

Why are we interested in extending knowledge of George's theories in the academic community? Well, for one thing, it is a way of carrying out the promise the college made when it accepted the original bequest. Furthermore, George's analysis can offer fruitful insights in a number of scholarly disciplines. If this is true, then the eventual consequence...will be increased knowledge of Henry George on the part of students, most of whom will not become college faculty, but all of whom should become informed citizens. Our present plan is to hold such a conference every second year. This means that the fourth Lafayette conference will be held in 1997, the centennial year of Henry George's death.

--Prof. Jerome Heavay



George...was well aware that all monopolies are not based on land ownership, unique natural advantages or tremendous fixed capital investment. Today, seventy-five percent of all transactions are affected by prices administered by what economists now call oligopolies -- monopoly by the few -- industrial monopolies and labor monopolies. These, too, he decried, though he was strong supporter of free and open trade unions and trade associations. --Will & Dorothy Lissner, *Democracy in the 21st Century*

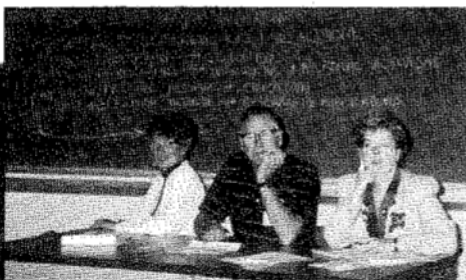


David Ricardo referred to rent as the return "for the use of the original and indestructible powers of the soil." The reason he used the term "soil" was because Ricardo, like the Physiocrats, viewed agricultural land as the main source of rent.... Henry George took Ricardo's definition and modified it only slightly. Effectively, he substituted the term "site" for "soil". He rightly saw that the land could be put to all sorts of productive uses other than agriculture.... But just as George had to extend Ricardo's concept, so must we now extend George's. Georgists should be very cautious in doing so, but not afraid to do so; for as Nietzsche said: "one rewards a teacher badly if one remains only a pupil."

--Ian Lambert, *Where Georgists, Greens, and Indians Meet*



EASTON
INN



Real estate is a major component of the economy, and has historically been subject to large and widespread fluctuations. A rapid rise in real estate prices and rents based on future rather than current benefits (induced by public goods not offset by public collection of rent) is bound to affect business profitability.... Historical data...have shown that real estate booms have preceded major depressions. The construction industry plays a major role in creating the boom and subsequent bust, and monetary, regulatory, and public-works accommodation by government have induced and accommodated the speculative booms. The theory that the major real estate cycles, accommodated by monetary inflation, have significantly contributed to the major depressions is consistent with the historical record.

--Fred Foldvary, *Real Estate and Business Cycles*





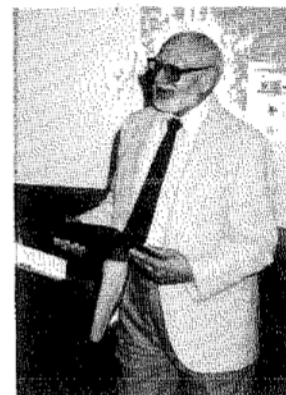
To me, the work of Marcelo de Barros Souza and other liberation theologians from the [Basic Ecclesial Communities] augurs for a renewed interest in Henry George. Not only are liberation theologians putting aside dependency theory and becoming very aware, as was George, of the close ties between land ownership and oppression. They also, like George, are finding their answer in the biblical view that God intends land to benefit all people. Besides their interest in a just use of land, what indicates to me a close future relationship between liberation theologians and Henry George is that they approach the Bible in such similar ways. One could almost say that, liberation theologians ...have rediscovered (of course by their own paths) Henry George's method of interpreting scripture.

—Dr. James M. Dawsey, *Henry George and Liberation Theology*



Let us conclude by returning to the analogy of laundered drug money. It is an analogy that can be pressed only so far. The primary reason for confiscating legitimate assets purchased with drug money is to help stop the drug traffic by removing an incentive for supplying drugs. But George's "remedy" would already have removed any incentive for the socially-harmful activity that was the focus of his concern. A secondary reason for such confiscation is to punish those who flout the law. But the private appropriation of rent is not against the law. Let us by all means seek to make it so. But if we were to do so retroactively, we should be guilty of ex post facto justice, which is no justice at all.

—Dr. Robert V. Andelson, *On Interest Originating from Invested Rent*



Land possesses not only "natural" qualities but what we may call "social" qualities, that is, accessibility to people -- to their works and their activities, to markets, to government services. The traditional definition of land as the contribution of "nature" obscures the fact that, by virtue of its geographic immobility, land value and even land itself is generated by human beings.... But...as George observed, even the value of natural resources depends upon the demand for them -- which depends upon the activities of society

—Kris Feder, *Land, Labor, and Capital: A Critique of Henry George's Categories*



Meddling, by the State, in human production and distribution has been attempted from the beginning of time, always with disastrous results. "This has been tried again and again," observed George, "by the strongest governments, and is to some extent still being tried, but always unavailing." (The reader will please note that this passage was written at the end of the nineteenth century; the shattering totalitarian experiments of the twentieth century had not yet begun!)

—Dr. Jack Schwartzman, *Henry George and the Concept of Natural Law*