

THE REAL TARGET

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With the increasing concern with tax reform, and the growing list of some version of land value taxation, it becomes important for Georgists not to be led astray but to keep their eyes on the real target.

The aim of Henry George and his followers is not to institute a better system of taxation so more funds can be squeezed out of the taxpayers to be wasted on dubious social reforms. The goal, instead, is to create conditions of freedom so that each individual can utilize his God-given talents to whatever extent he wishes so as to make his life a joy to himself as long as he does not interfere with the equal rights of others.

The collection of economic rent, whether by land value taxation, or by the auction method, is merely one of the most important means to accomplish this goal. Let us not forget there are also other important means which must be pursued, such as reducing the power of the Government.

To recapitulate: The goal: the greatest possible degree of freedom for the individual. The principal means: the collection of economic rent, and the reduction of the power of the state.