

SOCIAL STATICS

The conditions essential to human happiness specified,
and the first of them developed - Herbert Spencer
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"EVERY MAN HAS FREEDOM TO DO ALL THAT HE WILLS, PROVIDED HE INFRINGES NOT THE EQUAL FREEDOM OF ANY OTHER MAN...Given a race of beings having like claims to pursue the objects of their desires; given a world adapted to the gratification of those desires...and it unavoidably follows that they have equal rights to the use of this world. ...no one...may use the earth in such a way as to prevent (others) from similarly using it. ...If ONE portion of the earth's surface may justly become the possession of an individual...to which he has an exclusive right...eventually the WHOLE of the earth's surface may so be held...landless men might equitably be expelled from the earth altogether. ...The original deeds were written with the sword...Does sale or bequest generate a right where it did not previously exist?" The Law of Equal Freedom applies also to ANY business, teaching, religion, health or other service, the issuance of money. Ethical, efficient. State to protect life and property ONLY. (AFTER we get right to the earth) "The right to ignore the state" (Presumably no sumptuary laws; the right to suicide, euthanasia) "the rights of his fellow men...form the only legitimate restraint upon his words. ...Equity knows no difference of sex. (or age)...Coercion in all its forms - educational or other - is essentially vicious. ...Blackstone: 'No human laws are of any validity if contrary to the law of nature' "...a legislature is NOT 'our God upon earth,'...government is essentially immoral...Not only does magisterial power exist BECAUSE of evil, but it exists BY evil. ...Soldiers, policemen, and jailers; swords, batons, and fetters are instruments for inflicting pain; ...in the abstract wrong. ...morality stands toward government only in the nature of a limitation...indicating the conditions of existence, constitution, and conduct, under which alone it may ethically be tolerated."

THE STATE - Oppenheimer: "There are two fundamentally opposed means whereby man (satisfies) his desires. ...one's own labor and (its) equivalent in exchange...for the labor of others, the 'economic means' (and) the unrequited appropriation of the labor of others...the 'political means' "-acquired through direct and indirect legislative favors. A School of Economics must occupy itself mainly with opposing these innumerable favors - the 'economic means' consisting merely of free trade, domestic and foreign. Official 'economists' - all employed by monopoly-controlled business, schools, media or government - merely advocate various jugglings of the 'political means' - never their abolition. Henry George's description of an 'economist,' at the University of California: 'a monkey with a microscope, a mule packing a library.'" There is no general recognition of the ability of simple justice to solve our problems - nor even of what justice consists. Most importantly, it consists of equal access to the resources of nature and the community, reflected in ground rent. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and "Bargain in good faith" mean absolutely nothing. Only free choice from surplus opportunities can determine and attain the business structure desired, its size, correct wages and working conditions, with no discrimination whatever; the freedom to reject any unhealthful, accident-prone or unethical work, and move from any unsafe residence; guided by independent private advice. Individual, partnership and cooperative business would result; with natural monopolies - everything in limited supply - government operated, activist supervised; incentives.

Ground rent is the superiority of any site - business or residence - used to best advantage, over marginal land - a value created by nature, population and community development, to which the community is entitled, through full annual assessment. Any underassessment is an "unearned increment" enjoyed by the landholder, capitalization of which, enhanced by speculation, constitutes sale price, depriving millions of a residence, and opportunity to exercise their faculties in work, and so support themselves; causing an infinity of evils, making it not only the greatest possible economic injustice but an incentive to every type of crime against persons and property - thievery, prostitution, rape, vandalism, arson, drink, drugs, chain smoking, poisoned earth, air, water, poisoned and deteriorated food, sickness, broken families, poor

schooling and dropouts, runaway children, corruption, terrorism, colonialism and war. Full assessment - simple justice - leaves no basis for sale price, making all sites available at nominal cost, assuring surplus jobs, ending or minimizing most social evils; permitting decentralization, an end to crowded, noisy, dirty, overpriced urban and rural slums, worldwide; all together, making domestic or foreign exploitation impossible; war pointless, repression largely unnecessary. No amount of charity can remotely compensate for our and the world's horrible injustice in depriving 4.5 billion people of their rightful joint ownership of the earth - ample incentive for converting the 'political means' to the 'economic means.'

Full assessment reduces taxes on production, to which producers have an ethical right, while the impossibility of speculative hoarding assures compact site development, saving time, transportation and other utility costs; making national and local parks, playgrounds and wildlife preserves available at nominal expense; removing the incentive to damage the environment, to make jobs; moving up the quality of residence and margin of cultivation - extractive or site value - and thus the base wage, to a higher level; so raising the entire stairway of wages. Without full assessment, all improvements in production or savings must redound to landholders, as such, leaving the stairway of wages at the subsistence level for each grade of skill, as all must offer as much as they can afford, to escape unemployment, with land held for a speculative rise. (PROGRESS AND POVERTY) A reductio ad absurdum comparable to exclusive land ownership is the claimed existence of economic interest - a return to an inanimate object (capital-credit), in excess of insurance on the risk. This could reach a return on any given fund, at any rate of interest, which would eventually support the world, without human effort - an absurdity noted by many works on banking - not school texts. Capital, correctly defined, is unfinished wealth, whether the article being processed, or equipment and supplies used up in processing, which may be said to go into the wealth. It is a labor product, which cannot help to produce itself. "Wealth is produced by the application of labor to land, 'with the help of capital' " is absurd. And if, by "capital," one means money, this is only a claim on the capital goods in the market place - already refuted as "bootstrap economics." No funds should be set up, the "interest" on which may be expected to supply a net income, in excess of the labor value of any judgment involved, as did Wm. Pitt and Alexander Hamilton, without success, in the hope of paying off their national debts. Only 18% of private pension funds pay out. They depend on monopoly, which shouldn't exist; government pensions on taxation.

Obligating future generations to pay for current expenses was equally ridiculed by Spencer and George. No large national debt has ever been paid. It is needless, as expenses must be covered by current revenue, and it is only a matter of issuing tax receipts or bonds for same; tax receipts being ethical, and a great disincentive to war and war preparations. Federal deficits are now predicted to remain around \$ 200 billion "as far as the eye can see," whereas we could have a great surplus by cancelling the \$ 295 billion in tax subsidies paid to corporations; a much greater surplus by abolishing all loopholes, and levying a flat rate tax against both business, and individuals above a certain income level; a yet greater one, by cancelling the national debt, and saving \$ 100 billion "interest;" more, by taxing religious-owned business; more, by having all now tax exempt institutions and government agencies pay at least ground rent for the value they are receiving; more, from making public a chart of all bare land values, making favoritism or discrimination impossible; improvement taxes reduced, as site assessments are increased - the former dropping to zero, when other funds are available, and expenses are reduced, as they will be when voting boycotts and filibusters force government to end its vicious exploitation of the Third World, and its enormous graft and waste, with unpaid activist supervision of all activities.

All domestic monopolies, colonialism, our own neocolonialism, chattel or economic slavery, wars, prisons and capital punishment are uncivilized. Henry George said that all could live well, and travel, on a few hours of pleasant work a day. Many world illiterates support themselves, while college graduates may not find work. About a third of U. S. women, with babies under three, must work; while one wage should be able to support a family. Europe has four to five weeks vacation, more humane prisons, shorter terms, no capital punishment; mediation largely replacing courts and prisons in Japan. We are producing much trivia, poisons, waste and destruction, for the profits and self expression of the few, awaiting our conversion to a cooperative democracy, with equal access to the earth, and representative mediation.