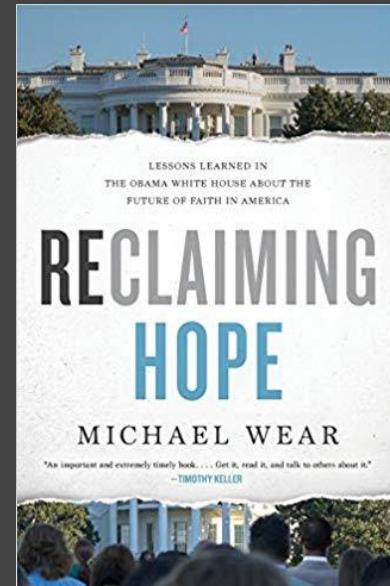
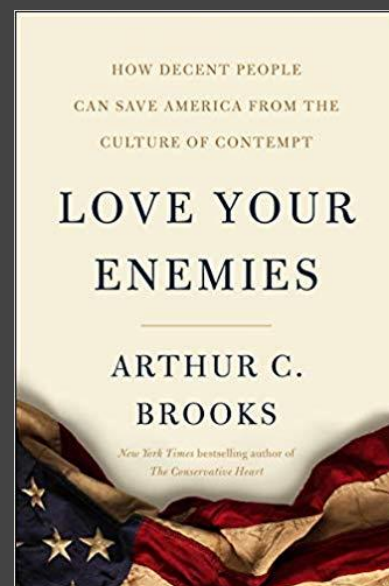
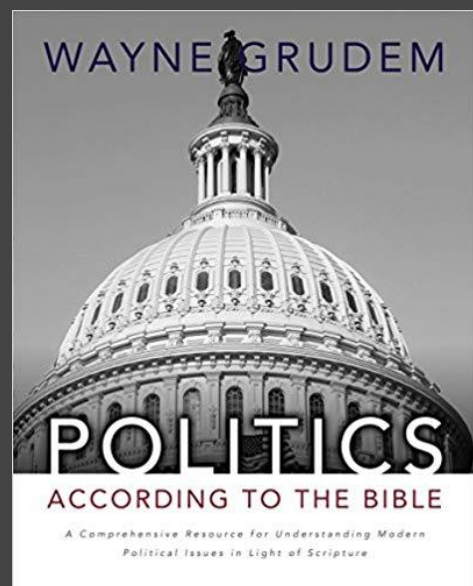
⁴This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵"Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

