

**Click here to view
current issues**
on the Chicago Journals website.

Review

Reviewed Work(s): *The Menace of Privilege: A Study of the Dangers to the Republic From the Existence of a Favored Class.* by Henry George,

Review by: Scott E. W. Bedford

Source: *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 11, No. 6 (May, 1906), pp. 851-852

Published by: The University of Chicago Press

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2762842>

Accessed: 16-02-2022 21:21 UTC

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

The University of Chicago Press is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *American Journal of Sociology*

biblical domain which must be considered by all lovers of truth, and that a decided readjustment of theology is demanded, although critical scholars have talked for years about the prophet's special reference to the men of his own time, and his use of language applicable to that time, and they have written valuable books descriptive of the various epochs involved. It may be that it is reserved for pure sociology to make real for us the relation of the social forces of the past, so that we may understand and appreciate the human side of those innumerable ideas that conditioned the growth of the Hebrew people and the development of their theology. In the hope that this may be so, the reviewer reaches out his hand to the author. It must be understood, of course, and would be recognized by the author, that the theologian must have the last word, just as he has had with the evolutionists, and he will be glad to show that all the natural movements of the ages are the workings of spiritual forces called out by the ultimate power in the universe, the immanent God, of whom the Bible tells.

For the better understanding of this book, the author's *Examination of Society* (1903), and his *Seminary Studies in Old Testament History* (1904), should be read, as well as his (unpublished) *Provisional Outline of a Course in Biblical Introduction to Sociology*.

CHARLES RUFUS BROWN.

NEWTON CENTER, MASS.

The Menace of Privilege: A Study of the Dangers to the Republic from the Existence of a Favored Class. By HENRY GEORGE, JR. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1905. Pp. ix+421.

There are two bitter enemies in American society. A war is in progress between them. They are Privilege and Labor. The cause of the contest is not production of wealth, but its distribution. Mr. George investigates these enemies and their struggle. He studies first the princes of privileges—their habits of life, amusements, dissipations, marital relations, and aristocratic tendencies. Here is a fund of information about the lives of our princes of wealth. The other opponent is the victim of privilege; he is the laborer. A study is made of his physical, mental, and moral deterioration, together with his efforts for defense in the labor unions. A chapter is devoted to the dangers of unionism. The wealthy class enjoys extraordinary privileges or "weapons" in the battle. Among these weapons are

the use of the courts, government by injunction, the use of the federal army in strikes, corruption of state and national politics, the influencing of public opinion by purchase or intimidation of the press, and by gifts to the university and pulpit. All this is seen to result in a centralization of government and a directing of public notice away from real conditions at home to a policy of foreign aggression. A parallelism is noted with preceding nations which now are in ruin.

Eight chapters are devoted to the investigation, and one to the remedy. Coming from Mr. George, the remedy can be surmised: (1) stop taxation evils and immunities by taxing land monopoly to death, (2) take all public highway functions into public hands. Mr. George's investigations are valuable in supplying a rich collection of current material on important questions. The book is a veritable mine of information. One merit of his investigation is concrete illustrations of his statements and definite references to substantiate his arguments. Particularly interesting are his discussions of government by injunction, and gifts by the wealthy to the missionary societies, universities, and churches. He justly distinguishes between capital and privilege, recording the fact that privilege is sometimes miscalled capital. He nevertheless fails to credit capital sufficiently for the part it has performed in our industrial advancement. Another merit is the absence of pessimism. Nowhere does Mr. George lose faith in the masses, the princes of privileges, our industrial order, or system of government; but he is hopeful for improvement.

While Mr. George has investigated extensively and accurately, the reader feels that he is more than an investigator, he has a solution. One feels he has a theory to prove. Can a man be a successful investigator and propagandist at the same time, without allowing the investigation to be prejudiced in its bearing? Most men cannot perform both these rôles at the same time. However, one chapter only in the nine is given to the remedy, and yet many insinuations and suggestions as to the remedy are found throughout the investigation. His repeated references to the early industrial conditions of our country add nothing to his argument, because the advancement has been so great.

The book is clear in presentation and logical arrangement. It is a valuable contribution to the study of our social and industrial problems—a book of unusual merit and interest.

SCOTT E. W. BEDFORD.