

1975-11-14: [SUCCESSION TAX] Turgeon *Socialism & Droit d'hérédité*

The work is good for its highly vulgarized view of how the various inheritance tax or expropriation systems of different lumped "socialists" --Schafflé, Rignano, Herckenrath, Vallier--work to destroy the sanctity of inheritance. He has all the usual arguments in favor of inheritance, based on the family as the core of society--and this may be taken as the banal assumptions of the ordinary mind at the turn of the 20th century. The argument of family continuity for economic reasons is prominent enough, and excusable for its time, but the notion of indefinite future of family descent, and immemorial origins, is hard to regard as universal still around 1900. He has a provincial ring--and sometimes he refers to strength of family especially in the provinces--and undoubtedly thinks of rural and small town professional families. I do believe that *mutatis mutandi* one could date the work back many centuries, or date it forward to today.