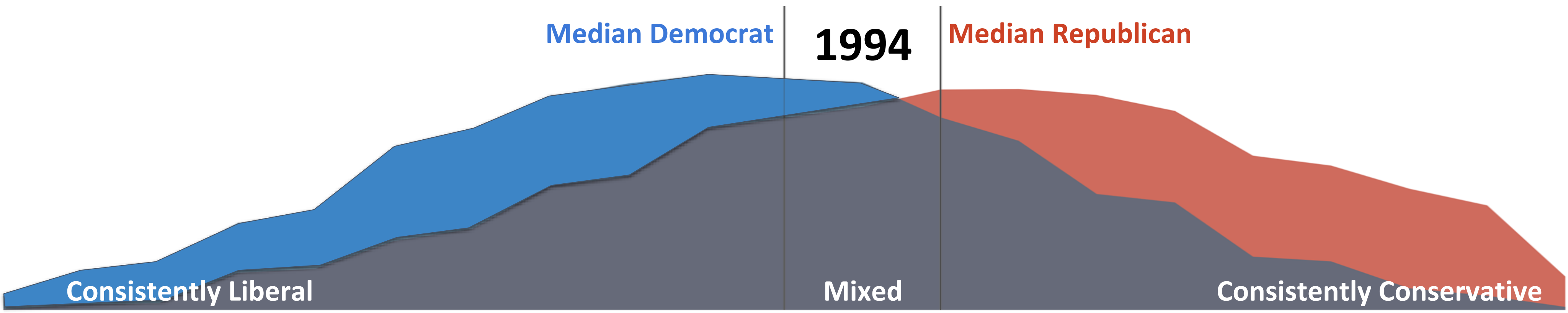
Jeremiah 29:1-14

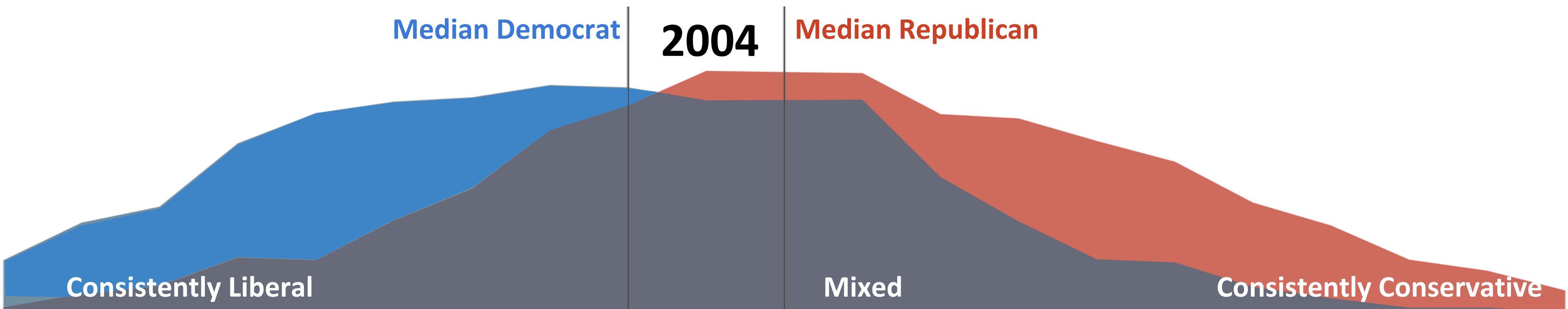
⁸This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, ⁹because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them," says the Lord. ¹⁰This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again."

Jeremiah 29:1-14

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."







