In 1776 is was declared "That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness!"

And in 1879, Henry George declared: These rights are denied when the equal right to land — on which and by which men alone can live—is denied.

Equality of political rights will not compensate for the denial of the equal right to the bounty of nature. Political liberty, when the equal right to land is denied, becomes, as population increases and invention goes on, merely the liberty to compete for employment at starvation wages. This is the truth that we have ignored.

And so there come beggars in our streets and tramps on our roads; and poverty enslaves men who we boast are political sovereigns; and want breeds ignorance that our schools cannot enlighten; and citizens vote as their masters dictate; and the demagogue usurps the part of the statesman; and gold weighs in the scales of justice; and in high places sit those who do not pay to civic virtue even the compliment of hypocrisy; . . . un-quote.

Wages were stagnant and the price of housing was getting higher and higher. And Donald Trump promised to fix it all. No, his followers have not yet gotten the higher wages or lower prices, especially for housing, but, they still expect to. And in the meantime, Trump has given his supporters their pride. They have become a part of something far more powerful than themselves. They are making America Great Again.

Trump is getting rid of the undocumented immigrants who are taking our jobs and housing. He is re-claiming the oil in Venezuela that will make gasoline affordable. And he is neutralizing the Iranian threat of a nuclear attack. What could be more important than that?

I marvel at the Bread and Circuses — now in the 21st Century. The psychology transcends from sports to the political arena. The Trumpers have had all the pride of a home team win. ***

The Republican party has now made the final conversion of Christianity from the Pacifism of Jesus to the Christian Crusaders, who plundered the Holy land a thousand years ago. ***

And yes, Biden and other Democrats, as well as Republicans, received millions of dollars from pro Israeli organizations — and then our government provided Billions of dollars worth of weapons used for genocide, on the path to re-creating the ancient kingdom of Israel. Perhaps "we do have the best Congress money can buy". ***

You might wonder, what would drive a man with nearly a trillion dollars in assets to want even more? He already has over 3,000 times what the average family consumes in a lifetime. And the answer is: We are gregarious animals. We thrive on praise and

approval — on the admiration of our peers. And if it were not for the fear of want, there would be no worship of wealth. if it were not for the degradation and humiliation of poverty, we would look at the multi-millionaires and billionaires as fools who are wasting their lives in the pursuit of wealth they could never hope to consume.

But, it is not about the consumption of wealth. It is about the admiration and status that comes with power and the accumulation of wealth. The fact that their fellow Americans are struggling; that the economy is breaking down, and recession looms ahead; that they are causing respiratory diseases, cancer, and global warming — hastening the day when the planet is uninhabitable, the fact that they are increasing the chance of nuclear war, as they fight over natural resources — can not brake the obsession to accumulate wealth, and acquire the honor of being rich, richer, and the richest.

The Republican party, in an effort to retain control, has branded the Democratic Party as Socialists. Well, not even the "Democratic Socialists of America" advocate the government confiscate the means of production: Land, factories, machines, and inventories, which is the text book definition of Socialism.

As for the Radical Left, they are just about the farthest thing from radical I can think of. That is: Going to the root of our problems.

The American revenue system is built on confiscatory taxes. And the in-equitable distribution of opportunity and wealth is addressed with interventions, and the redistribution of wealth: The Minimum Wage, the 8 Hr. Day, and welfare payments. The Republicans want to redistribute less wealth to the poor, and confiscate more wealth for the military.

Our governments are already spending a trillion dollars a year on the military, and another trillion on welfare because there aren't enough jobs, wages are so low, and the price of housing is so high.

We now spend a Trillion dollars a year on Education, and it costs a trillion dollars more every year for the interest on the national debt.

And what do the critics of our system recommend? Chris Hedges, one of the left's most respected commentators, calls for Labor unions, and even a general strike. Now, it is completely fair that people refuse to work until their employer agrees to give them more of what they produce. But, the only way for them to actually get more of what they produce, is to deny others, more desperate then themselves, an opportunity to work. And even then, who can go longer without an income, the workers or the millionaire and billionaire landowners who employ them?

