

Taxing land for the common good


2.12 Read “Land Value Tax: Why Henry George has a Point.” (~5 minutes)

E.S.L. “Why Henry George has a Point.” The Economist, April 2, 2015. <https://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2015/04/land-value-tax> (<https://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2015/04/land-value-tax>)

2.13 Read “Successfull Examples of Land Tax Reforms.” (~4 minutes)

Brauwers, Michael. “Successfull Examples of Land Value Tax Reforms,” blog entry on P2P: Foundation, February 5, 2011. <https://blog.p2pfoundation.net/successfull-examples-of-land-value-tax-reforms/2011/02/05> (<https://blog.p2pfoundation.net/successfull-examples-of-land-value-tax-reforms/2011/02/05>)

2.14 Watch “Georgism’s One Tax Rule.” (7:09)

<p>Georgism's One Tax Rule</p> 
<p>RT News Network. “Georgism’s One Tax Rule,” video, 7:09, posted by Peter Smith to YouTube on January 25, 2014. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3EmrqPfsJQ (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3EmrqPfsJQ)</p>

The Land Value tax is a municipal or regional government tool. It is not a form of land tenure. Like the CLT, it targets capturing the unearned income from rising land values. It therefore can have a dramatic effect on the land market, income distribution and public revenues.

But its’ use is not without political challenges as pointed out in this article from the Economist. The Land Value tax draws supporters across many different ideological perspectives. Applied over the last 75 years, in several distinct contexts, read about its good results in “Successfull Examples of Land Value Tax Reforms.” As few of these were sustained, pay attention to the pressures against reform.

In the RT interview, Scott Baker of Common Ground in New York City (NYC) reflects on the current negative impacts of empty housing, hoarding of land, and suburban growth in New York. He claims a land tax applied in NYC would increase public revenue and reduce inequality and pollution.

