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# QUEST FOR A QUIET REVOLUTION

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THE BEST revolutions are the quiet ones. The ones that are not controversial, because they are correct; and are smoothly implemented, because no-one was coerced. *Land & Liberty* accepts the need for evolutionary change. But we must understand that the policies we advocate are revolutionary in character.

There is no reason to fear that revolution. For the transformation in the character of society that flows from what is called the Georgist philosophy would be determined by two constraints that are not negotiable: respect for the liberty of the individual and for the democratic process. Without that respect, it will not be possible to resolve the current social conflicts and achieve consensus in the community.

The values that underpin the Georgist prospectus are consistent with the traditions of nearly all the world religions and philosophies. The problem is that, in actuality, society is not governed by those values.

Our concept of revolution is conservative in character. It is achieved by osmosis rather than violence. Even so, the vision of the Georgist society will disturb people who think they will lose. But if sanity is to prevail, the

changes will occur; we must have faith in reason.

The miniscule practical expressions of The Good Society - as recognisable in Georgist terms - have surfaced over the past century. They have not, however, been associated with a vigorous public exposition of the Georgist philosophy along the lines that would herald a systemic change.

Reform of public finance - by socialising the rent of land - is the unique contribution to political ideology offered by the Georgist philosophy. Opponents of this philosophy have succeeded, however, by the simple device of dictating the terms of debate. Georgists fell into the trap, which is why they have failed to transform the small-scale experiments into socially significant changes in society.

Reason suggests that, out of sheer necessity, the right revolution will come one day. But can we afford to sit back and wait? Too many exponents of the Georgist ideology have chosen the route of inertia, these past 50 years. *Land & Liberty* hopes that the vision of Henry George will be more vigorously promoted over the next couple of decades, which may be all the time we have before another Dark Age.