

An Open Event organised by
The Henry George Foundation of Great Britain

Venue: 11 Mandeville Place, London, W1U 3AJ
(Courtesy of The School of Economic Science)



Saturday 22 September 2018

10:00am to 6:15pm (Registration from 09:30)

Ownership?

Henry George's published works resonant with the Early Christian teaching on the Common Good?

Key to understanding Henry George's message is an appreciation of how ideas about ownership underpin commonly held notions regarding theft and property rights as distinct from such concepts as usufruct or the duties associated with stewardship. Such ideas are rooted in what people believe themselves to be and what is their own. It is thus important not only for political economists but for philosophers and theologians as well.

In this year's "Open Event" we shall explore this topic from the same viewpoint Henry George recognised as important i.e. biblical teachings embodied in the old and new testaments. We shall examine the commonality of this viewpoint with that of the early Fathers of the Church as distinct from later doctrines adopted by the main stream churches, in particular, the doctrine which provoked George to write his long open letter to Pope Leo XIII in 1891. This letter was published in book form as *The Condition of Labour*.

Guidance in all of this comes from Charles Avila, a Filipino Georgist, rebel against the oppressive Marcos dictatorship, academic, and cleric. Fifty years ago, he produced a study "Towards a Philosophy of Ownership". Fifteen years later his book was published under the title *Ownership: Early Christian Teaching*.

We shall explore both these approaches during our event. In the morning Joseph Milne will present a paper on "Ownership in Early Christianity and the Natural Law Tradition" and Simon McKenna will discuss "Christian Arguments for Justice in Land in the Context of the History of Western Political Philosophy". In the afternoon David Triggs will share his recent meeting and interview with Charles Avila who we also plan to link with live from the Philippines.

With the help of Frank Peddle, the Series Co-editor of *The Annotated Works of Henry George*, we shall then discuss the same issues in the context of George's letter to the Pope as we mount the UK launch of Volume III of this series which features *The Condition of Labour*, along with George's *Social Problems*.

There will be opportunity for responses and questions from the floor regarding the practical and spiritual implications of the philosophy that underpinned Henry George's approach to the science of political economy.

There will also be plenty of time for social interaction and networking both during the day and as we enjoy social drinks at the conclusion.

Eventbrite booking required: <https://ownershipevent.eventbrite.co.uk>

All Welcome - No entrance fee but generous donations will be welcome!

The Henry George Foundation of Great Britain

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