Present company excepted, my prison students, and a hand full of people around the world, no one has so much as a clue that the shortage of jobs, the lack of housing, and static wages, are the result of private property in land. It not only allows people to steal

what other people produce, it engenders land speculation: Valuable land sitting Idle where no one can live or work, and underused land that grossly increases the cost of the infrastructure and public service.

And, both Republicans and Democrats are absolutely committed — 100%, to private property in land.

True, the Democrats, are for a kinder, gentler form of exploitation, with a higher Min Wage, earned income tax credits, and more welfare programs, but they stand for private property in land every bit as much as the Republicans.

What is New Castle County's answer to the housing crisis? Allow homeowners to add an apartment or a second house — exploiting those who can not afford a down payment on a dwelling of their own.

And so, generation after generation, our legislators try to cure these intractable problems with education, technology, and more or less interventions and redistributions of wealth.

Alright then, what would create full employment, raise wages, make housing affordable, and prevent recessions? It is very simple. It was put forth by Henry George in 1879, and many others before him, including Thomas Paine in 1797.

We acknowledge land, the Earth itself, as a common opportunity. We honor titles to land, so that people can keep what they produce on the land, like houses and factories, and the minerals that are extracted from the land. But the titles are conditional upon the payment of their rental value. We abolish all confiscatory taxes. We have the government manage the roads, and anything in which there cannot reasonably be competition, like the pipes and wires that run along them. And we abolish all government granted monopolies — allowing freedom and free enterprise — without monopoly. That is The Single Tax proposal.

Collecting the Potential rent of land for public revenue, creates the incentive to rebuild our cities to their full potential. It draws people from the interior and preserves the wilderness. It creates free land for homesteads — an alternative opportunity that raises wages everywhere — just as it did in the 19th century.

The metropolitan areas become so efficient, that the rental value of their land supports all government expenditures. It is not only the infrastructure and public service, but National defense, National healthcare, and a safety net for those who are physically and mentally unable to take care of themselves. The rent of land could provide for medical and environmental research, and the advance of civilization.

When land is treated as private property, wages of the least skilled and educated workers are driven to a bare subsistence — no matter how much they produce. No one is chained or whipped. And no one seems personally responsible, but the outcome is

the same. One person works and another person consumes all but enough to keep the wage slave working at full capacity. And even with the Min. Wage, his need for housing, makes him: A slave to the rent.

Wages of superior workers are determined by supply and demand. True, some people earn hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. But their pay is never more than is necessary for the supply of each and every type and level of skill and knowledge to meet the demand. All the gains of material progress go to the owners of land and other monopolies — as private fortunes roll up in the Billions.

When the land is owned in common, and titles require a rental payment, cooperation is no longer impeded by idle and underused land. Technology and the infrastructure increase productivity on the very best land that is free, increasing wages and the return to productive wealth. Technology and the infrastructure increase productivity far more on superior lands where populations are dense. And, as the land is owned in common, all people share in the greater productivity.

Under these circumstances, it wouldn't matter how many jobs are eliminated with A-I powered robots, Just like all other labor saving inventions, it will increase the rent of land. And, as equal owners of the land, all people will enjoy the benefits of less work or more wealth.

With private property in land, we can always imagine a world like Downton Abbey, where the landless are diligent and faithful in their service to the lords. And the landlords provide their employees a decent respectful life — where they care very much about each and every servant in their employ.

Where the servants accept their station or cast, not having been born with land or a superior scholarly aptitude. And the landlords, by birth or investment, feel completely entitled to consume the surplus rents.

Social reform, said Henry George, will not to be secured by noise and shouting; by complaints and denunciations; by the forming of parties, or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas.

Power is always in the hands of the people,

What oppresses the masses is their own collective ignorance.

We need only to distinguish between the opportunities of the Earth, and the results of human endeavor — between the results that can be attributed to individual exertions, and that portion of wealth which is created by the community and society, as a whole.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how the Single Tax will deliver those unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. []

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