

FOREWORD

The research and writing of this book has taken over a decade to achieve. My motivation for undertaking the work arose out of my own graduate level studies in Liberal Arts at Temple University back in the 1980s. I was also at the same time a member of the faculty of the Henry George School of Social Science, teaching courses based on the main works of political economist Henry George. The Henry George School has no admission requirements. As a result, the students come into the course work with very different educational backgrounds. Some have completed graduate or even post-graduate work; others may not even have a high school diploma. As I was completing my own course work, it occurred to me that a remedial course that encompassed the essential history and ideas of political and social philosophy would be a valuable addition to the curriculum of the Henry George School. Remarkably, I also came to feel that many of my fellow students working toward advanced degrees could benefit by the same interdisciplinary approach to knowledge that is the essence of political economy.

Not long after completing my degree program, I began to develop the material for a new course titled "The Search for the Just Society." I began teaching the course at the Henry George School. Encouraged by the response of students, I began to work on detailed lesson plans so that other members of the faculty could also teach the same material. This project evolved into the writing of the first draft of the manuscript that became "The Discovery of First Principles."

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