

Like a Well-Oiled Machine?

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776).

“All systems either of preference or of restraint, therefore, being thus completely taken away, the obvious and simple system of *natural liberty establishes itself of its own accord*. Every man, as long as he does not violate the laws of justice, is left perfectly free to pursue his own interest in his own way, and to bring both his industry and capital into competition with those of any other man, or order of men.”

James Madison, *Federalist Number 10* (1787).

“Among the numerous advantages promised by a well-constructed Union, none deserves to be more accurately developed than its *tendency to break and control the violence of faction*. . . Complaints are everywhere heard from our most considerate and virtuous citizens, . . . that our governments are too unstable, that the public good is disregarded in the conflict of rival parties, and that measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the right of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority. . . . (T)he most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distributions of property.”

Karl Marx, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848).

“The history of all hitherto existing societies is the *history of class struggle*. . . . The bourgeoisie has played a most revolutionary role in history. . . . Modern bourgeois private property is the final and most complete expression of the system of producing and appropriating products that is based on class antagonisms, on the exploitation of the many by the few.”

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (1859).

“(F)rom the war of nature, from famine and death, the most exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, namely the production of the higher animals, directly follows. There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the *fixed law of gravity*, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.”

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (1859).

“The majority, being satisfied with the ways of mankind as they now are (for it is they who make them what they are), cannot comprehend why those ways should not be good enough for everybody.”