

THE MISSING CLAUSE - IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS

THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE

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ABSTRACTS

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AUTHORS:

	Page
Phillip Anderson (Australia)	21
Lionel Boorman (Australia)	15
Stephen Cantor/by proxy (Australia)	26
Tamara Chistyakova (Russia)	11
George Collins (US)	7
Helen I. Fjortoft (UK)	5
Fernando Scornik Gerstein (UK)	20
Peter Gibb (Scotland)	7
Richard Giles (Australia)	14
C. Lowell Harriss (US)	27
Alanna Hartzok (US)	7
John Hatherley (UK)	10
Kidane Hiwot (Ethiopia)	19
Jørn Jensen (DK)	26
Ian Lambert (Cayman Isles)	3, 4
Viktor Ledenyov (Ukraine)	14
Ole Lefmann (DK)	25
Ewen Lorch-Falck (N)	22
Richard Noyes (US)	6
J.J. Pot (NL)	25
Bernhard Rooney (Australia)	26
Tatyana Roskoshnaya (Russia)	12
Stan Rubinstein (US)	4
Jack Schwartzman (US)	9
Jeff Smith (US)	16
Bent Straarup (DK)	18
Galina Titova (Russia)	13
Antony V. Trowbridge (RSA).	23

**RIGHTING WRONGS - AN END TO THE LANGUAGE OF
RIGHTS AND THE REBIRTH OF FREEDOM.**

(subtitle: why the Bill of Rights missed out the land for the people)

By Ian T.G. Lambert

Why did the Bill of Rights miss out the land for the people? The simple answer is that it was a private landowners' (and slaveowners') charter.

The modern state has its foundation in the assertion, by force, of sovereignty over a particular territory. "I am the Law" says the King, "and all of this territory belongs to me". There is no natural justification for this. The doctrine of "the divine rights of kings" is an attempt to create a natural justification for an obvious wrong.

This assertion of sovereignty requires the assertion of positive law to enforce it. In such a legal system, all land is held by landowners by some form of grant from the King, in return for service. The ensuing history of such a state has always been one of an attempt by landowners to retain the benefits of landownership while shrugging off the duties and responsibilities that accompany it. Hence the shift from service in-kind to the payment of taxes, and the shift of taxes off land and on to production. Classic example is the Magna Carta, securing the rights of landowners as against the King.

Similarly, the American Bill of Rights is a concerted attempt to limit the power of the State to interfere with and in the private domain of landowners. The State is necessary because its function is first and foremost to protect landownership - private sovereignty of landowners. Hence the titanic struggle to abolish slavery, and the enormous resistance to the Federal Income Tax.

The thesis of this paper is that our current language of rights conceals great wrongs. Rights are either freedoms or entitlements to enforce the duties of others. The modern proliferation of social rights imposes ever greater burdens on the community. A free society cannot be founded on burdens. Freedoms are the foundations of a free society. Government can never create them; it can only ever safeguard them, as a windbreak shelters a plant.

FREEDOM AND MONOPOLY

[How untaxed private property in land obstructs the growth of a free market and free society.]

By Ian T.G. Lambert

Man is a land animal. All activity of man takes place on or over Land. (defined in its economic sense, to include the seas and the skies). The characteristic of monopoly is not the existence of a single supplier but the ability to exclude further participants from entering the market as suppliers. All markets are to some degree territorial. To interfere with economic activity in any territory is to interfere with the market in that territory. Private land ownership confers the right on the owner to regulate (through the power to choose tenants) economic activity on his land. The grant of private monopolies is frequently motivated by the desire to maximise rent, and hence to benefit the landlord rather than the monopoly supplier. A free society cannot exist without a free market. A free market can only exist where all potential suppliers have equal access to the market. Primarily this requires equal access to the Land on or over which production is to take place. This can only be achieved in practice by the government collection of the Economic Rent through the revenue system. Untaxed private property in Land obstructs the growth of a free market and therefore of a free society.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE - WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

by Stan Rubinstein

A revolutionary document, the Declaration not only impacted events in the colonies but throughout the world. Within its literary excellence is the emphasis upon the human element, man's relation to government and nature, and natural rights. The oft quoted "life, liberty and nature, and pursuit of happiness" epitomizes a segment of this philosophy. Using an historical approach, this paper will examine the influence of both the Colonists and the English writers on this document. In the forefront of Americans is Thomas Jefferson and on the other side of the Atlantic are the writings of John Locke. Woven into the ideas of these two giants are the philosophies of Paine, Rousseau and John Adams, to mention several.

The focal point of this paper will be a concentration on human rights - as defined during the 18th century. Two 17th century revolutions in England - the Puritan and the Glorious in 1688 - had opposite effects on human rights. Intertwined with the former were the writings of Thomas Locke and natural rights. Both of these revolutions and both of these writers influenced two major players - Jefferson and King George III.

Although Jefferson enunciated "pursuit of happiness", was properly an "inalienable right" as it was according to Locke? The writings of the author of the Declaration of Independence will shed light on this questions as his thoughts on land and land tenure are reviewed.

"FILL THE RIGHTS GAP"

By Helen I. Fjortoft

Chastened and sobered after the second of the two tragic World Wars, in the hope of avoiding any repetition, the UN set up a committee under the chairperson ship of Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, to draw up the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, adopted by the UN 10/12/48, thenceforward Human Rights Day, celebrated annually worldwide.

