

How I Came to Embrace the Principles Embraced by Henry George

By: Sean Hays / 29 February, 2024

My story on seeing the cat is fairly short.

I grew up in Arizona and witnessed my father buy land from his grandfather, and it included some trailers that he rented. Over time my father sold the rentals so that there would no longer be trailers on the land. He built a log cabin on the land. One of the few in southern Arizona.

As time passed, I saw all the open space around me get filled in with more and more homes. That open space was not mine, but it was mine as far as my childhood mind was concerned. I felt nothing but loss as more homes came in.

Later on in life I got involved in real estate investing, having grown up in the school of business. About the same time I moved to Montana simply because of the ability to afford it due to real estate prices going up. But while in Montana I started to think about land again. How did people come to own it?

It was up there that I really thought more about the expansion westward, Lewis and Clark, and how the railroad companies 'earned the rights' to massive amounts of land in that region. Of course there are the stories of the Native Americans that lived there prior. That was when it really solidified in my mind that the way land is owned is only through force. It reaffirmed a fleeting thought I had earlier in life, maybe 10 years earlier, about the Israeli Palestine conflict. Back then I thought, "Why don't they just pay each other for the land or access to the land that they're fighting over?"

Now I know even more so why these things are happening.

I've been Libertarian since my youth, but it was when I got involved in Bitcoin that I was 'forced' to explore the world we live in and how we're going to sustain it well into the future. I've long been concerned with sustainability, both economically and environmentally, but also aware of the inaccuracies within media and education.

I started doing research on my thoughts and found that these thoughts were not new, but largely unknown the rest of the world as I learned of Georgism.

Labeling it Georgism might do it a disservice, as I suspect he was not the first person to conceive of this, and to attribute something that's beyond any one man to one man would do a disservice to the idea. For me, the idea beyond anything human. It feels like a mathematical truth.

If Georgism is a mathematical truth, then there are some imbalances that we will need to correct over time. Maybe over a hundred years.

I have not delved into Georgism itself too deeply yet, as the high level concepts are all I need for now. I have an interest in tying Georgism to Maslow's hierarchy of needs (which also should be cleaned up a bit) and then describing it more precisely with algebra and computer technology. If we do I think we have a

potential long-term solution for more sustainable, peaceful, and very enjoyable world.

The thoughts and ideas that I have I would like to get on paper. But the work that I have done to get to where I am right now has been emotionally and physically taxing. I need help.

Sean