

## *The Business of America Worksheet*

Directions – Read the following quotes illustrating the philosophy of presidents & others during the 1920s. After reading, use the information you learned & complete the questions on the other side. For the questions, mark each statement with either an “A” if it is consistent with the philosophy expressed in the quotes or a “B” if it is inconsistent with the philosophy expressed in the quotes.

“Let Wall Street have a nightmare and the whole country has to help get them back in bed again.”

-Will Rogers, humorist & political commentator (1920)

“Not heroism but healing, not nostrums but normalcy, not revolution but restoration, not agitation but adjustment, not surgery but serenity, not the dramatic but the dispassionate, not experiment but equipoise, not submergence in internationality but sustainment in triumphant nationality.”

-Warren G. Harding (1920)

“I have said to the people we mean to have less Government in business as well as more business in Government.”

-Warren G. Harding (1921)

“There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, any time, anywhere!”

-Calvin Coolidge, Governor of Massachusetts, telegram to Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, on the occasion of the Boston Police strike (September 14, 1919)

“It does not at all follow that because abuses exist, it is the concern of the federal government to attempt their reform.”

-Calvin Coolidge, Message to Congress (1925)

“This is a business country...and it wants a business government. I do not mean a government by business nor a government for business, but I do mean a government that will understand business.”

-Calvin Coolidge (1925)

“We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land...We shall soon, with the help of God, be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this nation.”

-Herbert Hoover, acceptance speech for the Republican nomination for President (August 11, 1928)

“The Republican party...restored the Government to its position as an umpire instead of a player in the economic game. For these reasons the American people have gone forward in

progress while the rest of the world has halted, and some countries have even gone backwards.”

-Herbert Hoover, “Rugged Individualism” speech (October 22, 1928)

“Surely no one will consider us lacking in reverence if we say that every one of the ‘principles of modern salesmanship’ on which businessmen so much pride themselves, are brilliantly exemplified in Jesus’ talk and work. The first of these and perhaps the most important is the necessity for ‘putting yourself in step with your prospect.’”

-Bruce Barton, advertising executive and Republican politician

“The business of government is to keep the government out of business – that is, unless business needs government aid.”

-Will Rogers (1927)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The government should place a high tariff on imported goods.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The government should prosecute corporations vigorously for violations of antitrust laws.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The administration should push for lower taxes on corporations & wealthy individuals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The government should lease its old fields to private individuals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The government should increase its spending on health, welfare, & public works.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The government should protect the right of workers to organize & bargain collectively.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The government should encourage certain businesses with subsidies &/or lower taxes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The government should expand its regulation of business for the protection of consumers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Government should not place businessmen on agencies designed to regulate business practices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Government spending should be kept at a minimum.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. If left alone, business can insure prosperity for all Americans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Government should assume an active role in regulating the economy & promoting full employment.