Mrs Roosevelt experienced considerable difficulty in achieving agreement to the 30 Articles of the Declaration, on Fundamental, Personal, Legal, Civil, Social & Economic Rights and the consequent Duties and Responsibilities, with the UN Charter, blueprints for lasting peace, freedom and justice, disregarded at our peril, and binding on all UN members as such.

Regrettably, not explicit, but implicit in the letter and spirit of the UDHR must be the moral right of the community to collect the Site Value of land, which it has generated by its existence and activities, private and public, gradually reducing unfair and disincentive taxes, and essential to implementing the aims of the Economic and Social activities of the Declaration.

NGO status with the UN Economic and Social Council at Geneva will stimulate international action to increase the proportion of Site Value collected, worldwide, from the 2% already called for by the UN. Indeed, when the periodic U.K. HUMAN RIGHTS report was presented in 1989, a representative from Cyprus, Mr. Sparsis of

Nicosia enquired how it was that, with all U.K. industrial and commercial development, poverty still persisted there! a pity there were no Georgists there to enlighten those present.

Nationally, Georgists can be encouraged to (once again) approach their local press and media (with sample letters in "Land & Liberty" etc) also their local MP's and councillors, seeking to relate their interests to Site Value Taxation. In UK the call can be for a shift of assessment of Council Tax Off buildings, onto the Site Value of land, gradually, as has been done in Pittsburgh to very good effect, enabling the closing of homeless centres no longer needed due to provision of privately-financed affordable inner-city accommodations with the resulting jobs, not only in the building trade - all no doubt thanks to Steven Cord and his colleague.

PROPERTY RIGHTS: A COMMONSENSISM?

By Richard Noyes

The persistent public failure to see "property" as an ambiguous concept, with property in land being antithetical to wealth, is and has long been a major impediment, to the understanding of Georgist theory. The ambiguity which appears in Article V of the United States Bill of Rights, and elsewhere, creates a logical impasse central to the conference theme. Since solving any problem begins with understanding it there is reason to examine a new concept in logic. Commonsensism has been defined as proposition so widespread that many accept it "without having been able to genuinely doubt, and consequently without being able to subject [it] to any real criticism". The paper will review literature including a major contribution from Charles Peirce, contemporary of Henry George, to find what help it may provide in removing the impediment. Two groups of material need review: functional and analytical. The first group ranges from the bold-faced sentence on the first page of CIT's new booklet, *The Big Idea* to retrospective comments on property in land which first appeared when James Madison's papers were published in 1865, 75 years after he drafted the American Bill of Rights. Also Thomas Jefferson's substitution of "pursuit of happiness" in the American Declaration of Independence where the word "property" might have been expected. The analytical group of writings to be reviewed for

insight on how a commonsensism might be rooted out include the 12 page chapter in Philosophical Writings of Peirce which Buchler first made available in 1940 and William James's observations on rationality in his book, The Will to Believe. Once the public is able to examine the concept of "property" critically, the Bill of Rights will be more easily clarified.

FINANCING PLANET MANAGEMENT:

Sovereignty, World Order, and the Earth Rights Imperative
by Alanna Hartzok (or read by Pat Aller)

FINANCING PLANET MANAGEMENT: Sovereignty, World Order, and the Earth Rights Imperative articulates the need for a "new democratic covenant" based on the equal rights to earth for all. Directed to the world order, peace, justice, and environmental movements in particular, the essay outlines a decentralized economics approach wherein the ground rent of our common heritage is the fair and proper source of public finance from the local to the global level.

DEVELOPMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

by George Collins

Summarizing the developments in high school programs over the last ten years. At the Holland conference the author noted its inception and now, ten years later, he will detail some of the results.

THE MISSING CLAUSE WHICH EXPLAINS THE MISSING CLAUSE

By Peter Gibb

The 26th Article of the UN Declaration of Human Rights establishes education as an essential right of all human beings. Nowhere, however is The Right to Know One's Own History explicitly layed down as a right of all peoples.

Scotland's history has been largely withhold from its people. Here are three parts of that 'lost' history.

History Part One

Scotland's children today are taught history at school - but it

is really the history of England and of Empire that is taught, and not our own history. Our children are ignorant of much of our land's critical history: the story of the Highland Land Clearances, for instance, is not taught at school. While the knowledge of such key historical events remain oppressed within our collective cultural psyche, how can we, as a nation, be empowered to rise and take in hand our own future?

History Part Two

Scotland's highland landscape is admired the world over. Yet how many Scots, even, know that this landscape is a barren impoverishment of its former self - that it is in fact a man-made wet desert? As Sir Frank Fraser Darling said in 1949, "this is a melancholy history". Still the Scottish Tourist Board boasts of our "beautiful unspoilt wildlife wilderness", and of our "quaint highland communities". The ecological desecration of our landscape (helped at some point by Danish Vikings?) is an unacknowledged historical fact which is fundamentally responsible for the present-day social, cultural and economic crises in the Highlands. This debilitating history will first have to be recognized, then remedied, before any symptomatic ills can be treated.

