

THE LAND TAXATION THEORY

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The singular law [Leviticus, xxv] of the inalienability of private ownership of **land** is cited by the unconscious Henry George to the Archbishop to instruct him in the scriptures as forbidding private ownership of **land**. Evidently he is sincere in this. And this example of his understanding of the Mosaic law, when citing it, is a fair specimen of his understanding of the several writers on political economy, whom he overthrew to prepare the way for his great discovery of making the people rich and happy by taxes on the **land**.

In reality there is no more connection between the State's ownership of the **land** and the Henry George nostrum of making the people rich by taxing the **land**, than between the Mosaic law of the inalienability of private title to **land** and the State's sole proprietorship. The people's subsistence comes from the **land**, and the tax on the **land** comes finally on the cost of their food.

If taxing the **land** were a blessing to the people, then would the rent paid by the Irish tenantry be a blessing; for it is a tax on the **land** held by them, and the proceeds are as much expended for the common good as would be Henry George's proposition that government shall tax the **land** to run the railroads, telegraphs, mails and so on, and carry the people and their traffic free