

Struggle for progress by Frank Goble

Did Henry George fail to speak the truth? Or have Georgists failed to take sufficient pains to bring his truths to light?

Georgists have failed for at least two reasons, to bring his truths to light. First, because they have not fully understood his ideas, and secondly, because they have not sufficiently understood the process required to translate ideas into action.

Henry George was not merely an economist, he was a social philosopher. To understand his ideas about economics, it is essential to understand his underlying philosophical premise — Natural Law.

Henry George spent little time explaining or defending the concept of Natural Law. Why should he be concerned about defending a premise which had been advanced by some of the greatest minds in history and was the basis upon which the Founding Fathers built the American Declaration of Independence and Constitution? The concept of Natural Law was stated explicitly in the Declaration of Independence, "...the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." Earlier, at the First Continental Congress in 1774, a Declaration of Rights was prepared to prove that

Colonial Rights were based not only on the British Constitution but also upon "immutable Laws of Nature."

Henry George did not spend a great deal of effort explaining or justifying Natural Law because in the late 19th Century the majority of intellectuals still took Natural Law for granted.

Without an understanding and acceptance of Natural Law, the whole Georgist philosophy would be weakened if not shattered. From the concept of Natural Law came George's concept of justice and his basic premise about human nature.