

I want to credit Paul Knight in the Czech Republic for finding most of these articles.

There has been an abundance of articles talking about land value taxation and Georgism. Here is a partial collection of what we found over the last month.

Earth Sharing Articles During October 2017

1) [SNP 'GARDEN TAX' COULD COST YOU £4K](#)

Gareth Rose, The Scottish Mail, 1st October

Scaremongering from the Scottish Mail. The coordinated campaign to rebrand LVT as a 'garden tax' has also [raised awareness](#) about the strong case for our reform.

Read this rebuttal issued by the Scottish Land Revenue Group (SLRG):

https://twitter.com/agr_slrg/status/914788966116855808

2) [Trump's tax reforms are a bigger gift to business than most expected](#)

Joseph Stiglitz, The Guardian, 4th October

Stiglitz criticises Trump for benefitting millionaires and billionaires.

"Tax policy can also be used to shape the economy. In addition to offering benefits to those who invest, carry out research, and create jobs, higher taxes on land and real-estate speculation would redirect capital toward productivity-enhancing spending – the key to long-term improvement in living standards."

3) [The Tories have betrayed the 'just about managing' in our country – but there is a way they could win them back](#)

Janet Street-Porter, The Independent, 6th October

JSP offers some support to the IEA's vision of a simpler tax system, consisting of "just five taxes, including fuel duty, a land-value tax and a tax on rental income." She says the upsides to simpler taxation "are obvious – people would have more money to spend and the economy would grow, as it would be cheaper to employ staff."

4) [Homes should not be tax havens, but that's exactly what they are right now](#)

Richard Murphy, Tax Research UK, 7th October

Richard Murphy argues that houses in the UK have been turned into tax havens, where the privileged have access to advantages that are denied others.

"Use the principles of land value taxation as the basis for local taxation charges: [. . .] This is radical and extends beyond housing, but by changing the whole perception of a great deal of land as tax efficient investment it will change the way that land is made available for housing."

5) [Donald Trump's tax plan is doomed from the start](#) (Open in incognito to avoid the pay-wall.)

Alan Kohler, The Weekend Australian, 7th October

Another critique of Trump tax plans:

"The other problem coming up is that we may be approaching a time when automation hollows out employment, so that, as Bill Gates and others have said, we'll need to start taxing robots, not people. Taxing robots means taxing companies – properly, not letting them shift profits to tax havens. The only alternative is to tax land, as proposed by Henry George 138 years ago, but that seems a long way from getting on to the agenda and

anyway, there would still have to be a company tax regime that works as well. Land tax is an alternative to personal income tax."

- 6) [Derek Mackay pledges 'informed debate' on Holyrood's tax raising powers](#)

Tom Gordon, The Herald, 9th October

The Herald reports on SNP Finance Secretary Derek Mackay's speech at his party's conference, where he "asked the Scottish Land Commission to research the introduction of a Land Value Tax - an olive branch to the Scottish Greens ahead of budget talks."

(See also <https://twitter.com/theSNP/status/917400790716829698>)

- 7) [The Least Bad Tax](#)

Bhavin Patel, Being Libertarian, 10th October

An article by a geo-libertarian high school student, containing justification for LVT from Adam Smith.

"A better solution would be to have property taxes based on land value similar to ground rents. Why? Consider how the real estate market does it; fees for homeowner's associations are determined by the value of the property it manages. Not only does it fall within market-oriented thinking, but it's also historically supported by libertarian thinkers."

- 8) [How Labour could lead the global economy out of the 20th century](#)

George Monbiot, The Guardian, 11th October

Monbiot presents an economic vision based on community-owned commons.

Land value taxation also has transformative potential. It can keep the income currently siphoned out of our pockets in the form of rent – then out of the country and into tax havens – within our hands. It can reduce land values, bringing down house prices. While local and national government should use some of the money to fund public services, the residue can be returned to communities.

- 9) [The Guardian view on the IMF's message: yes, tax the super-rich](#)

The Guardian, 12th October

The IMF caused a stir in October with its [Fiscal Monitor report](#) on redressing inequality. One part of the report that didn't receive a great deal of attention stated that "Taxes on real estate or land are both equitable and efficient and remain underused in many countries".

