

# Tenth-Lesson Conclusion

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IT may surprise many that Henry George's philosophy is the newest one on economics. All other reformists, though they call their philosophies New Deal or New Frontier, just bring back the ideas that were tried in Europe before John Locke and the Declaration of Independence. Henry George does not call for more government but less, not more taxation but simpler and easier taxation. The other reformers want to help the common man by putting him under the yoke of oppressive labor bosses and having the government restrict his freedom. They grant him higher money wages by controlling or wasting production so that he gets less to eat.

George does not set Labor and Capital up as opponents but on the same team. He wants no protectionism. A business is to survive only as long as it is needed. A laborer is to be employed only as he can provide service. He recognizes most tariffs as wasteful.

Modern "economists" brush aside common sense economic laws as "Crusoe Economics." These things, they say, may have been all right when the country was young but now things are so complicated that new restrictions are needed. But Henry George says, "the fundamental truth, that in all economic reasoning must be firmly grasped, and never let go, is that society in its most highly developed form is but an elaboration of society in its rudest beginnings, and that principles obvious in the simpler relations of men are merely disguised and not abrogated or reversed by the more intricate relations that result from the

division of labor and the use of complex tools and methods."

George is not against bigness, but directs his reform at monopoly. Not the so-called monopoly that a company achieves by providing goods and service for less man-hours than its competitors but at the real monopoly, that is not earned but government-granted. Not the monopoly of the successful company or inventor that brings progress but the monopoly of land which hampers progress.

The beauty of the philosophy is that as land monopoly vanishes, labor union monopoly and all other progress-detering monopolies will automatically vanish also.

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