

“CONSERVATIVE”

conservative (k ən sɪr' vətɪv) *adj.*

1. disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc., and to agree with gradual rather than abrupt change.
2. cautiously moderate: *a conservative estimate.*
3. traditional in style or manner; avoiding showiness: *a suit of conservative cut.*
4. (*often cap.*) of or pertaining to the conservative party.
5. (*cap.*) of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Conservative Jews or Conservative Judaism.
6. having the power or tendency to conserve; preservative.
7. *Math.* (of a vector or vector function) having curl equal to zero; irrotational; lamellar.
8. *n.* a person who is conservative in principles, actions, habits, etc.
9. a member of a conservative political party. esp. the Conservative party in Great Britain.
10. a preservative.

[< LL *conservativ(us)*, equiv. to L *conservat(us)* (see CONSERVATION) + *-ivus -ive*; r ME *conservatif* < MF]

conservatism (k ən sɪr' vətɪz' əm) *n.*

1. the disposition to preserve what is established and to promote gradual development rather than abrupt change.
2. the principles and practices of political conservatives. esp. of the British Conservative party; Toryism.

[CONSERVAT(IVE) + -ISM]

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, The Unabridged Edition (Random House, New York, 1966)

