

The Henry George League

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*AIM: Collection of land values or ground rent as public revenue.
Eventual abolition of taxes now levied upon labour and production.*

VICTORIAN DIVISION

September 26th 1981

It was my signal honour to participate in the Conference on the History of the Republic of China held in Taipei, Taiwan in August 1981, at which I presented a paper which dealt with Western influences upon Sun Yat Sen, in particular the social philosophy of Henry George, and which also annotated the manner in which that same social philosophy was highlighted in Antipodean social ferment at the turn of the century - at precisely the same time as Sun Yat Sen was crystallizing his own ideas.

Subsequently, I took part in a Symposium on Sun Yat Sen in Hong Kong. Out of my experiences at both seminars two major facets emerged:

1) The practical application of Sun Yat Sen's land reform proposals in Taiwan have not been fully successful.

2) The religious dimension in the influences upon the young Sun Yat Sen has not been fully appreciated in assessments of him. He was strongly influenced by men through whose own lives there ran the very warp and woof of evangelical Christianity. Therefore to understand Sun Yat Sen these men's own backgrounds must be examined in depth. Furthermore there was a strong religious element in the writing of Henry George to whom Sun Yat Sen was introduced by the evangelical missionary, W.E. Macklin. I found myself in a unique position to "latch" on to this aspect since my own father was a Baptist theological professor, and my other mentor, for 30 years, was a Baptist missionary to India, cast in the stamp of Macklin as a thorough-going Georgeist.

During the course of both seminars I therefore addressed myself, "on the wing" to each of these matters as they emerged, and append hereto the manner in which I dealt with them.

I also append a most important observation by Professor Kindermann to the effect that there is a danger of Sun Yat Sen being deified along with his SAN MIN CHU I to the point of them being of no practical use! The same danger applies to Henry George. The ideas of both these men are more important than the men themselves. It is the ideas that must be translated into practical politics, though they themselves be dead and buried. It is for that reason that it is my hope that the practical politics of Henry George will yet be brought to fruition in Taiwan - as one of the fruits of the Conference on the History of the Republic. It is essential that Taiwan gets it right, because not only she, but the mainland and many a "third world" country is going to equally depend upon it.

Kenneth N. Grigg.

READ OUR MONTHLY JOURNAL "PROGRESS"

A preview of Seminar on ROC founding history

Taipei, Aug. 22 (CNA) A large-scale international symposium on the founding history of the Republic of China is scheduled to be held here Aug. 22-28 with a total of 220 scholars and experts at home and abroad attending.

The symposium, set up to mark the 70th year of the founding of the republic, is jointly sponsored by the Party History Committee of the Kuomintang, Academia Historica, the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica, and the Institute of International Relations. The KMT Party History Committee is organizing the event.

75 scholars and experts

A total of 75 scholars and experts from nine countries and areas have been invited

to attend the academic conference, including 44 from the United States, six each from Japan and South Korea, five from Hongkong, four from West Germany, three each from Britain, France and Australia, and one from Singapore.

Among the noted historians from foreign countries are: C. Martin Wilbur, Robert A. Scalapino, Lloyd E. Eastman, Thomas A. Metzger, Mark Elvin, Domes Jorgen, Gottfried Karl Kindermann, Harold Z. Schffrin, Min Tu-ki and Kenneth N. Grigg.

Many well-known overseas Chinese scholars, such as Yu Yin-shih, Chou Tseh-chung, Liang Chin-tuan and Tang Teh-kan, will also take part in the meeting.

Prof. Chen Jai-hsien of National Taiwan University

indicated that the upcoming symposium will have great political implications. It will clarify some misunderstandings about the founding history of the Republic of China and smash distortive Chinese Communist propaganda, Prof. Chen pointed out.

He further added that the seminar will also help this country clarify its image among academicians around the world.

The organizing committee of the seminar has received 73 papers from foreign and local scholars dealing with politics, military, diplomacy, culture and education, economy and agriculture.

All symposium papers and minutes will be published in Chinese and English versions to mark the occasion of the republic's 70th founding year.

