

Session #1: THE HISTORY BEHIND “LABOR DAY” & THE QUESTIONS IT RAISED

I. The Origin of Labor Day.

Key leader: _____ in 1884 organized a parade on 5 September in New York City to recognize the value of laborers.

Conditions in Europe and in the US during the Industrial Revolution
Pullman Strike of _____.

Eugene Debs in jail read Karl Marx and later helped found the _____ Party of America.

II. The Emerging Questions about Labor in the 19th Century.

What is the “just” value of labor?

What is a “just” view of labor’s reward—private property?

What is the family role regarding labor?

What is the role of civil government (“the State”) regarding labor and its reward?

III. The Non-Biblical Answers given to the Basic Questions of Labor

Two key thinkers: _____ (1723-90) wrote Wealth of Nations
_____ (1818-83) wrote Das Capital

Key issue: how do we impute (credit, evaluate, measure) the _____ of labor in fixing its _____?

Marx argued that property ownership is the cause of injustice & class warfare. True value of labor could be measured (“objective” value) so it could be shown that labor never got its true price benefit due to a surplus that was skimmed off for the capitalist owner of the means of production.

Revised Marxism #1 _____ came to US in 1933 (Columbia University). Eric _____ & Herbert _____ wrote books popularizing cultural destruction based on a mixture of Marx and Freud for the 20-somethings in the 70s.

Revised Marxism #2 _____ centered in _____ emphasized subversion of Western Christianity. Led to UK Labor Party and London School of Economics.

IV. Conclusion

Christian Socialists (Ron Sider, Tony Campolo, Jim Wallis) spreading the idea that it is biblical justice for the civil government to coercively re-distribute labor’s reward (property) from the “rich” to the “poor”

Questions for us: