



THE SETUP

Six interests share one board of six sliders.

Project the board. Split the class into the six groups below and hand each group its page. On its turn a group drags **one slider** up to **three notches** and presses **Done**. Turn order is redrawn every round. Three rounds, eighteen moves, 1750 to 1900.

BEFORE YOU START • 5 MIN

Keep page 1. Hand out pages 2–7, one per group.

Give the Colonial Producers to students who will argue. They have no vote in any parliament that sets these sliders, and their page says so.

EACH ROUND • 10–12 MIN

The group at the board drags a slider. **The graphs move as they drag**, before they press Done.

Different sliders drive Output and Urban Life Expectancy. Build the works without the drains and life expectancy falls.

WATCH FOR THE TUG OF WAR

The Owners can pull back any hours law the Reformers just won.

Every notch spent undoing another group's move raises Unrest.

BETWEEN ROUNDS • 3 MIN

History moves sliders by itself. After round 1 steam power raises Public Investment and Colonial Extraction. After round 2 cholera raises Sanitation & Housing.

Read the card aloud. Groups fill in their reflection lines while it is on screen.

THE SIX GROUPS

The Factory Owners

Cheap coal, cheap labor, no inspector.

The Industrial Workers

Ten hours and the right to stop work.

The Landed Interest

Protect the corn. Cheap grain ruins us.

The State

Rail, drains and schools are strategy.

The Colonial Producers

The cotton is ours; the price is set in London.

The Reformers

We counted the dead. Read the report.

WHAT THE FOUR MEASURES MEAN

MEASURE	STARTS AT	WHERE IT STOOD IN 1900
Industrial output	20	World manufacturing roughly nine times its 1750 level — call it 60
Urban life expectancy	31 yrs	About 46 in British cities, after falling to 29 in the worst of the 1840s
Wealth reaching workers	4	Real wages roughly doubled after 1850; a third of London still below subsistence
Unrest	19	Mass unions, socialist parties and the great dock and mining strikes — call it 45

Groups do not see this table. Life expectancy is in years; the other three are estimates for discussion, not measurements.



The Factory Owners

"Cheap coal, cheap labor, and no inspector at the gate."

You borrowed everything you had to build a mill on a stream, then to put a steam engine in it. Your costs are coal, cotton and wages, and wages are the only one you control. In your account, you turned a village of hand-spinners into a town with a payroll. Every law about the inside of your mill is written by someone who has never read a balance sheet.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
Hours & Safety Law	0 – No law reaches inside the mill gate	 hold at 0	An hour legislated away is an hour of output gone for good.
The Right to Organize	0 – A union is a criminal conspiracy	 hold at 0	A combination of workmen is a conspiracy against the trade itself.
Free Trade	2 – Monopoly charters and a wall of duties	 push up to 10	We can undersell anyone on earth. Open the ports and let us.
Colonial Extraction	4 – Favorable treaties, no direct rule	 push up to 9	The raw material has to arrive cheap or none of this works.
Public Investment	1 – Nothing the market will not fund itself	 push up to 3	Railways pay for themselves. Sewers do not.
Sanitation & Housing	1 – Cellars, courts and one privy to thirty families	 push up to 2	A man may live where he can afford to live.

Gray box = where it starts. Colored box = where you want it. You get three moves, one per round, of up to three notches each. Any group can move any slider, including back.

PRIMARY SOURCE

This invention confirms the great doctrine already propounded, that when capital enlists science in her service, the refractory hand of labour will always be taught docility.

Andrew Ure, *The Philosophy of Manufactures*, 1835

Ure says machines exist to make workers obey. Which two sliders will the owners defend hardest?

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

Round 1: which slider did you move, and which one did you leave alone to do it?

Name a group that pulled a slider back the other way. What did that cost on the graphs?

After the final board: your group scored a percentage. Did the graphs improve while you got it? Cite one number.



