

Capitalism and Socialism, Smith 3

As you're reading the selection from Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (Book I, Chapter 8), consider the questions below.

1. What are workmen "disposed to combine" for? What about the masters? Is the gain of one necessarily a loss to the other? What might be the consequences of this?
2. Which group is more able to combine, workmen or masters? Which side does the civil magistrate take in this conflict?
3. Which side do you think Smith is more sympathetic with? Which side do you sympathize with more? Why?
4. What is the "most decisive mark" of national prosperity, according to Smith?
5. What is the "natural symptom of increasing national wealth" and why does it occur?
6. Do you think this is a good marker of a successful economy today? If not, is there a way to revise it to be more useful to us?
7. Should it be government policy to improve the "wages of labor?" Why or why not?
8. Is human reproduction governed by supply and demand according to Smith? Do you find this disturbing? Why or why not?