



## The People's Budget: An Edwardian Tragedy (Paperback)

By Geoffrey Lee

Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd, United Kingdom, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Although the Edwardian period may in retrospect appear to have been a golden age, it was in reality a time of much turbulence in the political and social fields. There were long and often violent strikes in the docks and coal mines as well as in other industries. Poverty was endemic, and it was the fear of the creation of a semi-criminal underclass as much as feelings of benevolence that led to the beginnings of the welfare state during this period. Lloyd George, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, needed to increase taxation to meet the cost of the recently introduced old-age pensions and, in his 1909 budget, he proposed his famously controversial land taxes. These were based on Henry George's philosophy as expounded in the economic bestseller, *Progress and Poverty*, which had been published in 1879. His ideas had been incorporated in the Liberal Party's programme in 1891 by Gladstone. The House of Lords, set on defending the interests of its members, rejected the budget, in the process breaking an unwritten rule preventing it from opposing money bills. In return the...

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