The Industrial Workers

"Ten hours, a wage that feeds a family, and the right to stop work."

You left the land when enclosure closed it to you. Now you work twelve to fourteen hours in a room white with cotton dust, beside machines with no guards. Your children work too, because your wage alone does not feed the family. Within living memory, joining with other workers to ask for anything was a crime. You have the numbers and nothing else.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
Hours & Safety Law	0 – No law reaches inside the mill gate	 ► push up to 10	Twelve and fourteen hours from the age of nine. Our first demand.
The Right to Organize	0 – A union is a criminal conspiracy	 ► push up to 10	One man asking is begging. Five hundred asking is a negotiation.
Free Trade	2 – Monopoly charters and a wall of duties	 ► push up to 6	Cheap bread matters more to us than a protected employer does.
Colonial Extraction	4 – Favorable treaties, no direct rule	 ◄ pull down to 3	The men in the colonies are being worked the way we were in 1810.
Public Investment	1 – Nothing the market will not fund itself	 ► push up to 8	Public works are public jobs, and drains are jobs too.
Sanitation & Housing	1 – Cellars, courts and one privy to thirty families	 ► push up to 9	We are burying our children at a rate the countryside does not.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

Your petitioners complain that they are enormously taxed to pay the interest of what is termed the national debt... Your honourable House has enacted laws contrary to the expressed wishes of the people, and by unconstitutional means enforced them.

The National Petition of the Chartists, presented to Parliament, 1842 – signed by over three million people and rejected

Three million signatures and Parliament said no. What does that tell the workers about which slider matters most to move first?

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The Landed Interest

"Protect the corn, and keep the mill owners out of Parliament."

Your family has held its land for generations. Your rents depend on the price of grain, and the price of grain depends on the Corn Laws keeping foreign wheat out. The mill owners want those laws repealed so bread is cheap and wages can fall. You control the House of Lords and many county seats in the Commons.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
Hours & Safety Law	0 – No law reaches inside the mill gate	 ► push up to 3	A shorter day in the mills is no concern of ours, but the principle is sound.
The Right to Organize	0 – A union is a criminal conspiracy	 ► push up to 1	A combination in the fields is a rick burning. We have seen it.
Free Trade	2 – Monopoly charters and a wall of duties	 ◄ pull down to 0	Cheap foreign grain ruins every acre in England.
Colonial Extraction	4 – Favorable treaties, no direct rule	 ► push up to 6	Our capital is in the sugar islands as much as in the shires.
Public Investment	1 – Nothing the market will not fund itself	 ► push up to 2	Rates fall on land. Every public work is a tax on us.
Sanitation & Housing	1 – Cellars, courts and one privy to thirty families	 ► push up to 3	The towns made their own filth. Let the towns pay for it.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

It is by the price of corn that the price of labour, and consequently of most other commodities, is essentially regulated... A fall in the price of corn would not permanently improve the condition of the labouring classes.

Thomas Malthus, Observations on the Effects of the Corn Laws, 1815

Malthus argues that cheap bread would not help the poor. Who benefits most from that argument being believed?

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The State

"A nation that cannot feed, move or muster itself cannot survive."

You are a government, and you need industry for power, not profit. Rail moves troops. Telegraph moves orders. Steel makes guns. But your recruiters reject men from the mill towns as too small and too sick to march, and cholera does not stop at the good end of the street. To get the industry you need, you will have to regulate it.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
Hours & Safety Law	0 – No law reaches inside the mill gate	 ► push up to 5	Conscripts who grew up in a mill at nine cannot pass a medical.
The Right to Organize	0 – A union is a criminal conspiracy	 ► push up to 3	Better a union we can negotiate with than a riot we have to shoot at.
Free Trade	2 – Monopoly charters and a wall of duties	 ► push up to 7	Open markets, where we are ahead. Protection where we are behind.
Colonial Extraction	4 – Favorable treaties, no direct rule	 ► push up to 9	Raw materials and captive customers are what makes a great power.
Public Investment	1 – Nothing the market will not fund itself	 ► push up to 9	Rail, telegraph and drains are strategy, not charity.
Sanitation & Housing	1 – Cellars, courts and one privy to thirty families	 ► push up to 7	Cholera does not stop at the good end of town.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

The power of producing wealth is therefore infinitely more important than wealth itself... The nation must sacrifice and give up a measure of material property in order to gain culture, skill, and powers of united production.

