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On George's Ideas on Economic Development Theory

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### ***On George's Ideas on Economic Development Theory***

FOUR ESSAYS based on papers presented at a conference on "Henry George and Economic Development" at Williams College in 1984 are now published in a book edited by Stephen R. Lewis, Jr., *Henry George and Contemporary Economic Development* (Williamstown, MA 01267: Department of Economics, Williams College, 1985, 95 pp., \$5 to individuals, \$8.50 to institutions and libraries, including postage).

All the essays discuss the relevance of Henry George's concerns to analyses of contemporary economic development. Three discuss the application of George's ideas to developing countries today. Daniel Holland analyzes Jamaica's experience with the taxation of land rent. Robert Conrad and Malcolm Gillis discuss the appropriation, by taxation and other means, of mineral resource rent. C. Lowell Harriss argues that developing countries should heed George's advice that all countries should adopt free trade.

In the opening essay, Roger Bolton studies three "mysteries" about George: why have so many economists attacked, denigrated or ignored the American economist and social philosopher when the core of his proposal was accepted by so many of them; why has heavier taxation on urban and rural land not won greater acceptance; and why did neither George nor his critics discuss more extensively the interregional redistribution of income which would have resulted from heavier taxes on land and resources? The latter question relates to several of the bitterest controversies today, including those over provincial oil royalties and taxes in Canada, and the policies of the Arab oil cartel in the Middle East.

The book also contains comments on the essays by Professor Lewis, chairman of the Williams department; Paul Clark, also of Williams, and Frank C. Genovese of Babson College. Williams College's Center for Development Economics, which collaborated in the project, is 24 years old. It brings together mid-career officials from developing countries to study policy-related economic analysis. [From Professor Bolton.]

### ***A New Public Philosophy in America?***

A NEW PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY for America [is emerging]. In important areas of social policy especially, the most interesting and imaginative approaches to our problems will now appear beyond the banks of the Potomac, in the states, local communities and the private sector. [From an address.]

WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.