

cover story

THE WORLD IN 2020: Conventional economists were proved wrong in their predictions but what do **L&L** writers forecast for the decade to come?

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news in brief ...

IU Conference The next IU Conference will take place in London from April 26th to 30th 2010. Themes discussed will include: The Georgist movement, what lessons do we need to learn from our past to engage the mainstream? The current financial fallout; Sharia Economics, and the environment—the real issues behind Cap & Trade and alternative resources. A series of films will be shown and conference partners Oxfam, Greenpeace and Amnesty International will also take part in presentations and join in debates. See www.theiu.org for details.

ONS publishes wealth survey A survey by the Office of National Statistics estimated the total wealth of households in the UK to be £9 trillion. It also revealed the gap between Britain's wealthiest and least wealthy. "The least wealthy half of households had 9% of total wealth, while the wealthiest half had 91%. The wealthiest 20% of households had 62% of total wealth including private pension wealth", said the report. The report estimated that 39% of the wealth in Britain was in property. See the full report at www.statistics.gov.uk

Prosper California A new political organisation in America called Prosper California has been set up to campaign on behalf of the California Tax Reform Initiative. The Initiative proposes to "eliminate most [current] taxes which discourage productive enterprise and commerce in California," and replace them with "a tax which economists agree does not penalise productive activity—a tax on the rental value of California's enormously valuable land." View more details at www.prospercalifornia.com

House prices quadruple in 50 years A survey by the Halifax has found that the price of homes in the UK has almost quadrupled since the end of the 1950s, even when other forms of inflation are taken into account. In 1959 a typical three bedroom semi cost £2,507, the equivalent of £43,713 in today's money. Today the same home costs £162,085. According to the bank, over the past half century, average house prices have grown by 2.7%, significantly outstripping the average earnings growth rate of 2%.

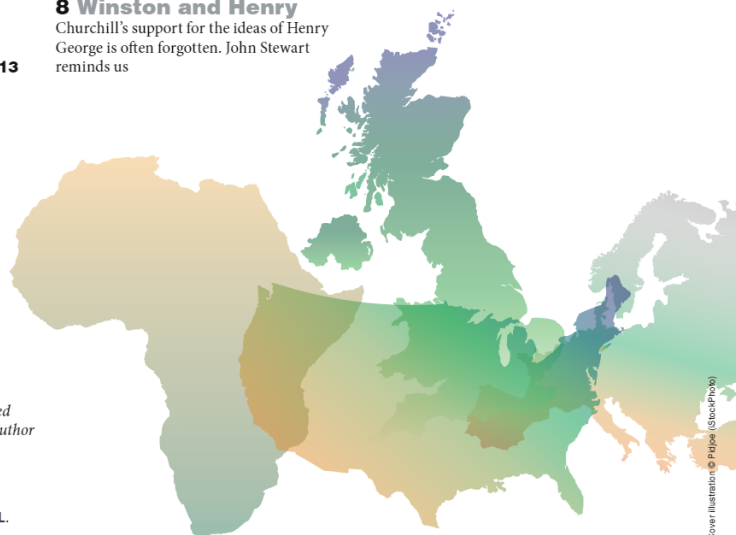
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Our new section looks at how the issues of land, liberty, progress and poverty are being reported in the wider media. This issue: we find new and influential supporters in the world of entertainment and academia and a Westminster council worker wonders why so many wealthy homes lie empty

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Churchill's support for the ideas of Henry George is often forgotten. John Stewart reminds us

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Geoffrey Lee looks at why Henry George was right to reject protectionism

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We interview the people working at the front line to change opinions. This issue: film makers Ross Ashcroft and Megan Campbell



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