

Property Pirates – Why Are They Given Carte Blanche?

by John Jamieson



For the past seven or eight centuries we have watched the planet earth become one great big commodity, to be exploited, plundered, desecrated and turned into a haven for those that could be described as “property pirates” who are protected by man-made laws that seem to defy logic and any natural laws.

When we use the term “pirate” it usually creates an image of one of the famous “buccaneers” who sailed the seas in years gone by raping and pillaging from those they saw as having plentiful supplies of treasures that might attract their efforts and attention in order that they may sustain a life of ease and luxury with the least effort. Often it is an image of “Blackbeard the Pirate”, or “Long John Silver” of Treasure Island fame that helps conjure up what is described as “a pirate”.

However, in the context of this story, the real pirates are a far more intriguing breed. Yes, they certainly had a history of rape, plunder and capturing treasures and riches – but their targets never required a heavily armoured “Ship of the

Line” or a crew of dastardly rough villains, shanghaied from a port or harbour. No need for such a crew, when all they had to do was help themselves to a natural God-given resource we know as LAND.

From the days of the earliest recorded history, much of it recorded in what is known as “The Bible”, the property pirates have understood that planet earth has a finite supply of LAND – yes indeed, when you stop and consider the question of land, a person doesn’t need a great deal of intelligence to see that when the universe was formed and planet earth was created, that was it. Certainly over many millions of years the earth has evolved into a unique life-sustaining parcel of land on which every living being – animal, vegetable or mineral – can draw its sustenance. With the sun, water and clean air, those three essential items that allow life to grow, we can look at being provided with the basic necessities on which to develop our food, shelter and clothing that allows our survival as human beings.

Capturing areas of land that have never been

created by human beings allows those I have described as “property pirates” to hold those, without access to land, to ransom.

Ensuring that this category of “pirate” can control the land resource has seen the evolution of legal structures which are set in place by those who originally took possession of large territories, using their capacity of waging war to outbid their adversaries in securing control of those less capable of resisting their advances.

Once it was seen that this rare commodity known as LAND could be kept as exclusive private property and then held out of use, unless someone was prepared to pay the owner his (or her) asking price, the “property pirates” were in business – and what a business! Taking possession of something that they had never created – usually by overpowering the original inhabitants – became the new world order, supervised by specially developed “property laws”.

Many human beings over the last few millennia have questioned the practice of what can be described as “land piracy”. The earliest references to land being for all to share as “common property” can be traced to the Old Testament of the Bible, where the original Judeo-Christian land ethic had been that of *koinonia* – land was God’s gift to the community as a whole for the *autarkeia*, or self-sufficient livelihood of all.

The earliest “Property Pirates” can be traced all the way back to Roman Law. If you study Roman law you will find that it developed the “exclusive ownership concept” that legitimised the accumulation of wealth by a few at the expense and impoverishment of the many. Early Christian leaders had all dealt with the question of land ownership and Roman law; they had railed against the Roman law concept of land ownership as “an exclusive and unlimited right to dispose of a thing to the exclusion of all others”. Early protests were led by a young carpenter from Nazareth named Jesus, but he was quickly grabbed by the Roman ruling clique and crucified as an example to any others wishing to question its authority.

Roman land law of dominium actually meant the legalisation of property in land which had been taken by plunder and conquest.

We in Australia, and in many other countries where democracy has been under-pinned by the rule of law, received our laws from the Laws of England, after the Australian land mass had been taken from the original inhabitants. English law had been derived over the centuries from Roman law, and as has been recorded though history, this legalisation of property in land has gone unquestioned except by a few learned & outspoken individuals who have constantly made their point.

Certainly the Bible has been quite clear that the Earth is to be shared fairly and given stewardship for the benefit of all. Australia has generally claimed to be a “Christian Nation” and for a large part of its history and, in Parliament, prayers were given at the start of each session. Despite this acknowledgement to the Bible, until very recent times there was no acceptance that there were people who had actually been living in Australia for an estimated 60,000 years, before Sydney in New South Wales was selected as a suitable place to dump criminals and political agitators from England’s overcrowded detention centres.

Australia’s aboriginal inhabitants had practised communal land use for all of their existence and had respected their right to use the land for their sustenance whilst not instituting their version of what we call “Roman Law”.

The “Property Pirates” from England soon managed to establish their “right by conquest and plunder”, under the guise of Terra Nullius, to ensure that property in land became installed.

When we sit back and review the ever increasing gulf between the “haves” and the “have-nots” (i.e. those with obscene wealth and those living in abject poverty) here in Australia and elsewhere around the globe, it is quite obvious that the freedom of access to land is what causes this, our rapidly growing social disorder.

Property Pirates, who are a nexus of Private Bankers, large multi-transnational Corporations and the major manufacturers of armaments and munitions, now have taken over huge areas of the major continents, where laws, that legalise property in land, forms the basis of their whole economic system.

