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**Everlasting Ideologies**

As Halper would say it, the different ideologies between John McCain and Barack Obama over their future plans to overhaul the nation’s tax system has shows not only to be different, but it also shown differences between the political philosophies of the parties to which they belong. Under McCain, the rich would see their tax burden ease. Through a conservative view which values individual wealth, discipline, success and a ‘strict father’ model of government. Under Obama, from a liberal view, tax rates of the riches would rise dramatically. This view of wealth and government should provide the condition that will allow all citizens to have fair opportunity and shows a ‘nurturant parent’ model of government.

McCain’s plan aims to aid wealthy taxpayers and corporations by extending and expanding President Bush’s tax cuts which cuts down corporate taxes and weakens the estate tax, but it also help taxpayers across the board by making Bush’s plan permanent. The Republicans’ ideology of a conservative government can be seen through McCain and Bush’s policies. Conservative beliefs emphasize on individual discipline and wealth with limited government intervention and faith in free market. With this ‘strict father’ conception of government, wealthy people are rewarded for their success. McCain’s proposed tax plan would benefit the riches but would offer very little aid to the squeezed middle-class families (Braun, p. A1).

However, under Obama’s proposals where he claims that the majority of Americans would not see a tax increase under his plan, only the wealthiest five percent may see a tax increase. Obama pledged in Springfield, Mo., that if “you’re a family making less than $250,000 a year, you will not see your taxes go up (Braun, p. A1).” Obama’s plan clearly contradicts the Republicans’ ideology with its liberal ideas where there is an expanded government role and systemic view of poverty. Obama’s tax plan is aimed to strengthen the benefits for lower tier taxpayers and raising the rates of the top tier bracket. This ‘nurturant parent’ model espouses the political philosophies of the Democrats which believes that government should provide the condition that allow all citizens to have equal opportunities (Lecture, 10/23/08).

By looking closely at both candidates’ proposals show the differences that separate each candidate along the traditional policy which defines Republicans and Democrats: liberating the wealthy with tax cuts to stimulate the nation’s prosperity versus raising their rates to redistribute the tax burden and pay for crucial government programs (Braun, p. A1). The proposals by both candidates seem like contrasting ideas defined by their characteristics but it can be interpreted as differences between the political philosophies of the parties to which they belong. It is the clash of the old ideologies, the ‘strict father’ versus the ‘nurturant parents’.