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Explaining the Real Health Care Debate

This is David Davenport of the Hoover Institution for Townhall.com.

One reason the health care debate is so heated is because it so clearly reveals the president's political philosophy. He plans a sharp turn toward the equality narrative and away from the liberty narrative.

The French journalist DeTocqueville observed those 2 competing narratives in the 19th century. The equality narrative—from the French Revolution—is about government intervention in private lives and markets to assure equal outcomes. The liberty narrative—from the *American Revolution*—is about individual freedom with the government protecting equality of opportunity.

Rather than fixing the problems—the 1 in 7 who don't have health care for example—Obama proposes a complete overhaul of the system. His plan is to mandate health care for everyone, impose government oversight—and even a government provider. It is this sort of radical turn that has Americans up in arms.

And rightly so, because equality versus liberty—the government versus the individual—is the real health care debate.

I'm David Davenport.

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