

Lester Frank Ward: Godfather of American Central Planning

Gary North
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Major work: *Dynamic Sociology: Or Applied Social Science, as Based Upon Static Sociology and the Less Complex Sciences* (New York: D. Appleton, 1883). It sold 500 copies in the 1880s: <http://bit.ly/WardDS500>. Second printing: 1897. Available on Google Books.

Volume 1: <http://bit.ly/DynamicSociology-1>

Volume 2: <http://bit.ly/DynamicSociology-2>

His perspective:

No teleology (purpose) in the natural realm (I, 57; II, 32).

Human consciousness is teleological (II, 9).

Human teleology is opposed to laissez faire (I, 55).

Man now directs nature and evolution (I, 29; II, 89).

The state directs social evolution (I, 37).

The state is a society (II, 397).

Science is the basis of progress (II, 497, 507).

A scientific elite must direct progress (II, 504, 535).

The masses are thoughtless (II, 506, 600).

The masses can be taught (II, 598, 602).

The state must monopolize education (II, 572, 589, 602).

Censorship is mandatory (II, 547).

Nature wastes; man should not (II, 494).

Competition is wasteful (I, 74; II, 576, 584).

Competition is laissez faire (I, 74).

Mankind is honest (II, 508).

Man's problem is lack of knowledge (II, 238).

Ignorance produces crime (II, 241).

Dominion is by means of the intellect (II, 385).

Government is to be founded on secrecy (II, 395).

Dissent can be illegitimate (II, 407).

Morality is strictly an individual matter (II, 373).

Scientists are selfless (II, 583).

State administration is almost always better (II, 579).

Profitless management is honest management (II, 582).

Population control is mandatory (II, 307, 465).

The masses must be made comfortable (II, 368).

The social goal is zero suffering (II, 468).

Bibliography

Lester Frank Ward

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Stephen J. Sniegoski, "Lester Frank Ward: The Philosopher of the Welfare State," *Telos* (June 20, 1996).

Murray N. Rothbard, "The Politics of Political Economists." *Economic Controversies*. One sentence: "And let us not overlook the eminent interventionist sociologist Lester Frank Ward, whose proposed 'scientific,' 'positive,' planned economy, would consist of a 'social engineering' based on statistical information fed from all parts of the country into a central bureau of statistics." (p. 340)

Social Darwinism

Richard Hofstadter, *Social Darwinism in American Thought*. Boston: Beacon Press, [1944] 1959. <http://bit.ly/HofstadterSD>

Thomas C. Leonard, "Origins of the Myth of Social Darwinism: The Ambiguous Legacy of Richard Hofstadter's Social Darwinism in American Thought," *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* (March 2009). <http://bit.ly/LeonardHofstadter>

Mike Hawkins, *Social Darwinism in European and American Social Thought, 1860–1945: Nature as model and nature as threat*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

F. A. Hayek, "The Results of Human Action but not of Human Design" (1967), in Hayek, *Studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics*, chap 6. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967. <http://bit.ly/HayekResults>

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Lester Frank Ward, (born June 18, 1841, Joliet, Illinois, U.S.â€”died April 18, 1913, Washington, D.C.), American sociologist who was instrumental in establishing sociology as an academic discipline in the United States. An optimist who believed that the social sciences had already given mankind the information basic to happiness, Ward advocated a planned, or "œtelic," society ("œsociocracy") in which nationally organized education would be the dynamic factor. After fighting for the Union in the American Civil War, Ward obtained degrees in botany and law. Ward's emphasis on social function and planning, rather than social structure, had considerable effect on Thorstein Veblen and the institutional economists. Lester Frank Ward (June 18, 1841 â€“ April 18, 1913), was an American botanist, paleontologist, and sociologist, and first president of the American Sociological Association. He is credited as one of those instrumental in establishing sociology as an academic field in the United States. His vision of a just society, with equality for women, all social classes and races, and the elimination of poverty was revolutionary for his time. He believed that human beings have the capability to accomplish such a Watch. English. Lester Frank Ward. American sociologist and paleontologist. Ward. In more languages. edit. Statements. instance of. human. 1 reference. Lester frank ward.jpg 320 Ã— 375; 18 KB. 1 reference. imported from Wikimedia project.