

NAME: _____

MAH-Sunderland DUE DATE: _____

Role Play Guide for:

Laissez-Faire vs. Social Gospel

CQ#2: Analyze and evaluate the philosophies of laissez faire and social gospel thinkers.

Scenario: In light of all the changes brought about industrialization, Congress has formed a commission to provide advice on whether Congress should pass a bill that taxes wealth. The revenue from the tax would be used to provide aid to poor Americans. This bill is colloquially called “The Robin Hood” bill. (The nuts and bolts of the tax and the distribution of revenue is not necessary at this point. The issue is whether the very idea is worthwhile.)

Overview:

- ❑ Students divided into 7 Roles:
 - Adam Smith (Thinker A)
 - Herbert Spencer (Thinker B)
 - William Graham Sumner (Thinker C)
 - Andrew Carnegie (Thinker D) & Horatio Alger (Thinker E)
 - Henry George (Thinker F) & Washington Gladden (Thinker H)
 - Richard Ely (Thinker G)
 - Lester Frank Ward (Thinker I) and Thorstein Veblen (Thinker J)
- ❑ Sunderland takes the role of Congress
- ❑ Each student will take the perspective of his/her thinker(s) in whole class discussion as s/he attempts to convince Congress whether to move forward with the Robin Hood bill.

Homework #1: Character Preparation—In preparation for the role play, read ALL of “Should the Government Role by Laissez-Faire or the General Welfare State” and complete the character preparation chart on the back. The point of this assignment is to familiarize yourself with the different arguments. Be sure to delve deeply into the arguments and seek to understand the unique points made by each thinker. Pay special attention to your thinker(s).

Homework#2: Discussion Reflection—For this assignment, you step out of your role and back into yourself. After the in-class role play discussion, write a 1 double spaced page reflection on the issue of what role should government take in society. Again, you write from your own perspective as a student in Modern American History class NOT your role in the role-play.

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Thinker	Main Arguments
(Your Role(s))	