Challenges to these syndicates of “property

pirates" have been voiced for centuries. All the way back to the only 100% honest politician that had tried to educate the masses, that young carpenter Jesus of Nazareth, there have been people showing that our whole economic system is tragically flawed.

In Jesus time one of his tasks included trying to restore the Old Testament intent of "The Jubilee", a period each 50 years when lands were returned to the original occupiers or their heirs. This entailed preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release of captives and setting free those being oppressed. This "release of captives" was the release of debt slaves who had lost their land because they were unable to pay the mortgage. This was a crucial part of Jesus' task, re-asserting of the land rights of the poor and displaced.

Unfortunately Christianity lost its mission of economic justice when it was made the official religion of the Roman Empire and incorporated into the Roman Land Law of *dominium*. This is when the first of the "Property Pirates" under the guise of "Christians" went forward hand-in-hand with the plunderers and conquerors who established the land-grabbing Imperialist States.

Interestingly, it is said that South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu once remarked:

"Before any Europeans came to Africa, we had the land and they had the Bible. We all bowed our heads to pray, then when we opened our eyes, we had the Bible and they had taken all the land!"

That great American statesman, Abraham Lincoln, made his position very clear when he told his fellow citizens:

"The land, the earth God gave to man for his home, sustenance, and support, should never be the possession of any man, corporation, society, or unfriendly government, any more than the air or water, if as much. An individual, company, or enterprise should hold no more than is required for their home and sustenance. All that is not used should be held for the free use of every family to make homesteads, and to hold them as long as they are so occupied."

Jesus was crucified by the Romans; Abraham Lincoln was assassinated; probably by those who could be described as the "property pirates".

In more recent times, Winston Churchill, the famous World War II leader who many claimed saved the world from becoming subject to a fascist dictatorship led by the German Adolph Hitler, gave a keynote speech on 17 July 1909 at the Kings' theatre in Edinburgh, Scotland. The first two paragraphs in his speech read:

It is quite true that land monopoly is not the only monopoly which exists, but it is by far the greatest of monopolies – it is a perpetual monopoly and it is the mother of all other forms of monopoly. It is quite true that unearned increments in land are not the only form of unearned or undeserved profits which individuals are able to secure; but it is the principal form of unearned increment which is derived from processes which are not merely not beneficial but which are positively detrimental to the general public.

Land, which is a necessity for human existence, which is the original source of all wealth, which is strictly limited in extent, which is fixed in geographical position. Land, I say, differs from all other forms of property in these primary and fundamental conditions. All the while the land monopolist (i.e. "Property Pirate") has only to sit still and watch complacently his property multiplying in value, sometimes manifold, without either effort or contribution on his part."

NOTE: The rest of the speech by Winston Churchill is quoted in full in the book "Hijacked Inheritance – The Triumph of Dollar Darwinism" Appendix B, by Phillip Day, published in 2005.

During the period immediately before the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced, a very wise and experienced former Minister in the Liberal Government that was led by the late Sir Robert Menzies, wrote a book that was entitled "Towards A New Society". Sir Allen Fairhall joined the Menzies Liberal Government in 1949 as the member for the seat of Paterson; he spent 20 years in the House of Representatives, 11 of



Karl Fitzgerald

these years as a Minister in various portfolios which included Interior and Works, Supply and Defence. His book "Towards a New Society" was critical of introducing the GST form of "tax reform", but instead recommended abolition of the present destructive tax regime and replacing it with raising public tax revenues from a uniform impost on the unimproved capital value of land.

In her Articles and Essays book, published as *"The Earth Belongs to Everyone"*, Alanna Hartzok presents a formidable case for the wholesale review of the tax systems we currently have to deal with. The book commissioned by The Institute for Economic Democracy Press & Earth Rights Institute, draws on a lifetime journey in which Alanna Hartzok has confronted the ever-widening gulf between the extremely wealthy 1% of the earth's population and the other 99% who see a rapidly declining fall in their levels of income, and their capacity to survive, in a world where the population is likely to grow to well over 9 billion people by 2042.

There is no doubt that the Property Pirates are making their presence well and truly felt around the globe, after a reading of *"The Earth Belongs to Everyone"*.

Here in Australia we have an opportunity to make real progress in genuine "tax reform" that will lead to a much more egalitarian society,

where social justice is not just a dream, but a reality. By implementing the recommendations presented by Phillip Day in his 2005-published *"Hijacked Inheritance - The Triumph of Dollar Darwinism?"* there can be major progress made that leads to the New Society that Sir Allen Fairhall had envisaged, that Alanna Hartzok envisages for the USA and which Winston Churchill had offered a direction to, as far back as 1909.

Our former leader on the national scene Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister 1903-4, 1906-8, 1909-10 made it quite clear when he said:

"The whole of the people have the right to the ownership of land and the right to share in the value of the land itself, though not to share in the fruits of the land which properly belong to the individuals by whose labour they are produced."

