

**THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW**

By John Lo Secco  
(Staten Island, New York)

People fail to realize that land and the manner of its distribution has an influence on famine, war and prosperity. At Columbus' time, European population was growing and land became scarce. The imperative to survive led to seeking new lands. Columbus' discovery brought waves of colonists to America. Its abundance of land to employ new technology led to vast production. Plenty of land from east to west was open to individuals to own, to produce and exchange. Its abundance became the envy of the world.

De Tocqueville foresaw that in the future, the two major powers would be the USA and Russia, as they had vast land holdings to expand production. But the USA became wealthy while Russia remained poor. In the USA, despite the effort of those who sought to monopolize land, there was still opportunity for individuals to own land, to produce and exchange the products of their labour. Trade increased rapidly. Russia was at the other extreme. Under the Czarist regime, land was completely monopolized. Then under Communism, land became the property of the State. By denying individuals the private possession and use of land and the freedom to produce and exchange, Communism paralyzed economic development. The new owners and land speculators became the Communist Party. As sole land holder, they had a huge source for transferring wealth to themselves. Their system has now collapsed.

The USA has reached the limit of expansion that Europe struggled with. To open up the vast lands withheld from production, a new method of distribution is necessary. Russia also needs a new method to get the economy going.

Henry George appears to have the solution for both economies. Tax land, not labour. He could be the new

Columbus, showing how to open vast new lands for production and exchange.

U.S. "Georgist Quarterly",  
Winter 1991-92.