

# Study of the Bahá'í Writings on Economics

1. ***“The secrets of the whole economic question are Divine in nature, and are concerned with the world of the heart and spirit. In the Baha’i Teachings this is most completely explained, and without the consideration of the Baha’i Teachings, it is impossible to bring about a better state.”***

*-Abdu'l-Baha, The Baha'i World, Volume IV, p. 448*

2. ***“...By the statement ‘the economic solution is Divine in nature’ is meant that religion alone can, in the last resort, bring in man’s nature such a fundamental change as to enable him to adjust the economic relationships of society. It is only in this way that man can control the economic forces that threaten to disrupt the foundations of his existence, and thus assert his mastery over the forces of nature.”***

*Shoghi Effendi, from a letter written of behalf of - to an individual believer, December 26, 1935, Lights of Guidance*

3. ***“...’All economic problems may be solved by the application of the Science of the Love of God’. That is to say: If the Rule called golden ... were actually applied to the world’s economic problems, which if not solved bid fair to destroy us, and the love of God, the sort of love which makes a home life happy, were used as a scientific measurement to regulate our international and national affairs; to settle all relations between labour and capital, between rich and poor, to regulate all coinage and commerce, can there be any doubt that the results would be far more conducive to human welfare than our present policies have produced?”***

*-Abdu'l-Baha, Portals to Freedom, p.156*

4. ***“ Although the body politic is one family yet because of lack of harmonious relations some members are comfortable and some in direst misery, some members are satisfied and some are hungry, some members are clothed in most costly garments and some members are in need of food and shelter. Why? Because this family lacks the necessary reciprocity and symmetry. This household is not well arranged. This household is not living under a perfect law. All the laws which are legislated do not ensure happiness. They do not provide comfort.”***

*-Abdu'l-Baha, Star of the West. Volume XI11, pp. 227-228*

5. ***“In the world of nature the greatest dominant note is the struggle for existence - the result of which is the survival of the fittest. The law of the survival of the fittest is the origin of all difficulties. It is the cause of war and strife, hatred and animosity between human beings.”***

*-Abdu'l-Baha, Star of the West. Volume VI11, p. 15*

6. ***“Material civilization has reached an advanced plane but now there is need of spiritual civilization. Material civilization alone will not satisfy; it cannot meet the conditions and requirements of the present age. Its benefits are limited to the world of matter. There is no limitation to the spirit of man, for spirit in itself is progressive and if the divine civilization be established the spirit of man will advance.”***

*-Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 101*

7. ***“O SON OF BEING!***

***Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test our servants.”***

*- Baha'u'llah, Hidden Words (Arabic), #55*

8. ***“...In all matters moderation is desirable. If a thing is carried to excess, it will prove a source of evil...”***

*-Baha'u'llah, Writings of Baha'u'llah, p.204*

9. ***"Man reacheth perfection through good deeds, voluntarily performed, not through good deeds the doing of which was forced upon him. And sharing is a personally chosen righteous act: that is, the rich should extend assistance to the poor, they should expend their substance for the poor, but of their own free will, and not because the poor have gained this end by force. For the harvest of force is turmoil and the ruin of the social order. On the other hand voluntary sharing, the freely-chosen expending of one’s substance, leadeth to society’s comfort and peace."***

*-Abdu'l-Bahá: Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 11*

10. ***“The station of man is great, were he to cling to truth and righteousness and be firm and steadfast in the Cause... His station is the highest and his signs are the educator of the world.”***

-Baha'i World Faith 17. Baha'u'llah, p.208

11. ***“... Share your time with God. Spend half of the day in search of livelihood, guaranteeing your material life and dignified appearance, and dedicate the other half in the acquisition of moral virtues and service at the threshold of God...”***

-Abdu'l-Bahá, *Áhang-i-Badí'*, volume 31, number 339, p.83. (pilgrim's note)

12. ***“... Every individual no matter how handicapped and limited he may be, is under the obligation of engaging in some work or profession, for work, specially when performed in the spirit of service, is according to Baha'u'llah a form of worship. It has not only a utilitarian purpose, but has a value in itself, because it draws us nearer to God, and enables us to better grasp His purpose for us in this world. It is obvious, therefore, that the inheritance of wealth cannot make anyone immune from daily work.”***

-Shoghi Effendi, Letter written to National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of USA and Canada, dated March 22, 1937

13. ***“... The economic resources of the world will be organised, its sources of raw materials will be tapped and fully utilized, its markets will be coordinated and developed, and the distribution of its products will be equitably regulated.***

***“... The enormous energy dissipated and wasted on war, whether economic or political, will be consecrated to such ends as will extend the range of human inventions and technical development, to the increase of the productivity of mankind, to the extermination of disease, to the extension of scientific research, to the raising of the standard of physical health, to the sharpening and refinement of the human brain, to the exploitation of the unused and unsuspected resources of the planet, to the prolongation of human life, and to the furtherance of any other agency that can stimulate the intellectual, the moral, and spiritual life of the entire human race...”***

-Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Baha'u'llah*, p. 204

14. ***“That a narrow and brutal nationalism, which the postwar theory of self-determination has served to reinforce, has been chiefly responsible for the policy of high and prohibitive tariffs, so injurious to the healthy flow of international trade and to the mechanism of international finance, is a fact which few would venture to dispute.”***

-Bahá'u'lláh, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 36

15. ***“A world community in which all economic barriers will have been demolished ...”***

-Shoghi Effendi, quoted in *The Renewal of Civilization*, p. 9216

16. ***“... a uniform and universal system of currency, of weights and measures, will simplify and facilitate intercourse and understanding among the nations and races of mankind ...”***

-Shoghi Effendi, *The Baha'i Peace Program*, p. 8

17. ***“From every standpoint the world of humanity is undergoing a re-formation ... scientific ideas and theories are developing and advancing to meet a new range of phenomena, invention and discovery are penetrating hitherto unknown fields revealing new wonders and hidden secrets of the material universe. Industries have vastly wider scope and production; everywhere the world of mankind is in the throes of evolutionary activity indicating the passing of the old conditions and advent of the New Age of reformation.”***

-Abdu'l-Baha, *Foundations of World Unity*, p. 10

18. ***“The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this most great, this new World Order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous system - the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed.”***

-Baha'u'llah, *Synopsis and Codification of the Kitab-i-Aqdas*, p. 27

19. ***“It is the superstructure of that self-same order, attaining its full stature through the emergence of the Baha'i World Commonwealth - the Kingdom of God on earth - which the Golden Age of the (Baha'i) Dispensation must, in the fullness of time, ultimately witness.”***

-Shoghi Effendi, *God Passes By*, p. 26