- 10) [Delaware's Odd, Beautiful, Contentious, Private Utopia](#)

Jesse Walker, Reason Magazine, 14th October

This is a really good investigation of the life and history of Arden, Delaware.

(Notice that this article has 3 parts.)

"The trust also maintained roads and open space—even today, nearly half the town consists of forests and greens—and it balanced its laissez faire attitudes about people's houses and general behavior with strict restrictions on catching fish, shooting birds, and chopping trees."

"The settlers established a rich and sometimes contentious cultural and political life. The cultural side was reflected by the town's networks of guilds—a Musicians' Guild, an Athletic Guild, a Gardeners' Guild, and so on—which sponsored sports, concerts, communal dinners, regular productions of Shakespeare's plays, and much else. On the political side were the town meetings, where women were voting years before that was allowed in the rest of

Delaware. Indeed, Arden initially extended the franchise to everyone, even children.”

11) [We really need to sort out the housing market before it destroys our economy](#)

John Stepek, Money Week, 16th October

Stepek outlines the dysfunctionality of the UK’s housing system and says that land value taxation is among the ideas that should be given “serious consideration”. Only a very brief mention of LVT here, but I imagine Stepek will look into in more depth in the near future.

12) [Three transformational ideas for Scotland’s economy and society](#)

Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp, Business for Scotland, 16th October

“Firstly: Land Value Tax. This involves placing an annual charge on the rental value of land. It applies to urban and rural land focusing on the stewardship of land encouraging owners to dispose of it or make it more economically viable if it becomes a tax liability. This system would lead to all land making a financial contribution to government revenues, offering the possibility to reduce taxes on wages and other taxes that are detrimental to economic growth. Sure, major landowners will be unhappy and it sounds a bit socialist, but it appeals to the right as well as it’s a simple and streamlined taxation system that will cut government bureaucracy and landowners will be forced to develop vacant and underused land or sell to those that will stimulate the economy.”

13) [Opinion: Tax land value, close loopholes to solve affordability crisis](#)

Paul Finch, Jared Melvin, Harpinder Sandhu, Vancouver Sun, 17th October

Labor leaders express support for land value tax in British Columbia.

“As a union leaders, we have seen any wage increases our members have negotiated quickly gobbled up by the rising cost of housing. Implementing a provincial land value tax and closing loopholes that artificially raise housing prices can help make life more affordable for working people by stabilizing real estate prices and providing funds to build badly needed public housing and infrastructure.”

14) [George Monbiot: Keynesianism is dead. We need a radical reboot of our economy](#)

George Monbiot, LabourList, 17th October

Monbiot argues that the realities of globalization and environmental crises require new economic thinking, including land value tax.

“First the government imposes a stiff land value tax on valuable property. Part of the revenue is used, by central and local government, to fund public services. But the residue is returned to communities, that are each encouraged to set up a trust, run by residents, to handle and allocate it.”

15) [How a land value tax could solve many economic headaches](#)

Dr Frank Crowley, RTE, 18th October

A good article on why Ireland needs land value tax.

“LVT’s introduction and application to all activities on land would shift the underlying incentives of the system and help solve many of our present problems.”

16) [Wes Collier: Tax value of land instead of income](#)

Wes Collier, The Gainesville Sun, 20th October

Collier uses Georgist economics to argue for replacing income tax with land value tax.

“The principle underlying the land value tax is fairly straightforward. We should not tax things that add value to and grow our economy, and we should tax things that do not add value to and grow our economy.”

“In this way, we maximize the amount of services we receive from the government while minimizing the amount we have to pay for them with our earned income. Most people would agree with this in the abstract, but the key to making this axiom relevant to the real world is the correct identification of what type of investment does not grow the economic pie. This is clearly the case with unmodified land and resources; hence a tax on their value is justified.”

17) [Houses, wealth and income](#)

Charles Adams, Progressive Pulse, 23rd October

Adams writes that land value tax is the way to implement Piketty’s desire to tax wealth.

18) [Faster Growth Begins With a Land Tax in U.S. Cities](#)

Noah Smith, Bloomberg, 24th October

Noah Smith argues that “there’s one very powerful policy that cities and the activists who love them haven’t yet employed -- the land value tax.”

