



The Heart of Policy Arguments

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Some definitions and context

- ❑ **Policy**: a plan or course of action adopted by a government or organization designed to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters
- ❑ **Politics**: the properly constituted and legal mechanism by which the general public expresses its judgments on the value to it of the good and services that it needs
- ❑ Politics is a creative and valuable feature of social existence



The heart of policy debates

- Equality
 - *Treating likes alike*
 - Chocolate cake example from Deborah A. Stone, *Policy Paradox and Political Reason*, 2002, Ch. 2
- Efficiency
 - *Getting the most output for a given input*
- Security
 - *Satisfaction of minimum human needs*
- Liberty
 - *Do as you wish as long as you do not harm others*

