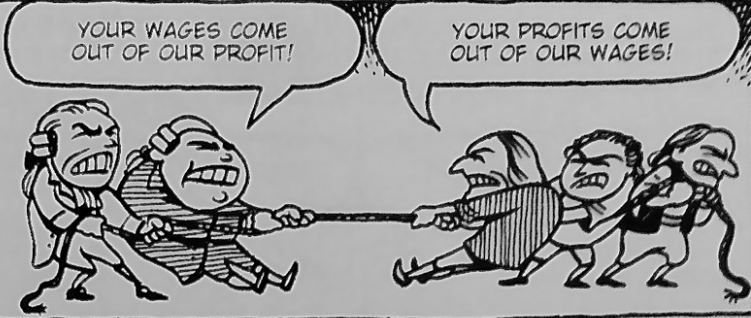


THE INVISIBLE HAND (THE DISTANT PAST TO 1820)

Smith didn't just think interest should be low; he thought the same about **profit**. Smith thought that high profits were **bad**, because you couldn't have high profits and high wages at the same time.



High wages weren't just in workers' interest; they were in **society's** interest, because almost everyone **in** society was a worker. That's still true today: If your income comes from the work you do, and not from rent or profit, **you're** a worker.



Which brings up a point so basic that it can be hard to see.



"NO SOCIETY CAN SURELY BE FLOURISHING AND HAPPY, OF WHICH THE FAR GREATER PART OF THE MEMBERS [THE WORKERS] ARE POOR AND MISERABLE."

So when capitalists followed their self-interest and paid low wages, that was **bad** for society.



Same if they raised prices: when prices rose, **real wages**—not the money itself, but what the money would buy—fell.

HIGH PRICES AND LOW WAGES ARE THE SAME DAMN THING!