(Smith links to the Council of Georgist Organizations and Center for the Study of Economics.)

19) [Shifting the Dial: 5 year productivity review](#)

The Australian Productivity Commission, 24th October

According to the [Guardian](#), this report recommends a broad-based land value tax and a pollution tax.

20) [The revolution that could unlock thousands of family homes](#)

Rob Burgess, The New Daily, 25th October

This is probably the best article this month on replacing stamp duty in Australia with LVT.

“Journalists who say ‘land tax is too difficult politically’ are forgetting the role they play in keeping it that way.”

21) [Tax The Land, Save The People](#)

Lindsey J. Smith, San Francisco Magazine, 25th October

This is a report on the important work of San Francisco hero named David Giesen.

“Giesen admits that intermediate steps may be necessary to get to a single tax system. “It’s not simply, ‘It’s either the land value tax or you can all go to hell,’” he says. “But why not

articulate a vision, too, of something bigger? Why think so small?'"

22) [Brexit, food and land ownership - it's time for a new direction](#)

Tomas Remiarz, openDemocracy UK, 25th October

"The Landworkers Alliance (LWA) has put together key transitional demands to help address the situation, in their Recommendations for a Post-Brexit Agricultural Policy. Firstly, the UK should abolish subsidies for simply owning land and introduce a land value tax to favour creation of smaller farm units."

23) [We need a land value tax to stop home owners getting money for nothing](#)

David Cooper, Prospect, 26th October

Cooper presents a clever framing of Georgist economics by comparing rent extraction to currency counterfeiting.

"The almost magical ability of homeowners to accumulate wealth without any effort means they have, in effect, the same economic impact as currency forgers. A forger who prints a fake banknote does no useful work, but gets richer at the expense of society. The homeowner whose house price benefits from increasing land prices also gains from work and investment done by the rest of society. Just as the currency forger weakens the economy by reducing the real return on work and investment, so does the homeowner when accumulating wealth from rising land prices."

24) [Retired priest and tax campaigner Paul Nicolson speaks up for a land tax](#)

Madeleine Davies, Church Times, 27th October

This is a report on Georgist activism in the UK from a religious perspective and on Revd Paul Nicolson, who refused to pay council tax, in particular.

"Advocates of land tax — a levy on the value of land, which disregards the value of buildings or other improvements — argue that it is progressive, efficient (it encourages landowners to use the land productively), and fair (given that the value rises as a result of improvements to local infrastructure paid for by the taxpayer)."

25) [Why the time is right to abolish stamp duty](#)

Jessica Irvine, Sydney Morning Herald, 30th October

"The answer is simple, in economic theory at least. Abolish all stamp duty and raise the exact same amount of revenue by levying an annual charge to all homeowners, according to the unimproved value of their land. Wealthier people pay more than poorer people. Low income households, such as retirees, can get a concession, or only have the land tax deducted when they come to sell."

26) [How Philadelphia Fixed Parking Craters Using Tax Policy](#)

Angie Schmitt, Streetsblog USA, 30th October

Article on how Philadelphia used geist policy tools to fill vacant lots with improvements.

27) [Reassessment would give Scranton chance to scrap two-tiered tax system](#)

Jim Lockwood, The Scranton Times-Tribune, 31st October

Report on efforts to end Scranton's 102 year old legacy of land value tax.

"A countywide reassessment would give Scranton a golden opportunity to finally scrap its 102-year-old, two-tiered property tax system, officials said."

28) [Sorry, but it's time to build on the greenbelt](#)

John Blundell, Confidential Manchester, 31st October

In this article, Blundell links his argument for relaxing land use laws to an appeal for Georgist land value taxation. He makes a mistake implying that LVT can be passed on as higher rents, but it is otherwise a good article.

"When public amenities are put in place, the incentive to build densely around them would become even greater because the value of the land would increase, putting more pressure on landowners. The Land Value Tax would be one way of encouraging development in urban areas."

29) [Nkosana says to tax land: vows 16-member cabinet](#)

New Zimbabwe, 31st October

Former Industry Minister and 2018 presidential candidate Nkosana Moyo advocates

Georgist tax reform to increase the efficiency of and access to land. He was possibly inspired by Zimbabwe's national hero Joshua Nkomo.