History Part Three

Scots have made a quite exceptional contribution to the whole history of the land reform movement. Proto-Georgists like William Ogilvie (1737-1819) wrote words considered in their time to be more radical than Paine's 'Rights of Man'. Yet who in Scotland today is aware of this history? And does Scotland's actual system of land tenure not completely contrast with this history of radical thought? Ogilvie's seminal work, 'Birthright in Land', is long out of print, and is unavailable for reading from public libraries. Scotland's history of radical ideas in land reform must first be known, before they can be discussed and applied to Scotland's future.

Scotland must now rediscover and relearn its forgotten history. The Scottish Ogilvie Society was established last year as part of this

process of discovery and learning. The Society's aim is the republishing of Ogilvie's 'lost' book, in the belief that the work is now part of the future of Scotland. Scotland will never have The Right To The Land For Her People until she has gained The Right To Know Her Own History. This is the missing clause which explains the missing clause.

THE "DECLINE AND FALL" OF GEORGISM

and a New Modest Proposal

by Jack Schwartzman

The reason why the Danish Georgist movement failed to maintain its initial advantages of 1919 and 1957 (and, instead, shrank to an insignificant group wielding but little influence in Denmark, and practically none in the world) is that it: 1) ignored the message of its founder, Henry George, who proclaimed that his followers should stress the ethical side of his "reform", not the expedient one; 2) abandoned the policy which made Denmark famous, namely that of education especially as exemplified by the noted adult folk high schools; 3) forgot to espouse the eternal tenets of the Natural Law doctrine (constantly emphasized by Henry George), upon which all morality is based; 4) discarded the celebrated slogan of Severin Grundtvig that what had been lost externally to Denmark had to be won internally; 5) did not advertise the great achievement of Denmark; the abolition of land servitude and the establishment of the class of smallholders; and 6) became involved in political activism, which, at best, is merely transitory, temporary and futile. Once a popular political leader is gone, his followers will vanish, lose interest, or die, and the movement will be over. Failure on the part of the Danish Georgists to reach "voters" was blamed on lack of finances, ineffective lobbying, apathy, unfavourable press, and poor organisation. The "real reasons" are never mentioned. The Georgists, unfortunately, have stopped teaching the Georgist views, and the movement is slowly deteriorating. What is needed again is not politics, or the constant harping on the method of land value taxation, but more and more education. Only thus can Georgism return to its old prominence; only thus can the Georgist philosophy prevail.

LET'S RE-ALIGN THE FACTORS OF PRODUCTION

By John Hatherley

Dedicated Georgists often confine attention on economic reform to merely collecting land rent. Even Henry George did not have so narrow view. As we sometimes need to be reminded, he was also strongly in favour of free trade.

We, too, must not confine our ideas to land rent. Labour and capital are essential factors of production which also need correct treatment.

Let us look at Labour first. A successful economy requires a social system in which every individual can develop talent fully.

Take England as an example of a country where such a system does not yet apply. It is still a class-ridden country, even if less so than before. The ghetto's known council estates, Government-subsidised blocks of dwellings for the less-privileged and less wealthy people, stand as monuments to this fact.

Although slightly less so than in the past, education in England places intellectual, academic excellence snobbishly at the top of the level of achievement. The public and grammar schools epitomise this attitude. Ability in technology is regarded as being of a lower order.

Contrast this with the position in the Netherlands and most West German states. There, at the age of about 14, parents, pupils and their teachers meet to decide whether the pupil should study further in a "gymnasium", or in a technical or commercial college. Firms work closely with these colleges in this training. Also Herr Dokter Ingenieur is a respected member of a Board of Management.

We must also work to stop the use of "property" to mean "land and buildings".

Of course land-owners must return rent to the community. These reforms will lead to wider possession of capital. Correct alignment of the three factors of production will increase individual fulfilment and wealth.

(The talk is a summary of a book John Hatherley is writing)

STABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN TERRITORIES AND SETTLEMENTS BASED ON LAND RENT.

By Tamara Chistyakova.

The practical realization of a lot of vital problems for Russia, especially in the sphere of land relations, was complicated by rush in the privatization process which included not only the real property but land as well. Privatization was turned into a fetish - the sole priority of democratic changes and establishment of market relations. The situation became even more complicated because of the efforts taken by the World Bank and because of the Western financial institutions pressing Russia to sell land, promising loans as a reward for this change in land policy.

Three years of our busy contact with local administrations and Federal bodies made it obvious that there are many supporters of the idea of fair distribution of land rent in Russia. There is an understanding that revenue from land rent provides incentives for the cities' and for territories' development for the investments in social infrastructure.

It will be possible to use land rent at full measure when the land market is established. In order to make the transitional period more smooth it is important to transform the whole system of territorial management and financial and tax policy. It is possible now to shift the taxation pressure from labour and capital to the rent for natural resources. It could stimulate the development of economy and growth of the living standard.

Feasibility of the transition to new rental based taxation system as a foundation of the territories and settlements' stable development is confirmed in course of Legal and Economic Experiment organized by Ecograd Research Centre in cooperation with Federal Ministry of Construction. The Experiment is carried out in various cities of Leningrad, Novgorod and Ulyanovsk, Tyumen regions, the Republic of Komi and the Republic of Karelia. This work is done in close cooperation with georgists from Great Britain, USA, Republic of South Africa, Australia, etc.

