Political terms: Left, Right, Center
origin: Legislative Assembly, France, 1791, French Revolution

Members of the L.A. who held similar views about the direction of the Revolution and the role and responsibilities of the French government always sat together in the meeting hall in Paris.

- those who sat on the right side of the hall believed that reform had gone far enough; that the monarchy should be restored and things turned back to 1788 - before the revolution. They were opposed to change. *(Monarchists, Loyalists; conservatives)*

- those who sat in the middle of the hall supported moderate (mild) reform: the changes made so far to nobles’ rights and reduced power for the monarch, but no additional changes or loss of privileges. *(moderates, centrists)*

- those who sat on the left of the hall were the Jacobins and other *republicans*: they wanted to abolish the monarchy completely and make radical (dramatic) changes to French government and the social order. *(leftists, radicals; Jacobins, Cordeliers*, Hébertists**, popular militants)*
  
  *Cordeliers*- founded and led by Georges Danton, a French revolutionary leader who challenged the “Terror” led by Robespierre and was targeted as being against the Revolution; Robespierre ordered Danton to be killed; Jean-Paul Marat, another French radical who was murdered during the Revolution, also led the Cordeliers.

  **named after influential member Jacques-René Hébert, a French political journalist**

Questions

1. What are some specific ideas about government and the social order in France that the Monarchists would have supported?

2. What would the moderates have wanted for France at that time?

3. What specific ideas and actions did the Jacobins and other radical groups support in 1791?

4. Make a connection: In the U.S., the 2 main political parties are the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Where on the political spectrum do you think each of these parties lie?

Sources: World History: The Modern World (textbook, Teacher’s Edition)
http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/191217/Georges-Danton