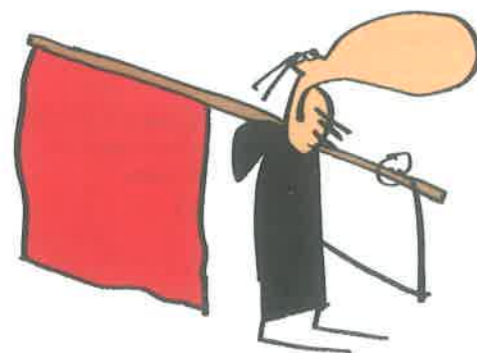


Political parties

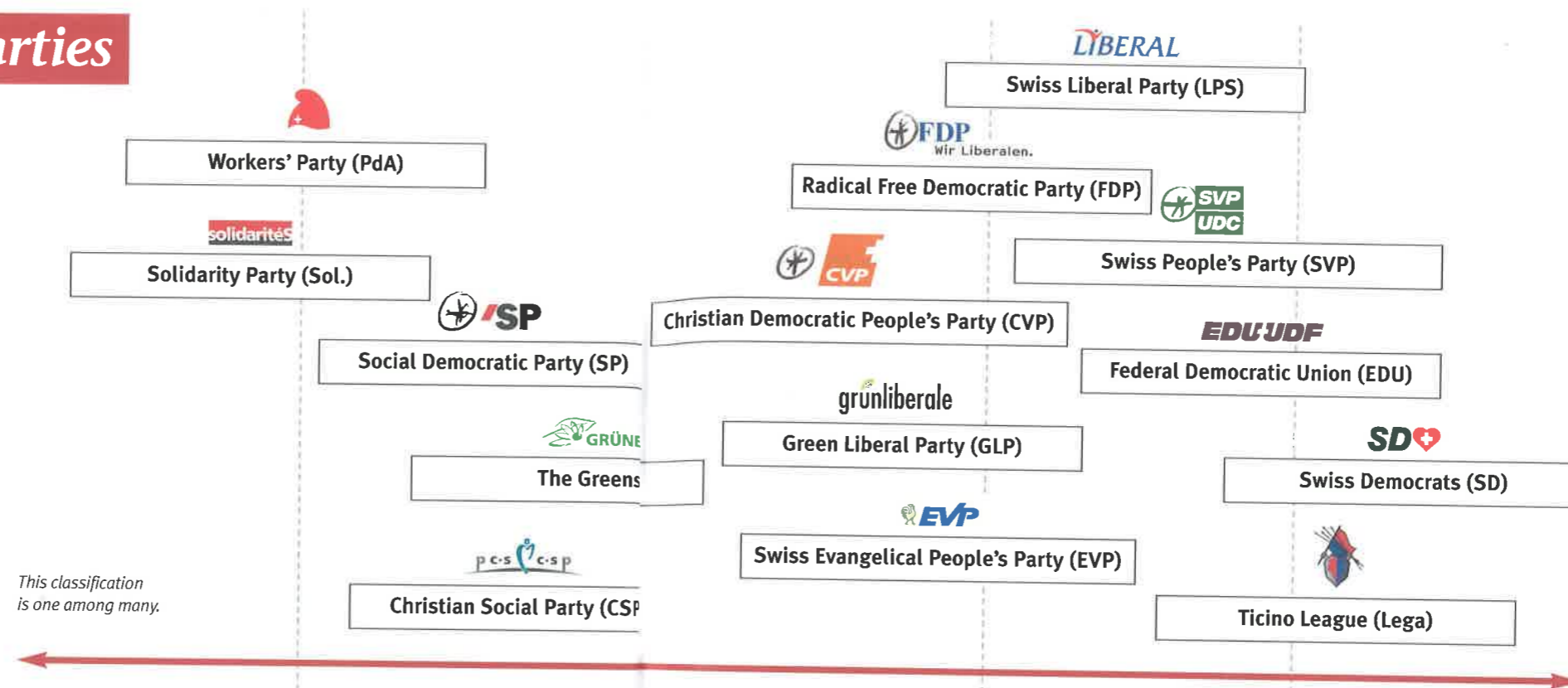
The classification of political parties along a left-right axis is a subject for much debate in the media and within the parties themselves. For example, the Social Democratic Party is sometimes considered as centre-left while the People's Party is put at the far right, mainly due to its nationalistic and xenophobic fringe in certain cantons.



A party is a well organised structure that has to have funding to function effectively. Its financial resources are used to support candidates and to finance voting campaigns on subjects it intends to defend or oppose.



← FAR LEFT



The far left favours strong State intervention in the economy and an egalitarian system. It believes in heavily taxing the rich and defending labour interests and the underprivileged.

The left favours moderate State intervention in the economy. It defends the principle of solidarity and is a stronger supporter of public services. It may share some of the views of the far left and sometimes that of the centre. The left defends the interests of the middle classes and employees.

The centre favours limited State intervention, e.g., family and social insurance schemes. As regards economic and fiscal policy, it is closer to the right. The centre defends the interests of the middle classes.

The right favours weak State intervention. It encourages lowering taxes and privatising public services. It believes in economic liberalism and defends economic interests and the upper middle classes (managers and liberal professions).

The far right is opposed to any open-mindedness toward the outside world. It is anti-European, nationalistic and xenophobic (against foreigners). It is difficult to say what interests it stands for as it recruits as much from the ranks of the underprivileged as from the ruling classes. It mainly attracts those who are "disappointed with the system" and opposed to change.

FAR RIGHT →

