

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
- Needs to try to ensure that government is as rich as possible: meaning that one must engage in a *world of money*
 - Encouraged waging of trade wars
 - Take money from other economies
- Merchantilist: wage trade war, measuring success with the nation's wealth + seizure of trade. Goal = spend less, earn more, monopolize

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
- Capitalist: trade is better. Don't measure with how much wealth you have