China News
25/8/81

Studying Our History

HISTORIANS from all over the world are here for a conference on the history of the Republic of China.

Some may ask why this should be necessary. Don't we know all about our history?

No one ever knows all about history. It is being continuously rewritten in the light of new evidence and to make history more meaningful to the people of a new generation.

For example, those who fought at Wuchang in the National Revolution didn't know the whole picture. They did know the atmosphere in which their history was being written.

We know a good deal more about the whole picture, but our environment is very different and the history has to be written in terms meaningful to us.

This meeting is important for another reason.

The Communists are continuing their efforts to rewrite the Republic of China's history in such a way as to destroy the Three Principles of the People and depict Dr. Sun as an embryo disciple of Marx.

To put it another way, the Communists are trying to transform Nationalism, Democracy, and Social

Many of the historians who have come here are foreigners. The study of Chinese history has taken on importance in the United States, Europe, Australia and other places.

China is the most populous and one of the biggest lands on earth. Its influence on the rest of the world is going to be greater in the future than in the past.

China's dynastic history is fascinating and meaningful. But for our times, the history of the Republic of China and the threat of Communism have greater immediate importance.

Our Republic made mistakes as well as correct decisions in the period from the overthrow of the Ch'ing Dynasty in 1911 down to the 1949 mainland usurpation of the Communists.

Many mistakes have been corrected during the Taiwan period of the last three decades. Still, the return of the Constitution to the continent remains to be effected.

Study of what happened, especially from about 1925 to 1949, may throw a good deal of light on the road back and the steps necessary to defeat and eradicate Communism.

The views of our foreign friends will be particularly welcome, because they

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Mr. Carter's Biggest Mistake

JIMMY Carter is in Red China. There is a temptation to say that is where he belongs.

President Carter wounded us grievously.

Worse than that, he planned the stroke covertly. He failed even to consult the Congress.

Mr. Carter is not a bad man. At least he does not intend to be.

His fault is in misconstruing Chinese history and reality. He meant to act in the self-interest of the United States. He acted in the interest of Red China.

The former president told the Chinese Communists he was proud of his decision to normalize relations with them.

Is he also proud of having stabbed us in the back in order to do so?

Even if he is, bitterness will get us nowhere.

It is more helpful to examine Mr. Carter's reasons, because some other Americans think the same way.

Essentially, he is one of the Red China card players. Addressing his hosts, he spoke of the "strategic importance" of the Washington-Peiping relationship.

He said the strategic role of the Chinese Communists is to prevent Soviet expansionism.

But how? Is Mr. Carter an advocate of arming the Chinese Communists at a cost of US\$100 billion? Does he think Red China is going to open bases to American forces?

If he alludes to 1 billion people and a subcontinent, these existed before normalization and have not been changed in any way by U.S. recognition.

Mr. Carter also spoke of the relationship as involving the pressure of natural resources and the worldwide threat to peace.

Except for people, Red China has no resources to spare. It is one of the poorest lands in the world. If the mainland were modernized, it would have no oil for Japan, the United States or anyone else.

Mr. Carter mentions peace. What peace? That of the Taiwan Straits or the Vietnam border?

When Mr. Carter made his recognition decision, he forgot that Red China had made war against the United States and the United Nations only a generation before. He ignored the 1958 Battle of Kinmen. He swept away all the years in which the United States and not the USSR was Enemy No. 1 of the Chinese Communists.

Jimmy Carter accepts Communism as the shape of the Chinese future. He is as wrong about that as everything else in his China policy portfolio.

He richly deserves the red carpet the Chinese Communists have rolled out for him. He has earned every square inch of it — and if he lives long enough, he is going to regret the biggest mistake he ever made in his life.

Jimmy Carter always prided himself on being a nuclear specialist, a military man and a realist. Now that he is a private citizen, we wonder why he doesn't have the realism and the objectivity to come here and see the China he rejected. He would be accepted with courtesy and given every opportunity to discover the Chinese truth.