Median Democrat

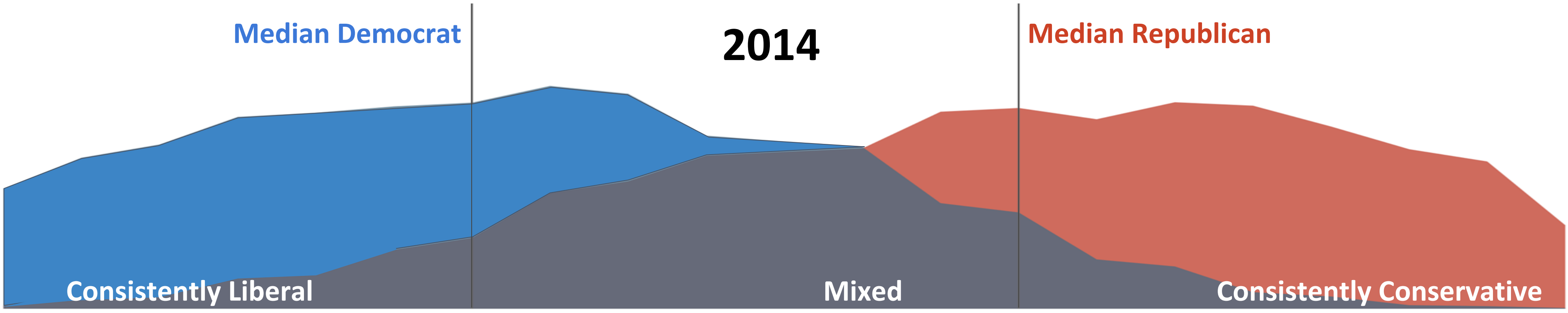
2004

Median Republican

Consistently Liberal

Mixed

Consistently Conservative



Median Democrat

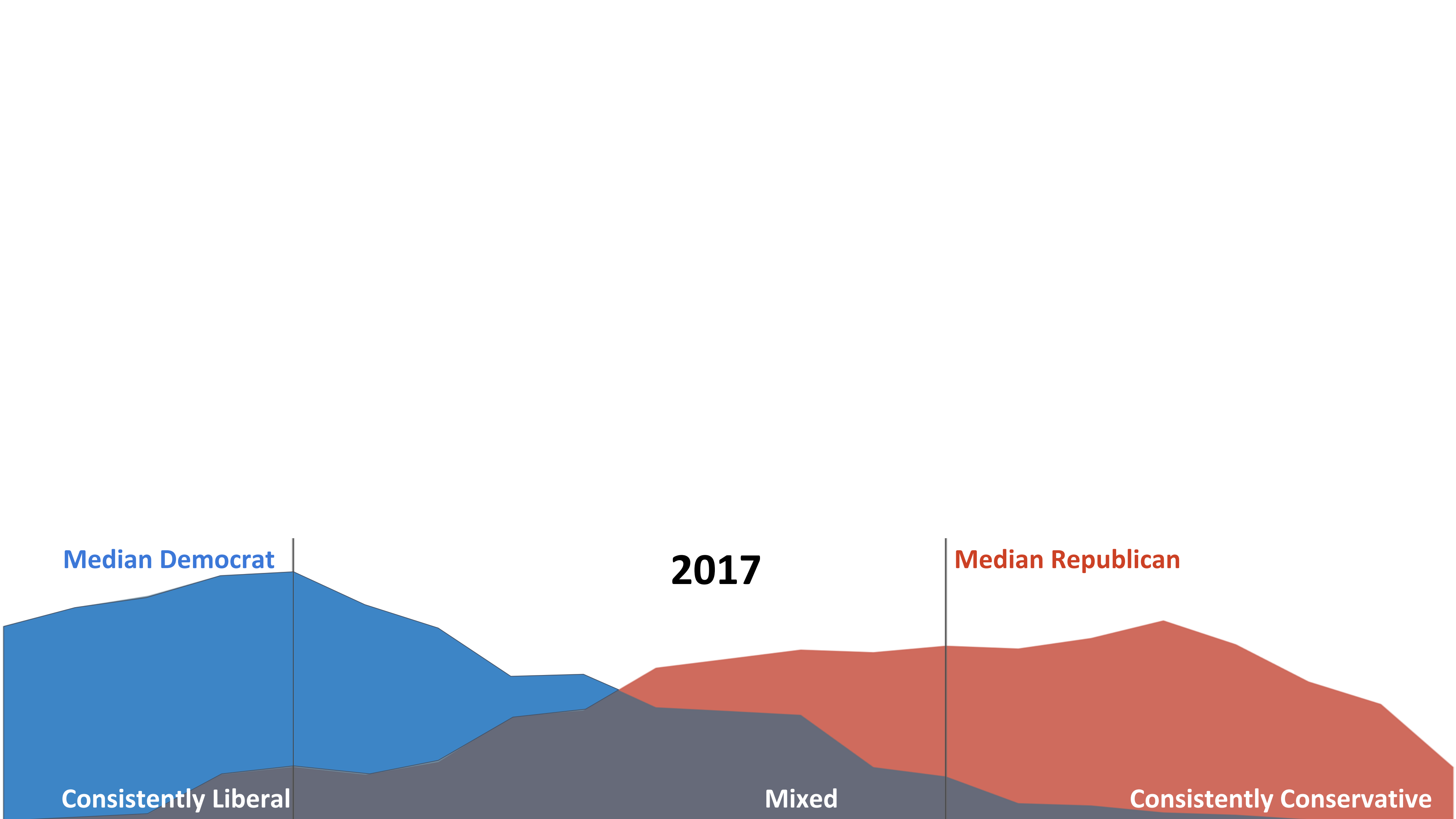
2014

Median Republican

Consistently Liberal

Mixed

Consistently Conservative



Median Democrat

2017

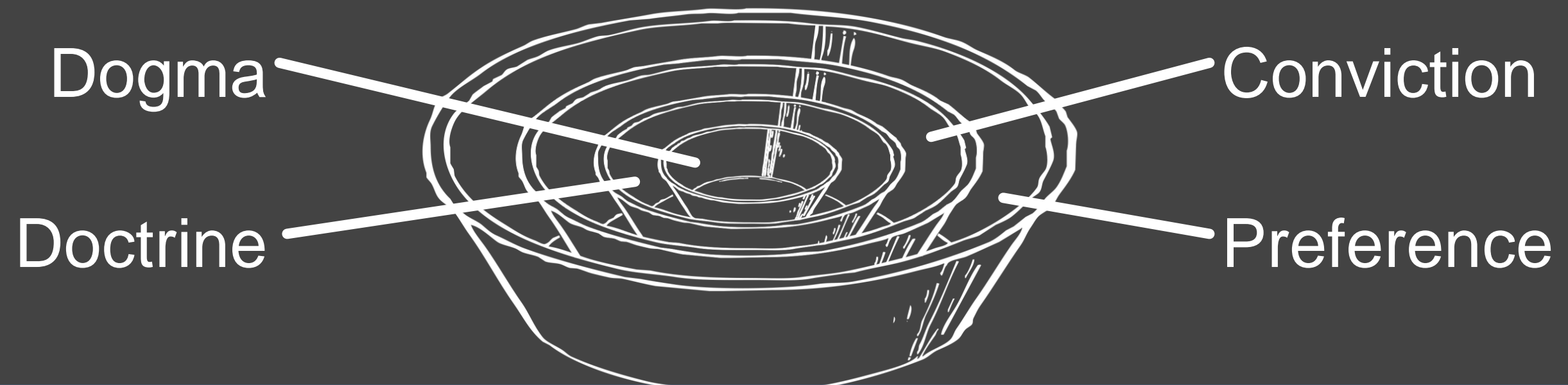
Median Republican

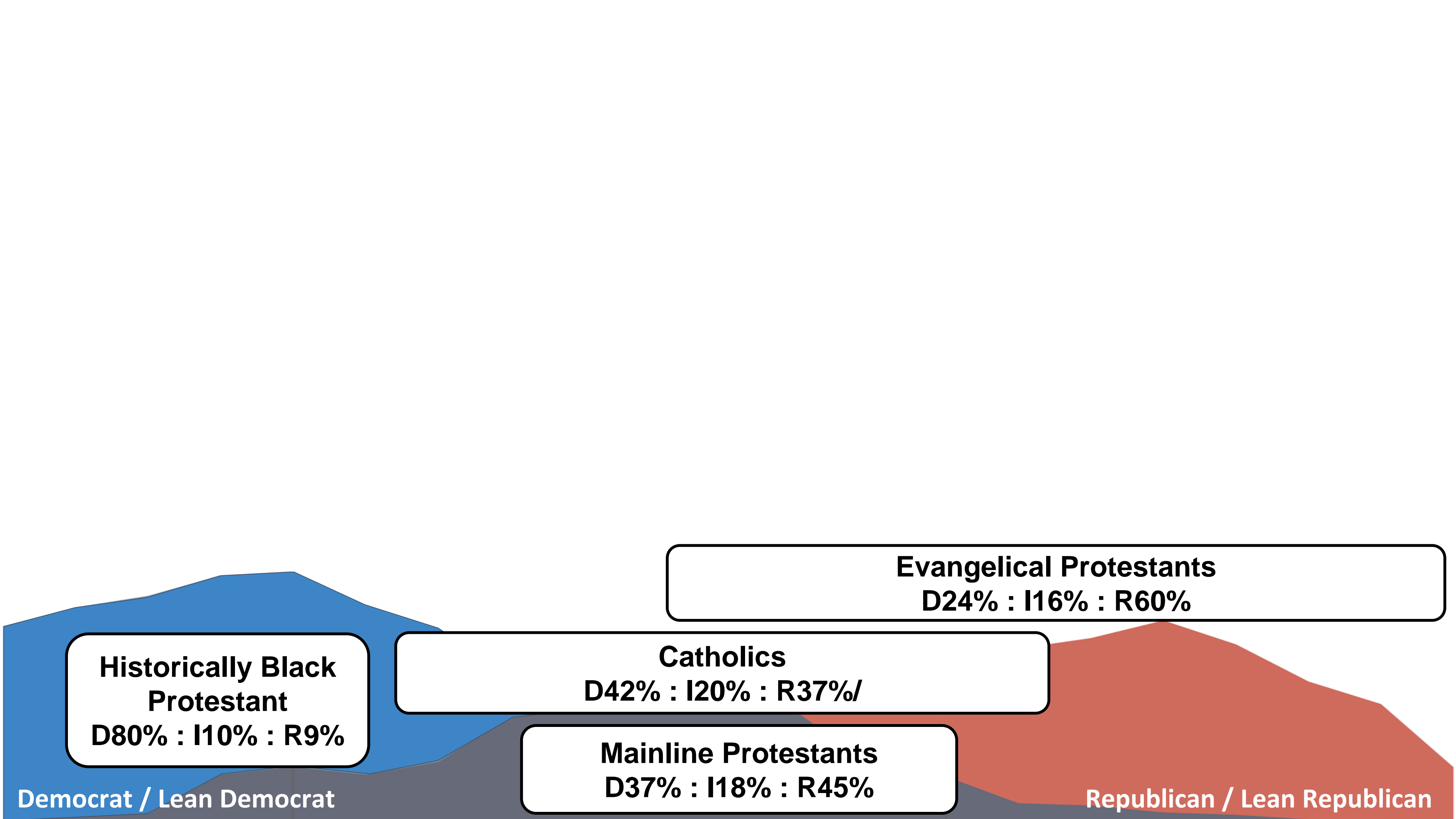
Consistently Liberal

Mixed

Consistently Conservative

Buckets of Belief





Evangelical Protestants

D24% : I16% : R60%

Catholics

D42% : I20% : R37%

Mainline Protestants

D37% : I18% : R45%

**Historically Black
Protestant**

D80% : I10% : R9%

Democrat / Lean Democrat

Republican / Lean Republican

John Stott

Christians are set in secular society by God to hinder this [decay] process. God intends us to penetrate the world. Christian salt has no business to remain snugly in elegant little ecclesiastical salt cellars; our place is to be rubbed into meat, to stop it going bad. And when society does go bad, we Christians tend to throw up our hands