



Problem:
Persistent Poverty
(M3)

Henry George: This association of poverty with progress is the great enigma of our times. It is the central fact from which spring industrial, social, and political difficulties that perplex the world, and with which statesmanship and philanthropy and education grapple in vain. From it come the clouds that overhang the future of the most progressive and self-reliant nations. It is the riddle which the Sphinx of Fate puts to our civilization, and which not to answer is to be destroyed. So long as all the increased wealth which modern progress brings goes but to build up great fortunes, to increase luxury and make sharper the contrast between the House of Have and the House of Want, progress is not real and cannot be permanent. The reaction must come.
(HG1-AA 1879)

Oshan Jarow: The 21st century US exhibits a confounding juxtaposition of poverty with prosperity. What Henry George wrote in 1879 is all the more true today:

“It is as though an immense wedge were being forced, not underneath society, but through society. Those who are above the point of separation are elevated, but those who are below are crushed down.”

Policies like UBI and NIT [negative income tax] seek to reposition the wedge of progress underneath society, so that all are lifted. (OJ1-AA 2020)

Milton Friedman: Give them money, which is what they need, rather than requiring them to come before a governmental official and detailing their assets and liabilities. Rather than being told you may spend X dollars on rent, Y dollars on food, etc and then be given a handout. The idea is to treat everyone the same way without any unfortunate discrimination. Give them the money and you will strengthen their responsibility. Milton Friedman

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Pandemic Aid Programs Spur a Record Drop in Poverty
<https://nyti.ms/377M2Fq>

[TODO]

This book review of Progress and Poverty
will be properly embedded when the author's name is revealed.

<https://astralcodexten.substack.com/p/your-book-review-progress-and-poverty>

Joanne Goldblum: Ending Poverty in the United States Would Actually Be Pretty Easy
(JG3-AA-CS3 2020)

Scott Santens: Debate: Will UBI solve poverty? (SS1-AO-MT2 2020 video)

Hilary Hoynes: {It is very clear that providing more income to low-income people reduces poverty and reduces inequality. It's not rocket science that when you give people income, their income goes up. But in a truly universal basic income setting, the vast majority of those resources would not go to reducing poverty; they would go to supplementing an income for those who already have adequate income. So really, the issue comes down to whether UBI is the right tool. It comes down to whether the gains from universality — having everybody in the system — outweigh the costs associated with having to pay out to everybody in the system.} [Hoynes thinks UBI costs too much.] (HH1-AA 2020)

Michael Tubbs: {But the issue with poverty is a lack of cash. So let's solve that. So I think it pushes against this idea that folks are in poverty because of something they lack or something they have done or they don't know how to spend, they don't have as much education, they make bad choices. We're saying no, we actually believe people are smart enough to make the best decisions for themselves and their families with regards to finances. To do so, here's \$500, no strings attached.} (MT1-AA 2019)

Sharonda Harris-Marshall: If You Ever Want to Know how America's Poor are Treated, Take a Greyhound Bus (SH1-AA 2019)

Marilynne Robinson: Is Poverty Necessary? {Those of us displaced by automation will need another word, one that history has not stigmatized. If all goes very well indeed, we will have advanced beyond the polarization associated with leisure and idleness. And if we have a high opinion of human nature, we will look forward to a great expansion of individual and collective creativity, a profound or exuberant pursuit of happiness that will finally begin to give full meaning to that most American phrase. If we have a low estimation of human nature, we will brace for a war of each against all, without the old disciplines of work and need to constrain us. I am not optimistic.} (MR3-AA 2019)

Jason Hickel: {This is all bitterly painful, particularly for the postcolonial world. First they were dispossessed of their land and promised jobs instead. Now they will be dispossessed of

their jobs, and many will be left with literally no way to survive. Their dispossession will be absolute. Technological unemployment will almost certainly reverse the modest gains against poverty that have been made over the past few decades, and hunger will likely rise. ... Thomas Paine was among the first to argue that a basic income should be introduced as a kind of compensation for dispossession.} (JH1-AA 2017)

Rutger Bregman: Utopian thinking: the easy way to eradicate poverty (RB1-AE 2017)

Ben Schiller: A Universal Basic Income Is The Bipartisan Solution To Poverty We've Been Waiting For (BS1-AA 2015)

Scott Santens: {What if poverty is like smallpox? \$1 invested in the early years saves between \$3 and \$9 in future spending on the health and criminal justice systems, as well as on social assistance.} (SS1-AN 2015)