

" . . . The perennial problem presented by the land question and the issue of monopoly must sooner or later be met head-on by Catholic social thinkers. It is at least thinkable that Christian social reconstruction may solve the problem if it makes the approach along the path laid down by Henry George. It is likewise thinkable that the whole movement may be fitted into that social and economic framework which is distinctly Catholic. At any rate, the object of both — a more reasonable distribution of wealth—would make such alignment worth striving for."

During the 46 years since Father Fichter wrote those words the necessity of meeting these problems head-on has been made more imperative by the world-wide growth of Communism, and the urgency of supplying a practical alternative to the chimerical offers and ruthless tactics of Marxism. We believe that the path here laid down may provide the alternative which the Church has so long been seeking.

Structure of the Document

The document has ten sections.

The first section sets forth the background of the Henry George School of Social Science, together with the background of the members of the Henry George School Committee submitting this document.

The next two sections contain principles of basic Roman Catholic doctrine as stated by His Holiness, John Paul II, and a summary of the principles of the Henry George School of Social Science, to indicate the basic concordance thereof.

The fourth section outlines some partial applications of the principles taught by the Henry George School of Social Science and records their successful approaches to the problem of land reform.

The fifth section contrasts other proposals and attempts to achieve land reform with the proposals of the Henry George School. The sixth section discusses the success of partial application of the Henry George principles in achieving the rebuilding of urban areas.

The seventh section provides endorsements of these principles by leading economists. The eighth sets out the moral basis of these principles as outlined by Winston Churchill and Leo Tolstoy.

The ninth section brings the document to a close, while the tenth section adds some appendices on related topics including a listing of common societal problems and the effect on them of the execution of basic reforms.