in pious horror and reproach the non-Christian world; but should we not rather reproach ourselves? One can hardly blame unsalted meat for going bad. It cannot do anything else. The real question is: where is the salt?

Matthew 5:43-46

⁴³“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.”

Dumbledore

“It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to your enemies. But a great deal more to stand up to your friends.”

Michael Wear

The Republican Party needs now more than ever Christians advocating from within for a position, for example, on immigration reform that respects human dignity and takes the consequences of deportation on families seriously.

Michael Wear

The Democratic Party needs now more than ever Christians advocating from within for a recognition, say, that abortion is not a moral good...and that a respect for human dignity and a sense of protecting the vulnerable extends to those not yet born.

Martin Luther

Therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me.... If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely....

John Piper

The design of God in our cancer is not to train us in the rationalistic, human calculations of odds. The world gets comfort from their odds. Not Christians. Some count their chariots (percentages of survival) and some count their horses (side effects of treatment) but we trust in the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7). God's design is clear from 2 Corinthians 1:9: "We felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

John Piper

The aim of God in our cancer (among a thousand other good things) is to knock the props out from under our hearts so that we rely utterly on him.

CS Lewis

Yet war does do something to death. It forces us to remember it. The only reason why the cancer at sixty or the paralysis at seventy-five do not bother us is that we forget them. War makes death real to us, and that would have been regarded as one of its blessings by most of the great Christians of the past. They thought it good for us to be always aware of our mortality. I am inclined to think they were right.