There has been prepared a package of legal documents determining the functions, rights and duties of administrations of different levels, relations between them, terms of legal support for the local self-

government and shift to the self-financed system.

Under the conditions of the Experiment it is possible to collect revenue for the budgets of all levels using nontraditional sources thus creating incentives for the economic growth and attracting capital investments.

Among the first positive results, we can mention improvement of land use, determination of ecological zones with regulated regimes and a system of protective measures for natural environment and its rational use, financial and economic instruments for the extraction of land rent and using collected finances for the environment protection and social development of the regions.

NOVGOROD MODEL OF REFORMING PUBLIC FINANCES BASED ON LAND RENTS.

By Tatyana Roskoshnaya

We have to have a real case of implementation of rental approach by Georgists adjusted to specific Russian conditions. The oldest Russian city is suffering all the problems resulting from the existing economic and legal conditions of Russia.

At the moment the system of relations inherited from the former Soviet Union still exists practically unchanged. It means that cities, even the centres of regions feel the lack of rights and opportunities to make changes in their life. Controversy of the laws which appear in the centre do not answer the most essential questions, and very often they are becoming a barrier for the cities in their attempt to make changes independently. Most problems are rooted in unsettled property distribution and property rights, lack of freedom to find the best source of public revenue for the budgets of all levels and in the traditional way of thinking and acting.

The Novgorod authorities, understanding urgent necessity to undertake some practical steps to change the situation in the city decided to make all the preparations in an attempt to get the permission to collect money for the budgets on the base of rental payment instead of a number of taxes such as profit tax, property tax, local taxes (practical of the same character as profit tax).

Ecograd Research Centre together with our colleagues from Great Britain and USA (Namely Ronald Banks, Fred Harrison, and Ted

Gwartney) was invited by the Chief of the City's Administration to help to make all preparatory work to start the new system in case the decision on it would be positive.

It was supposed that there could be an opportunity to introduce one type of payments - we call it site ratio charge - instead of land tax and taxes mentioned above. We do not use the term "land rent" because we think it is not correct at current transitional period in Russia when there is no developed land market.

In addition to the zones of different relative land values there was developed a system allowing with a number of adjustments to fix relative value of every land site.

Estimates were done for more than one thousand of registered land users. These are enterprises of different branches of industry, hotels, offices, commercial objects. At first we were not dealing with residential areas of the city. They are to be included into the system later on simultaneously with the income tax. Estimates took some time but here we had no obvious difficulties. Some of them appeared when we started to deal with city offices (financial and taxation) which being located in the city and included into the system of local Administration are a part of the former soviet vertical and still have their chiefs in central ministries.

We are sure that by the end of the year the practical results of the implementation of the system will appear and by the time of the Conference new information will be available.

RENT IN THE SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AND FAIR USE OF WATER BIORESOURCES

By Galina Titova.

Changes in property rights for land and other natural resources in Russia along with the changes of international legal status of open seas are taking place. In 1994 the transitional period from free fishing in the World Ocean to the state and national management of protection and use of bioresources in the 200 mile zones has been actually completed. The most productive parts of ocean are becoming state owned and the property rights are starting to appear.

New constitution of Russia recognizes types of property rights for natural objects. They can be owned privately or be owned by

municipality or state. (state property can be federal and regional).

At the same time the clauses in the Constitution remain utterly declarative because the problem of socialization of rent for natural resources is not legally solved yet in the state system of natural resources registration and use. That is the case mainly because preparation of new bills is often left to the ministries. As a result there appears a dangerous tendency with regard to nature protection laws: to preserve the monopoly of ministries over natural resources especially of federal status (there are not only sea resources in this group but inland unsalted waters too). They are substituting two definitions: "possessor" and "Manager". Federal offices controlling fishing are against the implementation of rental taxation system; they deny the right to existence of rent in fishing.

To get rid of ministries' dictate in Russia it is vital to pass a constitutional law on natural resources property. It could allow to fix new legal category "institute of natural resources property" and add richness of content to the constitutional norms. This law is supposed to give legal base for socialization of rents for natural resources (differentiated according to the types of resources) and principles of management on behalf of the population. Rental system in fishing could help to stop plunder of natural resources.

The complex dynamic models of tax rates with flexible system of coefficients for each rental parameter are the best for creation of a stable economic base of fishing. At the same time there should be a sophisticated system of loans, credits and subsidies.

The problem of rents and property rights for natural resources are of particular importance because of general natural resources shortage in the world. In this context the solution of the problem (together with land socialization) in Russia could influence positively on working out the uniformed approach to the use of World oceans' resources by all countries to the interests of mankind on the whole.

TRANSITION TO MARKET ECONOMY

By Viktor Ledenyov

Actually, all economies already have markets. All economies of a market (voluntary economic acts) and interventions (coercive acts imposed on a market) by both government and private racketeers

and other criminals. So the transition is really one of reducing interventions, both of governments and of criminals (protection rackets are a major problem in Eastern Europe).

