Private business and businessmen
Who is a businessman?

- A person who is an owner of private fortune and whose quest is to produce income!

- Negative perspective

- Positive perspective
Negative perspective

- Marx influence
- Negative characteristics - exploiter, capitalist ect.
- Someone who thinks only on the own income, without thinking of anybody else
- In Czech ambiance also connected with the envy and memories on the wild capitalism in the 1990s.
Positive connotations

- The quest of a business is not only making money but also promoting a certain kind of values which are crucial for the modern Euro Atlantic secular society.

- Businessmen became a symbol of the modern democratic society – It is the key middle class.
Max Weber, Protestant ethics and the spirit of capitalism

- Key idea – spirit of capitalism – ethos of the work as meaning which is specific for the ideology of strict protestant fractions
- The man is obliged to enlarge his capital not for the profit itself, without satisfying with it his everyday needs in the life
- The desire for profit is needed to be distinguished from exploiting which is a non detachable part of human history but was always in opposition to the real capitalism
Funny moment: Did you know that even double crossing business villains have their rules?

• "A conscience is like a boat or a car. If you feel you need one, rent it."

• "Never tell the truth when a good lie'll do!"
Ferengi rules of acquisition

5. If you can't break a contract, bend it.
6. Never allow family to stand in the way of opportunity.
13. Anything worth doing is worth doing for money.
14. Anything stolen is pure profit.
15. Acting stupid is often smart.
16. A deal is a deal...until a better one comes along.
20. When the customer is sweating, turn up the heat.
23. Nothing is more important than your health, except for your money.
27. There's nothing more dangerous than an honest businessman.
33. It never hurts to suck up to the boss.
34. War is good for business.
35. Peace is good for business.
45. Expand or die
47. Never trust a man wearing a better suit than your own.
48. The bigger the smile, the sharper the knife.
52. Never ask when you can take.
57. Good customers are as rare as latinum--treasure them.
58. There is no substitute for success.
59. Free advice is seldom cheap.
60. Keep your lies consistent.
89. Ask not what your profits can do for you, but what you can do for your profits.
94. Females and finances don't mix.
112. Never have sex with the boss's sister.
113. Always have sex with the boss.
121. Everything is for sale, even friendship.
142. More is good...all is better.
255. A wife is a luxury...a smart accountant a necessity.
Critics of Weber

- Explaining his nationalistic vision and leading role of Prussia
- The same approach can be found by Catholics too
- Weber didn't respect historical facts – the northern countries took the place which was held earlier by the known centers of capitalism in the Mediterranean area.
Ideal conditions for the emergence of businessmen

- Existence of a commonly admired commodity
- Existence of a group in society which is not depended on a natural exchange
- Respect toward the private property
- Existence of market
- Secularization of the state
- Economic area is a self-sufficient area of human activity
- Background of ideas or ethics
- Respect toward the education and performance of an individual
- trust
„Trade“ states and republics

- Hansa
- Italian city states
- Netherlands
Key period for the enrollment of businesses – industrialization on the 19th Century

- Magnificent technological development enabled to start many of unknown industrial franchises
- Creating a new social class – bourgeoisie, businessmen
- Railway, steel factories, consumer industry – hotels, services, car industry, media – newspaper, TV, computers, sports – soccer, hokey
Czech Businessmen

- Emil Kolben
- Tomáš Baťa
- Jaroslav Preiss
- Petr Kellner