

Praise for Henry George's

## Progress and Poverty

The greatest economics treatise ever written by an American. — Michael Kinsley

The main, underlying idea of Henry George.... is an argument that makes an awful lot of sense. — Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate; author of *Globalization and Its Discontents*

Years before the automobile appeared, Henry George analyzed the dynamics of urban growth and decay. He explained the basic processes that yield an inappropriate distribution of population, inefficient land use, and urban blight.

— Kris Feder, Bard College

George refutes the commonplace idea that we must choose between equity and efficiency.... He rejects both price controls and progressive income taxation, and identifies a different tax policy that brings us both equity and efficiency together. — Mason Gaffney, University of California, Riverside

There is a body of socio-economic truth that incorporates the best insights of both capitalism and socialism. This "middle way" is the philosophy of Henry George. — Robert V. Andelson, Auburn University

People do not argue with the teaching of George, they simply do not know it. And it is impossible to do otherwise with his teaching, for he who becomes acquainted with it cannot but agree. — Leo Tolstoy

If I were to re-write this book [*Brave New World*], I would offer a third alternative — the possibility of sanity — economics would be decentralist and Henry Georgian. — Aldous Huxley

I do not claim that George's remedy is a panacea that will cure by itself all our ailments. But I do claim that we cannot get rid of our basic troubles without it. — John Dewey

## Henry George

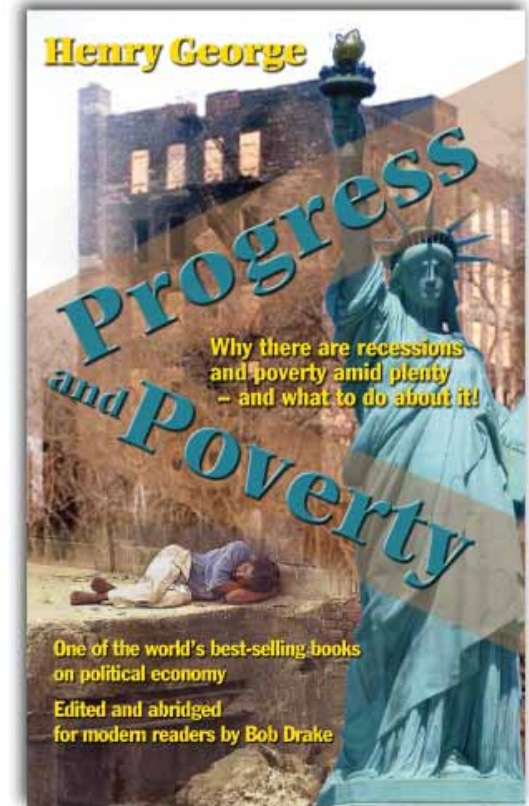
Born in Philadelphia in 1839, Henry George went on to San Francisco and became a newspaper editor who addressed the social problems of his day. On a visit to New York, he was shocked by the contrast between wealth and poverty. He resolved to find a solution, if he could, and the result was *Progress and Poverty* in 1879, which is said to be the all-time best selling book on economics.

George's fame led him to be drafted by the United Labor Party to run for Mayor of New York in 1886. George lost to Abram Hewitt (and Theodore Roosevelt came in third). He travelled and lectured extensively around the world, and wrote several more influential books, including *Social Problems*, *Protection or Free Trade* (which was read in its entirety into the US Congressional Record) and *The Condition of Labor*, an open letter to Pope Leo XIII in response to his encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. George died in 1897 at the height of his second campaign for Mayor of New York. His last book, *The Science of Political Economy*, was published the following year.



Political economy has been called the dismal science. As currently taught, it is indeed hopeless and despairing. Yet, in its proper symmetry, political economy is radiant with hope. When understood correctly, the laws governing the production and distribution of wealth demonstrate that poverty and injustice are not inevitable. — *Progress and Poverty*

## The Book that Inspired an International Movement for Economic Justice



## Now in a Brand-new Edition for the 21st Century

Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* has sold millions of copies around the world. This masterpiece of political economy goes to the root cause of why economic development causes wealth and want to increase side by side.

**Progress and Poverty** made its first appearance in 1879, typeset by the author himself, a struggling San Francisco journalist named Henry George. From this humble beginning it became one of the world's most popular books, translated into dozens of languages with millions of copies distributed around the world, making its author as famous as Mark Twain and Thomas Edison.

*Progress and Poverty* combines eloquence, scholarship, common sense, and a passion for justice that appeal across the spectrum of human society. George's central message is that poverty is not inevitable, but is the result of unjust laws and institutions that deny people equal access to the bounties and opportunities of nature. And these laws and institutions can be changed. In short: The world can be made a better place for everyone — we can have progress without poverty. This message was promulgated by George's "Single Tax" movement and taken by Populists, Progressives, and other reformers into their own movements.

New trends emerged in the field of economics, yet they offered little remedy for the devastating economic and political upheavals of the 20th century. In response, institutions like the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation (1925), the Henry George School of Social Science (1932) and the School of Economic Science (1937) worked to spread the message of *Progress and Poverty* and have made it the subject of enthusiastic study to the present day. Hundreds of thousands of readers have been inspired by its vision of an economic order where prosperity, justice, and sustainability need not be "traded off" against one another.

Despite the wonders of 21st century technology, more people are working longer hours just to make ends meet (George predicted this, and proposed the remedy).

Few people now have time to read a 600-page classic, no matter how inspiring it may be. In response, Bob Drake of the Chicago Henry George School began a five-year process of creating a "thought-by-thought translation" to adapt *Progress and Poverty* to the fast pace of modern readers, and to shorten the book to about half its original length. According to Drake, his goal was "to say what Henry George said in simpler sentences, to follow his thought process as he presented it."

Today's world has seen poverty and destruction increase while wealth and power concentrates into fewer and fewer hands. The message of *Progress and Poverty* is more relevant than ever. As the famous choreographer Agnes De Mille wrote for the 100th anniversary edition: "We are on the brink. It is possible to have a new Dark Ages. But in George there is a voice of hope."

TO REMOVE THE FEAR OF WANT, to give to all classes comfort and independence and opportunities for development—this would be like giving water to a desert. Consider the possibilities if society gave opportunity to all. Factory workers are now turned into machines; children grow up in squalor, vice, and ignorance. They need but the opportunity to bring forth powers of the highest order. Talents now hidden, virtues unsuspected, would come forth to make human life richer, fuller, happier.

— *Progress and Poverty*



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