The following steps are therefore required to reduce interventions:

1 Legalize, preferably through constitutional provisions, voluntary production, exchange (trade) and consumption.

2 Set up a registry of all real estate and title holders.

3 Assess the ground rent for all land, including the economic rent of minerals, fishing areas, etc.

4 Initiate the collection of the ground rent, gradually increasing it to the value of the economic rent. Preferably, there should be a constitutional provision stating that ground rent is community property.

5 At the same time as #4, reduce taxes on wages, income, profits, turnover, sales, exports, and imports (the order depending on political feasibility).

6 Initiate effluent (pollution) fees proportional to the damage caused by pollution (Germany provides a model).

7 Raise the pollution fee while reducing other taxes (as with #5) over some time interval until all taxes on production are eliminated, with a constitutional provision banning them.

8 Eliminate all remaining economic restrictions, prohibiting only force, fraud, and other acts of coercive and invasive harm. This includes gradually reducing and eliminating all tariffs and trade quotas, as well as restrictions on money and banking, and a constitutional provision protecting freedom of commerce as well as complete personal liberty.

THE MISSING CLAUSE

by Lionel Boorman* (abbreviated)

William of Orange, on taking the throne of England by virtue of a resolution in his favour, to which both Houses of Parliament came on 18th February, 1689, summoned a regular parliament. One of the first acts of that parliament was to pass "An act for declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and Settling the Succession of the Crown".

Only great landholders sat in the House of Lords; only landholders could be elected to the House of Commons and only landholders

could vote for members of Parliament, which in effect was a convention of landlords. There is therefore no mystery about the absence of the missing clause "The Land for the People".

Assuming that there had been included a clause "The land for the People" in the Bill of Rights and that either of these clauses had been enshrined somehow in Britain's flexible constitution or spelt out in the rigid constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia - what would such a clause have meant or how would it have been interpreted?

It was understood by the Australian aborigines, but that is not so in our agricultural and industrial society, where individuals must have the use of particular land and security of tenure. The people have always had access to land - subject to certain conditions. Slaves had access to land, otherwise the plantation owners would have starved.

So it comes down to the proposition as to what condition people should be able to occupy land. before advocating land for the people or equal access to land, someone must explain what these statements mean. Before we attempt to obtain the required support for inclusion of a clause in any Bill of Rights or Constitution of common right to land or common right to rent of land we must first define rent.

FROM TAXING LAND TO SHARING EARTH

by Jeff Smith

While landlessness is a grave problem, our concern should not blind us to a deeper understanding. The cause is people not getting back a fair share of the rent they produce.

Psychologically, the problem is not that people fail to understand that they have a right to land. The problem is more abstract (which is our problem); people fail to understand that they have a right to rent, too. Each resident is entitled to compensation from every other resident; in mirror opposition, each resident must compensate those excluded neighbours.

Heretofore, the Georgist movement has focused almost exclusively on the duty and precious little on the right to receive. Doing so has presented Georgism to the public as a sacrifice. Sacrifices are a hardsell, especially when the gain is negligible or not immediate.

The gain from shifting taxes from labour and capital to land seems to most people too small and risky. The gain from maintaining the current unjust system is too great for its few beneficiaries. The only way to tip the scale is to sweeten the pot, to pay citizens dividend from collected land rent.

Presenting a logical argument for taxing land, no matter how true, is simply not psychologically appealing. Furthermore, of all the economic results claimed for taxing land, half are more logically attributable to sharing rent. While taxing land does lower land prices and creates the possibility of lowering other taxes, sharing rent generates full employment with a shorter workweek and reverse inflation. This one-two punch is much more effective than just touting the tax side.

Also to many people the land tax looks like the property tax, which has been the most hated tax in history. And for good reason. Residents who can't afford it lose their homes. And, like all taxes, it merely enriches the state in exchange for a few and/or inferior services. A citizens dividend makes land free for those claiming land of average or less value, protecting them from eviction.

Georgists are not truly taxists. One repeatedly hears, "the land tax is not a true tax". Georgists are sharers, yet taxes are counter-sharing. Rent belongs not to the state but to the people. Sharing the worth of earth cuts to the heart of the issue, to its moral core.

The *cidi* is the concrete implementation of our right to a fair share of Mother Earth's advantages, bestowed upon all of us, not exclusively upon an ancient king or modern state. The *Natural Heritage Share* is the key feature of geonomics. The nearest real-world analog is Alaska's oil dividend paid to residents.

Receiving this extra income, people are less dependent upon wages from labour, loans from banks, and welfare from the state. Redirecting rent from landlord to tenant and public revenue from bureaucracy to citizens would save money, avoid corruption, reduce income extremes, empower individual choice, and affirm the equality of all members of society.

As land value rises, so would this citizens dividend automatically. Thus trade treaties would be transformed from a corporate swindle into a public benefit. Note how geonomics operates organically;

it incorporates into economies the self-regulating feedback loops of eco-systems. This feature makes geonomics natural, not-left-nor-right, and thus easier to promote.

UNITED NATIONS AND MISSING HUMAN RIGHTS

By Bent Straarup (DK)

UN's declaration of human rights of freedom and equality are beautiful words with little or no effect for billions of individuals as everyone can see around the world.

The reason is, in fact that the basic equal rights to land/land rent and the riches of natural resources are generally denied the people all over the world.

It is suggested that The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade work with UN to adopt those basic rights in the declaration.