Former Minister in the Whitlam Labor Government, Clyde Cameron, also had contributed a lifetime looking at the question of land and the ability of using the unimproved capital value of land to be taxed in order to provide for raising all public tax revenues, as had Sir Allen Fairhall from the Menzies Liberal Government. Why our political representatives and former Ministers in Federal Government couldn't manage the tax reforms - that even "Blind Freddy" can understand is no mystery - the "Property Pirates" manage to shanghai



the system using the Private Banking Cartel in collusion with their self-proclaimed “right” in treating land as a commodity for their monopoly control of our economy.

Until such time as the wider population starts to understand what underpins the road to social justice and starts treating the Earth as a parcel of “Common Property”, that we all have an equal stake in preserving, there will be an ever widening gulf between the 1% of those who are obscenely wealthy and in control of the land, and its resources, and the remaining 99% of the world’s population.

This other 99% will simply be the slaves to debt, eking out an existence by picking up a few crumbs that happen to fall off the table of the Property Pirates.

It’s time to get the young generation into the act. In a few short years they may all be faced with the problem of getting a home of their own and may want to obtain a small plot of land on which to build.

Those “property pirates” will want a huge price for their “commodity” which is a parcel of land. Faced by the land price that is now out of control, young couples will probably look at renting a

place, and even that may be a very big hurdle.

Today we see how efficiencies in the building trades can build a good house for around \$150,000 to \$180,000 and there are pre-packed houses built in China to Australian building standards coming onto the market at \$75,000 - \$100,000 fully assembled with all furnishings and white goods, kitchen-ware and media items installed. But if you can’t get a piece of land to build it on, because of the prices requested by the “property pirates”, what can you do?

There are a few quite fair minded and reasonable land-owners who could offer a land lease arrangement, but why not the government which is elected, supposedly, “by the people, for the people”. Any government of whatever political persuasion has the capacity to adopt the tax reform that will generate building sites based on land value taxation. Provided the elected officials understand how the “property pirates” currently rort the system, they can take charge of the land question and remedy this situation over a ten-year time frame.

The first major political party that decides it wants to govern the people for the people’s benefit, ahead of the property pirates, will find the going tough. However, take a leaf out of the way Hong Kong and mainland China operates and you’ll soon see why the Chinese are now es-

establishing the new “Asian Empire”. In China, the government controls the land and also the issue of credit (i.e. their money supply) with thanks to the person who had a lot to do with the formation of the modern Republic of China, Dr Sun Yat-sen.

The Chinese are quite a long way ahead of the USA, Australia, Europe and the U.K. when it comes to understanding the LAND QUESTION. And they of course have a different breed of “pirate” – cadres of the CCP in key positions of power! Perhaps they used Robin Hood as their model. But at least they have their own bank – The People’s Bank of China that operates from 9.00am to 5.00pm seven days a week, unlike our banking system controlled by the international banking cartel whose policies come from the USA, UK and the aristocrats of Europe.

As I reflect on this article I first wrote a couple of years’ ago, today in early 2022 I see that things are getting worse since the “resources boom” went into a relatively short melt-down, before the COVID-19 pandemic took over the planet early in 2020.

What amazes me is that our economic system is really based on wheeling and dealing in stolen property – the land which was occupied for tens of thousands of years by Aboriginal Australians!

Unemployment is now down to the lowest level in almost 50 years. At the same time, we see the Federal and most State governments heavily in debt and wanting to sell off publically owned major assets to try and reduce these debts. No doubt the “property pirates” will be sitting back rubbing their hands as the “fire sale” prices are announced.

There’s a Federal Government election scheduled in 2022 and whoever is elected will be staring down the barrel of government debt currently estimated to be in billions, if not trillions of dollars.

Are there any visionary leaders in Australia who can take on the pirates and start representing the whole of our population?

When will we ever see REAL taxation reform?

Media Checklist

Does Georgism Work Pt 1 (Must read!) - Lars Doucet
tinyurl.com/2fb4zkra

Why Fallinski is Wrong on Housing Supply - Elizabeth Minter, Karl Fitzgerald
tinyurl.com/2p49wuew

Reengineering the Planet - ExTax (1993)
tinyurl.com/2p8xfpj8

ABS - Land and Housing Supply indicators
tinyurl.com/yc2ynwdn

Tenants: Shift in the Balance of Power needed
tinyurl.com/muy2taf8

Submissions required: Land tax exemption for charitable institutions?
tinyurl.com/mr2jz6rh

How land banking slays online games
tinyurl.com/2p8rnz8p

Maori Party wants a Ghost Tax on vacants
tinyurl.com/2ay43tnw

Martin Wolf: The looming threat of long financial COVID-19
tinyurl.com/y89pv6uy

Patent monopolies undermining global vaccination rates - Chelsea Clinton & Priti Krishtel
tinyurl.com/25r4x3ud