

**Related Issue 2 Minor Written Response**  
**by Jocelyn Woelfle**

In Source 1, the author is showing the reality of the burdens of both taxes and freedom. The programs listed in the word “taxes”, such as education, healthcare, and welfare are examples of social welfare programs which are provided for citizens in Canada and funded by taxes. The word “taxes” is written in large font to symbolize that in order for Canadians to receive these benefits, we must contribute by paying higher taxes than if these programs were not provided. The burden of freedom in America is symbolized by the absence of the list of social programs in the word “taxes”. The author is conveying that the “burden” of freedom in America is decreased social programs in return for paying fewer taxes. A challenge that modern liberals face in the twentieth century is the decision whether or not to raise taxes. The reality portrayed by the artist is that in order for services to be provided for citizens, taxes must be paid. Connected to this is that citizens cannot expect to be supplied with social programs if they do not want to pay the taxes needed to fund these programs. Modern liberals have accepted that taxes are needed to provide services. However they still face the challenge of how much taxes should be raised in order to balance the freedom of individuals with the desire for equality among citizens and the need to take care of the collective group.

The image in Source 2 shows a line up of people who may be in a soup line or job line and represent the poor and unemployed during the Great Depression. The inscription conveys the message that proof of progress is not seen by giving more to people who already have enough, but by giving to those who have little. The memorial

in the image is commemorating Roosevelt's New Deal, which increased public spending projects during the Great Depression in order to provide jobs for people. Roosevelt's New Deal displayed characteristics of collective interest and economic equality by focusing on social programs to relieve the unemployed and to reform the economy. Source 2 is in support of the government stepping in and taking care of citizens when the economy is down. Modern liberals today face the challenge of to what extent the government should intervene in the economy. An example of this can be seen currently in the United States. Obama is trying to bring modern liberal collective policies into the government through healthcare reforms and bailout packages. However he is challenged in trying to protect the collective group by people who do not want the government to regulate the economy.

In Source 3, Thomas Kirkpatrick is speaking in support of capitalist ideas. The Ford Motor Company believes that "unions serve to undermine the forces of the free market" and that "a union in the Ford Motor Company will not solve the problems". These statements clearly show support for a laissez-faire economy in which there is no interference or intervention in the economy. Kirkpatrick states that Ford will protect the "invisible hand" idea coined by Adam Smith, which states that self-interest and competition will help the economy to prosper without government intervention. These statements were made during the Great Depression, when the poor economy caused many workers to be laid off. Kirkpatrick states that Ford is "confident the economic recession will correct itself". This statement shows Ford's confidence that capitalist principles such as economic freedom and self interest will cause the economy to recover on its own. Companies in today's economy are faced with the same problem as

companies during the Great Depression, in that when the economy is suffering workers must be laid off. This is a challenge to modern liberalism because principals of liberalism include protecting the rights of individuals, which may include unions because unions provide workers with many rights. However liberalism also supports individual freedoms and some individual freedoms may be taken away by unions because they work to serve the group as a whole, not the individual.

Sources 2 and 3 offer opposing perspectives on outside intervention in the economy. Source 2 supports government intervention during tough times through social programs because it maintains the modern liberal principle of looking after the collective group. Source 3 however is opposed to any intervention in the economy, especially unions, even when the economy is down. Source 3 promotes that a capitalist economy is best for everyone and the “invisible hand” will correct the problems in the economy without any outside help. Source 1 supports the perspective of Source 3 because it shows that through increased taxes, the government can provide more social programs which will benefit the citizens. Source 1 is also related to Source 3 in that it shows the consequences of a completely capitalist economy. Without any government intervention, there are no safety nets for workers when the economy falls and workers are laid off such as what happened during the Great Depression. The three sources show that there are always challenges to liberalism and there are different perspectives on what these challenges are.