



QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

A Resource for “Extremists in Opposition: A Dangerous Symbiosis”

1. The word “extreme” and references to “extremism” are part of our daily conversations. The Merriam-Webster dictionary gives us the following definitions of “extreme”:
 - **1a:** existing in a very high degree: *extreme poverty*
 - **1b:** going to great or exaggerated lengths: RADICAL: *went on an extreme diet*
 - **1c:** exceeding the ordinary, usual, or expected: *extreme weather conditions*
 - **2:** *archaic*: LAST
 - **3:** situated at the farthest possible point from a center: *the country's extreme north*
 - **4a:** most advanced or thorough going: *the extreme political left*
 - **4b:** MAXIMUM
 - **5a:** of, relating to, or being an outdoor activity or a form of a sport (such as skiing) that involves an unusually high degree of physical risk: *extreme mountain biking down steep slopes*
 - a. How do you use the word “extreme”? Is it “good” or “bad”?
 - b. In one sentence, write a definition for the term “extremist”. Look it up and see if the definition is the same as the way you defined the word.
2. Look up the dictionary definition of *symbiosis*.
 - a. Explain how this definition applies to the relationship that Arno describes between extremists on the left and right.
 - b. Do you agree that *symbiotic* is the correct way to describe this relationship? Why or why not? If not, what word would you use?
 - c. Can you think of other civil society groups/political entities/governments today with a similar dynamic, domestic or international? If so, which?

3. Find two articles/op-eds that discuss the same set of circumstances from opposing sides.
 - a. What does the article say that validates one side's narrative?
 - b. How might the article provoke the other side?
 - c. How could the material in the article be presented differently in each article so that it did not fuel conflict? Is that possible?