# Site-value Rating and the Liberal Party

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AT ONE TIME, enthusiasts for the taxation of land values had no doubt that the vehicle through which they should work in order to produce this reform was the Liberal Party. Then followed a time when many land taxers came to doubt whether the Liberal Party was of any further use for their purposes. These doubts derived from three causes. First, that people considered that the Liberal Party had no future; second, that they felt that the Liberal Party was committed to other policies which were regarded as inconsistent with historic Liberalism; and that they were far from certain whether the Liberal Party still believed in land taxation. After recent events, when Liberal candidates amassed over six million votes and secured a greater representation than they have had for nearly thirty years and Mr. Heath was driven to make a desperate (and unsuccessful) offer of a Cabinet seat to Mr. Thorpe, it would be extremly difficult for anyone to contend that the Liberal Party has no political future. How firmly it is committed to illiberal policies is a matter for continuing debate. On the third matter there is abundant evidence that the Liberal Party is returning to its old enthusiasm for land-value taxation.

One of the most impressive statements of good,solid land-taxing doctrine which we have seen from the Liberal Party for a very long time is Tudor Jones's pamphlet, *Liberal Focus No. 5: The Case for Land-value Taxation.* (Liberal Publication Department, 15p)

Tudor Jones is lecturer in Political Theory at Lanchester Polytechnic, and was for a time working in the Liberal Party Research Department. This statement can hardly be faulted. He discusses the land problem in its modern and in its historic context; he shows the way in which the Liberal Party has tackled it; he shows its application both to local and to national purposes; and he deals with some of the objections which opponents have raised. Splendid stuff - magnificently argued. What more can one say?