Self-Interest

People are motivated solely by self-interest. Everyone is looking out for one person & one person only:

THEMSELF

Self-Reliance

People are primarily responsible for their own well-being. Whether one is rich or poor, it is one's own doing.

Government

Government cannot be trusted.

Because of the way politics
work, government is inevitably
corrupt, incompetent or both.

Individual Property Rights

DISAGREE

The government should make sure that there is a legal system in place that protects individual property rights.

E.g. Sally walks into Mark's house and takes his TV off the wall. Mark should be able to use the legal system to get his TV, or the value of the TV, back from Sally.

Business Competition

The government should make laws that control businesses to maintain competition.

DISAGREE

Public Provisions

AGREE

The government should provide public goods like education & infrastructure (roads, railroads, bridges, dams etc.).

Income Redistribution

Government should redistribute income by taxing those with larger incomes and helping those in need.

DISAGREE

E.g. Social Security, Medicaid, and other governmental spending for the less fortunate makes sure that everyone in America has a higher standard of living. The wealthy should pay a larger share of their income into these programs because they benefitted greatly from a system that allowed them to get rich.

DISAGREE

Public Bailouts

The government is not needed to correct market failures because over time the market will fix itself.

E.g. Remember when all the Detroit automakers were going bankrupt? Then the government decided to bail them out. The government shouldn't have an active role in private businesses, that's the American taxpayers' money.