

**MASON GAFFNEY FOR DUMMIES**

by Sungin Ahn, Riverside, CA

(The reviewer of The Mason Gaffney Reader is a student of Economics Professor Dr. Mason Gaffney at the University of California, Riverside. He may be emailed at sahn007@ucr.edu)

“One of the most important but underappreciated ideas in economics is the Henry George principle of taxing the economic rent of land, and more generally, natural resources. This wonderful set of essays, written over a long and

productive scholarly career, should be compulsory reading: An inveterate optimist, Mason Gaffney makes an excellent case that, by applying the Henry George principle, we can reduce inequality, and raise ample public revenues to be directed at any one of a multitude of society’s ills. In this collection of witty and original essays, Gaffney also offers plausible solutions to problems of urban renewal and finance, environmental protection, the cycle of boom and bust, and conflict generated by rent-seeking multinational corporations.” — Joseph Stiglitz, University Professor of International Affairs, Columbia University, and winner of the 2001 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

“A crisp cocktail of geography, history and economics, chilled by crackling clear prose. In these sparkling essays on rent, land and taxes, Mason Gaffney gives us Henry George in his time and for our own.” — James Galbraith, author of *Inequality and Instability*, and winner of the 2014 Leontief Prize.

Mason Gaffney is a Professor Emeritus of the economics department in University of California, Riverside. Gaffney, who has been contributing many of GroundSwell’s favorite articles, has recently published a new book, The Mason Gaffney Reader. Gaffney’s newest book is a collection of 21 of some of his best essays, whose topics range from the nature of consumption to an analysis of the recent 2007 economic crisis. Also included is his newest article, “Europe’s Fatal Affair with the

Value-Added Tax,” in which he illustrates that many European nations’ dependence on heavy value-added tax as the main source of their revenue led to its inability to recover from the recent crisis. Gaffney’s broad range of economic knowledge and deep insights give light to explaining various phenomena in the economy that even many prominent economists could not answer comprehensively.

The Mason Gaffney Reader was published in cooperation with Lindy Davies as the editor and the Henry George Institute as the publisher. The book, available now on Amazon, could be purchased for \$12.95. <<

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