

Individualism versus Collectivism: Personal Rights/Liberties

<p><i>Please note that the difference between individualism and collectivism isn't two clear-cut categories but instead a sliding scale.</i></p>	<p><i>Individualism: The primary purpose of/value for society is for the community is to protect the dignity, autonomy, resources, and freedom of action of every individual: the emphasis is on liberty</i></p>	<p><i>Collectivism: The primary purpose of/value for society is for the individual is to serve the needs and interests of the community (i.e., the "greater good"); the emphasis is on equality</i></p>
	<p>Nonconformity: individuals may engage in behavior/activities (e.g., political, religious, sexual) that differ from community norms without interference by the community as a whole</p>	<p>Conformity: individuals whose behavior/activities (e.g., political, religious, sexual) deviate from established community norms may be sanctioned/punished</p>
<p><i>Personal rights/liberties are those rights linked to the individual as a physical person (i.e., due process/incorporation "liberty": speech, religion, privacy, sexual identity, sexual and reproductive behavior, protection from power of the government through criminal procedural rights)</i></p>	<p>Tolerance: individuals who object to or are offended by other individuals' nonconforming behavior are nevertheless expected/required to permit/put up with other individuals' nonconforming behavior as long as their own personal autonomy or economic interests aren't damaged</p>	<p>Intolerance: individuals who object to or are offended by other individuals' nonconforming behavior are protected from that behavior by government/community action/force against the nonconformer even when their own personal autonomy or economic interests aren't threatened</p>
	<p>Physical autonomy: is as great as possible consistent with the autonomy of others (e.g., sexual behavior and reproductive rights, recreational drug use, protection from arbitrary government use of criminal law to persecute individuals)</p>	<p>Physical autonomy: is limited in order to protect the interests or values of other members of the community (e.g., sexual conformity, reproductive rights impinging on the personhood of others, use of criminal law to protect others' property and to coerce social conformity)</p>