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“Property is Theft”

Ludwig Feuerbach
1804-1872

November 5 - 6 2010
Rutgers Business School
Property rights and Intangibles
The establishment of property rights in intangibles is taken as immutable and unproblematic.
Historically there are (social) struggles to over the imposition of property rights
Publishers delayed for a decade launching (cheaper) on-line student textbooks, until they had figured out how to ring-fence their products and charge (now) $200 per book.
The Enclosure Movements in the 17\textsuperscript{th} and 18\textsuperscript{th} Century Europe that expropriated and privatized ‘the commons’
Abe Briloff’s warnings of Google’s threat to privatize libraries of public knowledge.
Abraham Lincoln was America’s first Great ‘property thief’!
Lincoln’s Homestead Act ‘gave’ Indian land to any settler who could fire a rifle and create a dust bowl.
The violence inflicted against Native American Indians was the forced confiscation of their lands and their imprisonment on reservations.
This annihilation of the American Indians was the World’s first case of ethnic cleansing and genocide (30 million deaths).
Property theft of land was rationalized in America by the doctrine of ‘Manifest Destiny’.
’Our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions’

John L. O’Sullivan, 1845.
Property theft is resolved by lobbying, money and force.
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