*Liberalism* is the view that human beings are and ought to be free and that the proper business of government is to protect and promote their freedom.

Democratic liberalism is the view that human beings are and ought to be equally free and that the proper business of government is to protect and promote their equal freedom.

The "new birth of freedom" of which Lincoln speaks in his Gettysburg Address, then, is a "new birth" because it is the birth of a more equal freedom—of a freedom extended to human beings theretofore without it.

20 November 2007