

Source: [KBHistoryMasterIndex](#)

1 | Colbert and Smith

1.1 | Colbert: Memoir on Finances

Colbert: minister of finance, minister of marine and colonies; proponent of mercantilism — states regulate economic activities to increase wealth.

- Can't increase French currency supply
- Believes that the king should... Control? trading through the West
- That trading companies control much of the value generated is dangerous
- Could control and restrict trading companies to solve currency problem?

1.2 | Smith: Wealth of Nations

- Division of Labor
 - Division of labor occurs naturally, without human intervention
 - No other species does this — and instead seem to opt for independence + self-sufficiency
 - Humans have the tendency to help others
 - Humans operate not for benevolence, but instead help for self-interest
 - “give me that which I want, and you shall have this which you want.”
- Trade
 - Monopolies to the domestic industry => useless/hurtful
 - Only serves to tell people what they should do with their money
 - If a foreign country has a commodity that we need, better buy it than to try to make it ourselves
- Duties of Government
 - Three principle Duties
 - Protecting society from violence and invasion
 - Protecting every member of society from injustice
 - Erecting and maintaining public works and public institutions for the interest of the society