Friedrich List, *The National System of Political Economy*, 1841

List argues against free trade on national, not economic, grounds. Which other group in this room agrees with him, and for what different reason?

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

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The Colonial Producers

"The cotton is ours, the rubber is ours, and the price is set in London."

You grow the cotton, tap the rubber, mine the tin and cut the cane. Before the mills, India made about a quarter of the world's manufactured goods and Bengal muslin was the finest cloth anyone sold. Now your raw material leaves at a price set somewhere else and comes back as machine cloth your own weavers cannot compete with. You have no vote in any parliament that moves these sliders.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
Hours & Safety Law	0 – No law reaches inside the mill gate	no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.
The Right to Organize	0 – A union is a criminal conspiracy	► push up to 7	Our workers are organizing too, in Bombay and in the cane fields.
Free Trade	2 – Monopoly charters and a wall of duties	hold at 2	Free trade closed our looms and opened our markets. It is not free for us.
Colonial Extraction	4 – Favorable treaties, no direct rule	◀ pull down to 0	Our first demand: we set our own price.
Public Investment	1 – Nothing the market will not fund itself	► push up to 6	Build the railway to the port and it serves you, not us.
Sanitation & Housing	1 – Cellars, courts and one privy to thirty families	no position	No position. Spend your moves elsewhere.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

The drain consists of two elements — the first arising from the remittances by European officials of their savings... the second arising from the remittances by non-official Europeans of their savings... India must be bled, but the bleeding should be done judiciously.

Dadabhai Naoroji, Poverty and Un-British Rule in India, 1901, quoting an earlier official minute

Naoroji uses the government's own words about bleeding India. Why quote them rather than argue in his own voice?

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The Reformers

"Chadwick counted the dead. Read the report and then argue with me."

You are select committees, medical officers, factory inspectors, statistical societies and many clergymen. You take sworn evidence, count and publish. Chadwick finds that the average laborer in Manchester dies at seventeen and the average gentleman in rural Rutland at fifty-two. You are told every reform will ruin trade, and you ask to see the figures.

WHERE YOU WANT THE SIX SLIDERS

SLIDER	WHERE IT STARTS	YOU WANT	YOUR CASE
Hours & Safety Law	0 – No law reaches inside the mill gate	 ► push up to 9	We took the evidence under oath. Children were maimed and nobody was liable.
The Right to Organize	0 – A union is a criminal conspiracy	 ► push up to 5	Men who cannot bargain will eventually do something worse than bargain.
Free Trade	2 – Monopoly charters and a wall of duties	 ► push up to 5	We are not economists. We are counting graves.
Colonial Extraction	4 – Favorable treaties, no direct rule	 ◄ pull down to 2	What is done in the Congo is done by the same logic and further from the newspapers.
Public Investment	1 – Nothing the market will not fund itself	 ► push up to 8	Clean water is the cheapest thing a government ever bought.
Sanitation & Housing	1 – Cellars, courts and one privy to thirty families	 ► push up to 10	Hundreds of people to an acre, and then we are surprised by cholera.

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PRIMARY SOURCE

That the annual loss of life from filth and bad ventilation are greater than the loss from death or wounds in any wars in which the country has been engaged in modern times.

Edwin Chadwick, Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain, 1842

Reformers won most of these arguments, slowly. Which slider should a reformer spend the first move on, and why?

REFLECTION • FILL IN AS YOU PLAY

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