

## Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.econ/2005-08/msg00323.html>

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- *From:* [royls@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:royls@xxxxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* 23 Aug 2005 20:28:39 -0700
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I am posting this from Google. According to Free Agent, I responded to three messages in this thread on Aug 20, and those messages were acknowledged by my new ISP's news server. None of those messages appear to have made it to the Google archive, and Usenet has been unavailable on my ISP since the 20th. My new ISP, Bell Sympatico, appears to deny all knowledge of the existence of Usenet. As I can no longer post to Usenet directly, I will have to do it through Google, which is a joke. Anyway, I'll see if the following actually appears in the Google archive version of the ng.

On 19 Aug 2005 10:06:30 -0700, "ruetheday@xxxxxxxxxx" <ruetheday@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

>IMO, you can't really begin to define rent without talking about  
>opportunity costs and barriers to entry.

IMO opportunity cost is nothing but a red herring, and probably a bogus concept altogether. Defining rent as a return in excess of opportunity cost has the absurd effect of making a doctor's or other highly specialized worker's earnings almost all rent, even in the absence of licensure or other barriers to entry. This dishonest neoclassical redefinition of rent can only be understood as part of the sustained effort to prevent economic science from exposing the evil of landowner privilege.

Economic rent is more accurately and informatively defined as an economic benefit obtained by being privileged to deny others access to what would otherwise be accessible. It differs morally and economically from the proceeds of robbery or extortion only in being socially accepted.

— Roy L

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- *Follow-Ups:*
  - ◆ *Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents*

Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents

◇ *From:* The Trucker

◆ ***Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents***

◇ *From:* ruetheday@xxxxxxxxxxx

• **References:**

◆ ***Smith: ground rents and land rents***

◇ *From:* sinister

◆ ***Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents***

◇ *From:* ruetheday@xxxxxxxxxxx

◆ ***Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents***

◇ *From:* royls

◆ ***Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents***

◇ *From:* Les Cargill

◆ ***Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents***

◇ *From:* ruetheday@xxxxxxxxxxx

• Prev by Date: ***Re: On Government Trust Funds***

• Next by Date: ***Re: Smith: ground rents and land rents***

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