

Individualism versus Collectivism: Economic/Property Rights

<p><i>Please note that the difference between individualism and collectivism isn't that of 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>Private ownership is safeguarded/encouraged</p>	<p>Private ownership is limited/discouraged/banned</p>
	<p>Economic liberty is permitted, leading to inequality; market economy (driven by individual decisions)</p>	<p>Economic equality is imposed by the collective, restricting economic liberty; planned economy (controlled by government mechanisms)</p>
	<p>Government redistribution from rich to poor is limited; taxation is limited to projects that benefit community as a whole (e.g., roads, public buildings, public services such as police and fire protection, national defense)</p>	<p>Government redistribution from rich to poor is significant or extreme; taxation may be used to fund programs that heavily benefit lower-income groups (e.g., entitlement programs)</p>
<p><i>Economic rights/rights external to the individual's physical person (i.e., due process "property"), including the results of his physical or mental labor</i></p>	<p>Individual property and property rights are protected by the community</p>	<p>Individual property rights and protections are limited</p>
	<p>Risk of loss/failure is on the individual; if he makes a bad investment or possesses poor judgment or even has bad luck, he is the one who pays the price</p>	<p>Risk of loss is shared by the collective; those who are in bad economic circumstances can share in the wealth of the community and the success of others</p>
	<p>Success accrues to the individual; if he makes a good investment, possesses superior skill, or has good luck, he is entitled to the bounty of his success</p>	<p>Bounty of the individual's success is shifted to/appropriated by the community and shared among its members</p>