

LAND&LIBERTY

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PO Box 6408, London, W1A 3GY
ph +44 (0) 800 048 8537
e editor@LandandLiberty.net

Editor David Triggs
Publisher Henry George Foundation

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Land&Liberty has chronicled world events for over 100 years. It has offered a unique perspective with its reports, analysis and comment on the core issues of political economy. And that uniqueness remains. Land&Liberty aims to explore how our common wealth should be used—and to demonstrate that this is the key to building the bridge of sustainability between private life, the public sector and our resources—between the individual, the community and the environment. Land&Liberty—putting people at the heart of economics.

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letter from the publisher

This edition of Land&Liberty marks the beginning of an effort by the Henry George Foundation to meet a need that is long overdue - to help young people participate constructively in social and economic affairs. As an educational charity our primary function is to facilitate learning and we need to take into account how people learn and what they have already learnt. Most importantly people learn from direct observation and experience of the world about them. They also learn from other people, from what they say, write, do and produce. What people learn affects how they think and crystallises in a body of ideas, theories, opinions and beliefs that they adopt and use when dealing with the world around them. It manifests in what they say, write, do and produce. Thus a spiral of learning is set in train as the ideas, etc. that have been adopted at one stage influence their observation, experience and reception of those offered by others, at the next.

The situation is further complicated by the most important subject that people learn about – themselves. Here is where the ideas, theories, opinions and beliefs that people adopt have the most powerful effect on what they learn and their capacity to learn. The ideas that people hold about 'me' and correspondingly, what is 'mine' rule their lives, and what they may then learn.

One of the beauties of Henry George's approach to learning is the way he uses observation of the natural world to test ideas. In this way he maintains control of his own thinking and protects himself from any errors that may have crept into the thinking of others. He saw in the order, regularity and patterns that can be seen throughout the natural world evidence of natural law. This became his test for the truth in any statement – is it consistent with the law? Recognising both man and human society as natural, he sought to discover the truth about political economy by seeking to identify the natural laws that govern the production and distribution of wealth in society. He observed how man made arrangements also affected this and that where they were not just or consistent with the natural laws he identified, social and economic problems arose.

Young people today are subjected an astounding and confusing range of ideas, theories, opinions and beliefs pertaining to the production and distribution of wealth. They come from every direction including their parents and friends, schools and colleges, advertising and entertainment, political parties and pressure groups, banks and financial institutions, the media in all its guises and employers and potential employers etc.

Very few are objective or based upon a scientific approach to the subject which has such a profound importance for their future, human development and the planet. There are signs that an increasing number of young people are now eager to participate constructively in social and economic affairs and we are sure they could do no better than to explore with us what Henry George had to say on the subject.

David Triggs
Executive Chairman
Henry George Foundation

[henrygeorgefoundation@
googlemail.com](mailto:henrygeorgefoundation@googlemail.com)

