It did not wish to abolish capitalism and replace private ownership with state control of the economy, but its adherents did believe in regulating the market in order to counter excessive deprivation and inequality.

- **John Rawls (1921-2002):**

  Theory of justice – opinion that society must be just and guarantee each citizen a life worth living.

  The veil of ignorance – a hypothetical scenario where individuals agree on the type of society they want from a position where they lack knowledge of their own position in society.

  *A Theory of Justice.*

- **Betty Friedan (1921-2006):**

  Legal equality – women are as capable as men and that oppressive laws and social views must be overturned.

  Equal opportunity - women are being held back from their potential because of the limited number of jobs that are 'acceptable' for women.

  *The Feminine Mystique.*

(Individual) Freedom

Classical liberals believe in negative freedom, a principle often linked to the idea of freedom of choice or privacy. Freedom can be expanded most clearly by restraining state power. Classical liberals also believe in egotistical individualism. The logic of negative freedom leads to the rolling back of the state, to encourage individuals to take more responsibility for themselves. Self-reliance is a key virtue for classical liberals. Dependence on the state is damaging because it undermines the self-respect of the individual and saps the spirit of enterprise on which economic growth depends. Current debates over the growth of a ‘dependency culture’ are lined to the ideas of classical liberalism. The idea of the dependency culture has come from the expansion of the UK welfare state since 1945, which has been associated with a loss of personal responsibility, the breakdown of the traditional family and the persistence of unemployment across generations. Neo-liberals argue that social welfare should be targeted at those who really need it, and that others should be encouraged to lift themselves out of poverty through their own efforts.

Modern liberals believe that negative freedom is necessary but not sufficient for a good society. It can amount to little more than ‘freedom to starve’ for those facing disadvantages over which they have no control – for example, working in an occupation prone to periods of unemployment, or suffering and industrial accident. These people need assistance to live truly free and fulfilling lives. This is why modern liberals support the idea of positive freedom. This defines freedom as self-mastery or self-realisation. Freedom can be expanded by qualified state intervention in the economy and society, to widen individual opportunity and liberate citizens from social evils such as poverty. Modern liberals favour developmental individualism – enabling individuals to enjoy personal growth and empowerment.