Henry George foresaw to use land rent to pay for public services. In order to give the land rent idiom a consent of right rather than of an obligation the revenue from land rent shall be paid cash to all individuals enabling them to form their lives according to their own wishes rather than the governments intentions.

By paying attention to the basic right of the individual the solution of the land rent question will start a world wide claim.

RENT REVISED

By Richard Giles

This article will present a short history of the concept of economic rent. It will begin with a short description of economic rent as it is understood today, and an outline of the various meanings of 'rent'.

The article will show how the concept of rent was enunciated and progressively clarified from the physiocrats, through Adam Smith, David Ricardo, to J.S. Mill and Henry George. At the same time some of the implications of rent discovered especially by Ricardo and George will be mentioned.

The article will then deal briefly with the question of the originality of George's formulations and implications of rent, before closing with Adam Smith's evaluation of its suitability as public revenue.

This paper will be especially directed at visitors and present to them a clear idea of 'rent' and its suitability as taxation.

It will lead naturally to the question about why 'rent' fell into disuse. which will be an additional point to flow from the discussion.

COMMON RIGHT TO LAND AS A JUSTICE ISSUE

by Kidane G. Hiwot

The problem is from ignoring the fundamental Law of Justice -The Supreme law of the universe - is the cause of all misappropriation. Cause of poverty.

For instance from the experience of Ethiopia the cause of civil war, ethnic conflict, economic crisis etc is primarily poor quality of Government that follows wrong economic policies - denies the common right to land and the result of labour.

For poverty developing countries consider population rate as a cause , but not "we have seen that population does not tend to outrun subsistence; we have seen that the waste of human powers and the prodigality of human suffering do not spring from natural laws, but from the ignorance and selfishness of men in refusing to conform to natural laws." (P&P p 559)

Poverty can not be reduced or alleviated by the imported food and has always existed wherever landownership is concentrated in the hands of a few rich and leaving the vast citizens landless.

It is the responsibility of Government to secure the economic rights of all to alleviate poverty. The Government of poor country must be committed to radical economic reform and formulate proper free market economic policies, so as to find a mechanism for sustainable economy - make land common property . And it is the duty of Government to dispense Justice. Collect Land rent as a sole revenue of Government and secure the citizens rights of improvements.

Thus increasing the income of those in poverty is the most effective policy for improving the living condition of the poor and reduce environmental deterioration.

It would be wise to find a politically palatable mechanism of revenue of Government for sustainable economy and developing countries must obtain sustainable means through consultation, formulating proper economic policies rather than act to reduce poverty

with the supply of food and work, on cooperate for short term projects in a limited localities on temporary performance.

It is the protection of fundamental right to assist social and economic development. Specially in the multilingual and multiethnic groups the Georgist reform is the only solution. The reform Henry George proposed accords with all that is politically, socially, morally etc desirable. It is created to deal with situations where different nationalities, cottars or linguistic groups are required to work together. The truth enunciated in the declaration of independence - The selfevident truth that is the heart and soul of declaration - "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Make land common property; liberate from monopolisation and secure the results of labour is the protection of the fundamental law of justice. Thus taxing land and freed labour from taxation is laws of justice. Since land is no result of labour and man is entitled to the fruits of his labour. To help developing countries to alleviate its chronic social problems Governments must committed to accept the principle and implement it. If once the land be backed to the people poverty will be alleviated and Nation become independent and only needs to harness the resources efficiently and effectively and the equal rights of each person are respected. This is true development; the achievement for development.

THE POLL TAX - A UK EXPERIENCE

Its theoretical and practical implications.

by Fernando Scornik Gerstein

Starting with the issue of the political and economic upheaval created in the United Kingdom by the temptative of the Conservative Government to introduce a personal tax replacing the traditional "rates" over annual values of immovable properties, the paper deepens in the analysis of the disadvantages and inconveniences of personal taxation when confronted with taxes on land rent.

Both systems are carefully studied, with practical examples and the author explains many confusions arising from misuse of economic concepts and lack of clear ideas by those involved in the discussions.

The political manoeuvre addressed to squeeze tax-payers by increased rents, plus the Poll-Tax is pointed out and condemned for its unfairness to society.

From this particular analysis the author passes to a description of the role played by private appropriation of land rent as being in structural relation with other economic categories in modern capitalist society and hence the problems to be faced by those willing to modify the structure and to improve existing conditions.

The author stresses that the United Kingdom with its very peculiar land tenure system - so different from the Continental ones - and with its strong democratic tradition will continue to be a fertile ground for future debates and reforms.

The paper finalizes with some philosophical considerations on the way changes are produced in society by the coincidence of forces originated both in the physical world and in human conscience, with prevalence for the conception created by mind that better adapts itself to external reality as a constitutive cement.

AN AUSTRALIAN GEONOMIC (GEORGIST) BUDGET

by Phillip Anderson

Preparations and calculations have been done to find out just how much revenue a so-called "land tax", collecting the full economic rent, would raise in Australia. This calculation has been assumed for a Federal Australian Government.

Some discussion has taken place about the practical problems so raised, such as possible exemptions, method of valuation etc.

Once the sum is determined of likely revenue, some discussion is made about what then this revenue can be used for, indeed which taxes, if any can be abolished or at least reduced.

