

Business and the government

- In 2012, Forbes Magazine estimated Bill Gates net worth to be fifty-eight billion dollars (\$58,000,000,000). That means he makes almost \$9,000,000 an hour.
- The world has a population of about seven billion people. Bill Gates could pay everyone in the world eight dollars and still come out with a few million dollars leftover.
- He could play 232,000,000,000 games of Pacman, or any other arcade game, for twenty five cents a game. If each game lasts ten minutes, Gates would be playing for nearly four and a half million years.
- If all of his money was in single dollar bills and were lined up end to end, Gates could travel from Earth to the Moon over seven times.
- Is this fair? Should he be forced to give some of it to charity (which he already does voluntarily)? Should it be put to better use?
- In general, can someone be too rich? Why or why not?

Two Views

- Conservative: It is not the job of the government to control or regulate business. The best way to allow business, the economy, and the nation to grow is to leave it alone.
 - “Here’s how to solve the problem of poverty: don’t make any laws controlling either how businessmen make money or what they do with it. Most of the community’s money will end up in the hands of a few men, but this is all right if these men consider themselves not as owners of the money but merely temporary keepers of it. Because these men are wise (or they wouldn’t be rich) they will be able to make good decisions about how to spend the money to help the community. In fact, their decisions will be better than those of the people of the community themselves.”
 - Andrew Carnegie

- Liberal: it is the job of the government to regulate business to best benefit society. If you can afford to give to help out the lower classes, you should.
 - “Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Workers of the world unite!”
 - Karl Marx

Your job

- Research the economic policies of either Alexander Hamilton, Henry Clay, or Abraham Lincoln. You will be responsible for:
 - Identifying five key ideas you individual had about the economy, especially focusing on their views of the relationship between government and the economy/business
 - Identify the criticism your individual faced: who did not support the plan and why.