Discussion Questions on Rand Smith’s *The Left’s Dirty Job*:

(1) What were the major reasons the compelled Mitterand to move away from *relance* and towards a policy of neoliberal *rigueur*? Be prepared to discuss three variables.

(2) What were the major political and economic influences on the Socialist government led by Felipe González? How did these influences shape the content of reforms proposed during the 1980s? Be sure to list two major influences and at least three major aspects to the reforms themselves. How did priorities change during the various terms the Socialists remained in power?

What were the primary political costs the Socialists paid for engaging in the economic reform agenda they embraced? Might the Socialists have avoided these costs?

(3) In what ways were the politics of economic reform in Spain and France different from the way that the SMEs and Britain as an LME handled the challenges of the 1980s and 1990s? Focus on political institutions and actors.