“The natural effort of every individual to better his own condition is so powerful a principle, that it is alone, and without assistance, not only capable of carrying on the society to wealth and prosperity, but of surmounting a hundred impertinent obstructions with which the folly of human laws too often encumber everyone….”

1. Why would people be free to make their own economic decisions?
2. Why should society benefit from everyone being able to make their own economic decisions?
3. Why would too many laws by the government have a negative effect on such economic freedom?

“Commerce and manufacturing can seldom flourish long in any situation which does not allow for a regular system of justice…. The people must feel secure in the possession of themselves, their property, and the faith of contracts and have a certain degree of faith in the government to be fair and just when conflicts arise…..”

1. Under what circumstances does Adam Smith feel the government needs to be involved in the free market system?
2. Why is it important that people “feel secure in the possession of themselves, property…contracts….faith in the government to be fair….”?

How does this relate to someone who owns a business? A consumer who is shopping for a new car? A consumer who has a complaint about a faulty appliance?