Finally, some examination is made, in financial terms, about how this budget will affect Mr and Mrs Joe Average, depending upon which site they have chosen to live, and to work in around Australia.

The budget deals more in financial effects than philosophy. This is quite a deliberate approach.

THE WORLD DEMANDS A NEW WAY OF THINKING
- A NEW MENTALITY.

By Ewen Lorck-Falck.

A new form of social economy will result from a new way of thinking. If we look back in history we will see that all periods of new thinking have been painful phases of development. The great pioneer of psychology, Sigmund Freud, asserted that there was something in human which reacted against novelty in the intellectual sphere. The same reluctance has been experienced over the dissemination of a new perspective on social economy. Our knowledge of the economy of nature (ecology) is not yet complete, and it was not complete in Henry George's, but as it increases we must continuously revise our conception of social economy.

This paper discusses these elements including Ecology as the science of nature's economy. Economic Growth: is the GNP the correct measure? Money Fixation: Economists consider money itself as a scale of value; as a product. Money contra real value: in the Sami economy reindeer calves are the natural interest. Symbols: Money functions on behalf of reindeer. If something happens to the reindeer something must happen to the symbol. The money continues to circulate as though it was valuable in itself. Interest - Profit - Tax System: These are the systems that lead us ever further into fictitious economy. Money is seen to be able to reproduce itself. Young people suffer unemployment because a high enough figure (money) has not been saved in the banks to be used for investments, at the same time as the necessary resources, idle manpower, knowledge and materials are available. Sociological Economic Fundamental Law: These fictional assets leads to an increasing centralization, increasing need for the State, war and ecological catastrophe. Is it difficult to discover that society is actually a living organism? Social Accounting: By introducing a new social account sheet, concerned with real income and expenses of society, we can set course for a new society. Social System's Cost: administration, military, political activities, advertising, banking, subsidies, etc. are all expenses of society. Our Mentality Is Our Fate: Will we succeed in recognizing a new reality in the field of economy? In doing so we are on the way to a new collective consciousness which is necessary if a real change is to come about.

RE-INTEGRATED SOCIO-ECONOMIC URBAN DESIGN

By Antony V. Trowbridge

This paper has three interrelated themes:

- 1 Urban Design and the symbiotic relationship of town planning to the issues of land tenure, ownership, investment and taxation, and the reintegration of residence, work and food production,
- 2 The need for sound community management to ensure maximum local participation in all matters of planning and decision making,
- 3 The reintroduction of the principles and disciplines of Community Economics.

The greatest opportunities is for the transforming of economic thinking that exists in the less developed countries of the world that are experiencing rapid urbanization. However, the greatest constraints to addressing the issues of land ownership, tenure, investment and taxation are to be found in current systems of town planning that developed to serve the industrial era that has certainly reached its limits of sustainability. The continuing growth of urbanization and metropolization moreover, has affectively destroyed the spirit of community and its self-reliance, on which civilizations have always found their greatest strengths.

Furthermore, the town planning practice of 'zoning' has further divided society into places of residence, work and agriculture, that has placed variable and inflationary levels of value and costs of land, development, transport and the provision of services.

1 Urban design.

Too often town plans are governed more by the provision of underground services than on human social considerations, with little or no consideration being given to human dignity and aesthetic appeal. The Symbiotic informal cluster form of urban design, which has evolved from the expressed needs and perceptions of South Africa informal township dwellers, is more than an alternative to a standard town planning. It is the basis for a new socio-economic planning approach. The characteristics of applying reintegrated urban design principles will be explained.

2 Community management.

The cluster form of planning introduces, in a traditional African way, a democratic form of direct representation, in which residents

come together in a specially formulated development structure, to plan and create their own community facilities of their 'village'.

There is an international 'missing link' however, in all contemporary constitutional dispensations and economic structures. This was enunciated as long ago as 1931 by Albert Einstein, when in a letter to a friend he wrote,

"The fate of nations has inescapably to be given to violence and the irresponsibility of political rulers. Political leaders and governments owe their position partly to force and partly to popular elections. They cannot be regarded as representatives of the best elements, morally or intellectually of their respective nations. Intellectuals have no direct influence on the history of nations these days. Their lack of cohesion prevents them from taking a direct part in the solution of contemporary problems. Don't you think that a change might be brought about by a free association of people of previous achievements and actions?"

The residents of the informal township of Orange Farm 40 kms south of Johannesburg with a population of 150,000, have answered this challenge by the formation of their Creative Action Group, which recognizes community leadership as 'the people who do things' - who effectively represents the 'expertise equity' of the community through the enfranchising of its special interest and legitimate voluntary organizations.

3 Community economics.

The above urban planning and community management principles lays the foundation for an effective process of local financial management that facilitated the fundamental principle wealth creation by the re-circulation of money in the area of generation. This process is aided through the introduction of a computer-based Community Skills Exchange which increases opportunities for localized employment and small business activities.

The financing at all levels of local government is to be based on a community user charge which will be influenced by the advantage provided by the presence and growth of the community. This advantage will vary between individual sites according to their locality and community permitted usage, normally governed by zoning. The annual user charge can be expressed as a percentage of the market value of the land only, or a large portion of the annual rental of each site.

SCRAP THE OLD TAX

by Ole Lefmann

This paper

- settles any practical objection against the implementation of Rent of Land as State Revenue in stead of taxes, for instance the following:
 - Doubt about the volume of the revenue of Rent of Land,
 - Fear for declining marketprices on land, that might make it difficult to increase collection of Rent of Land, and rise discussion about compensation to landowners,
- opens the discussion about the possibilities of use of the revenue of Rent of Land:
 - Tax reduction as a percentage of tax on income,
 - Tax reduction as an equal amount to all income tax payers,
 - Tax reduction as an equal amount to all income tax payers, combined with an amount of same size to all non-income tax payers and all no more- income tax payers,
- emphasises the necessity of using the last mentioned proposal for use of the revenue of Rent of Land, that will secure the revenue for public affairs and
 - Give all citizens their equal share of the value of all land in the nation they are a citizen of, and
 - Give each citizen the possibility to pay for the area he/she needs to live and work on.

LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

by J.J. Pot

There are only two factors of production: land and labour. ("these two original factors of production". P&P p 39) "In truth, the primary division of wealth in distribution is dual, not tripartite". (p 203) The term land comprises two factors: material and immaterial.

For the use of material gifts of nature you are accustomed to pay to the common treasury a license for hunting and fishing, a royalty for minerals, etc. This can be improved, but is already common practice.

For immaterial gifts of nature (the abstraction square metres) we

also are used to pay the market value. But alas not to the common purse, but to private 'owners'. - Why and how to redress it.

LAND VALUE ASSESSMENT

by Jørn Jensen

The importance of maintaining assessors' independence from tax authorities. Principles of land value taxation.

"HOPE"

Stephen Cantor/by proxy

A glossary review of the past in the Georgist Movement, strongly influenced by local events as I miss an overview of global events being "down under" for 50 years + (in spite of having attended overseas meetings) Impressions of such events. What is (are) our goal(s)? How to achieve same? Feminine influence. The Missing Link. (Not "The Missing Clause") Consequences. Plan of Action. Facts of Life.

THE MISSING CLAUSE IN LIBERTARIANISM

Bernhard Rooney

Libertarianism is a minority viewpoint, nevertheless it enjoys a significant profile in the West, especially in the United States. Concentrating on the work of Murray Rothbard, we will try to show how the blind spot on the land question militates against the achievement of the aspirations of the Libertarian movement. The flaw in the libertarian argument will be exposed, and then it will be demonstrated in some detail how this 'missing clause' weakens the libertarian viewpoint on all topics, such as involuntary servitude, personal liberty, education, the welfare state, the public sector, conservation and war and foreign policy. At the same time it will be indicated how the 'missing clause' supplied by Georgist philosophy could and should make so much more accurate and effective the analysis of all these topics from the point of view of personal liberty. The libertarian literature is bulky, and yet with an intrinsically superior case why is it that the Georgist literature has nothing near quantity, quality and profile of libertarian literature, not to mention the quantity of Marxist literature. The suggestion will be ventured that Georgists have traditionally been too narrowly

focused on 'the remedy', and that there is a need for us to systematically explore and relate the basic philosophy to other areas of human affairs, eg history, politics, sociology, religion, psychology, philosophy, education, business, etc. When this is effectively done it will give us far more weight in our push to have the 'missing clause' recognised in Bills of Rights everywhere.

WHO SHOULD SUPPORT OUR PROPOSALS AND WHY

By C. Lowell Harriss

Some years ago Mr Perry Prentice, then President of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, prepared materials of value but which have never been publicly presented (to the best of my knowledge). I should like to draw upon them, adding my own observations and utilizing experience of more recent times.

Specific groups - homeowners, builders, environmentalists, architects, labour unions, and so on - have reasons they may not recognize for supporting the shifting of taxes away from manmade capital to land. The objective of the paper would be to make explicit relevant considerations and also to answer frequent, and less common, objections to using land rents to finance community activity.

We are all too aware of the lack of progress in the United States and most other countries in utilizing the wisdom that Henry George put forth so eloquently. There has been a tragic failure to communicate and persuade. The paper would develop the reasoning in light of modern economics and politics and try to clarify various points of significance.

Notes:

1. Papers by Tamara Chistyakova and Galina D. Titova will be read in Russian and translated into English by Tatyana Roskoshnaya.
2. Papers by Stephen Cantor and Lionell Boorman will not be read at the Conference. They will, however be part of the Conference Papers.

International Conference
on

**THE MISSING CLAUSE - In the Bill of Rights
THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE**

This conference will discuss the significance of "The Missing Clause" in the declarations on Human Rights with respect to freedom of individuals and to the economic and social relationships between the sectors of society. The importance of access to land will be analyzed as a human right.

It will endeavour to provide proposals for future strategies in obtaining the required support for inclusion of a clause on common right to rent.

The Human Rights is not merely of philosophical interest; it is, in fact, central to contemporary political issues; in the need to protect ethnic minorities, in the discussions on indigenous peoples rights to their resources, in the governing of economic aid to third world countries; etc.

Topics of discussion will include the history of the modern nation and how to apply Georgist philosophy in a revision of the Human Rights and in a problem solving manner to effectively create more justice in human relations.

Co-sponsored by:

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