

Contested Ground: Collective Action and the Urban Neighborhood is a new book by John Emmeus Davis, published by Cornell University Press (368 pages, \$16.95 paper, \$45 cloth). An associate of the Institute for Community Economics, Davis makes a distinction between two kinds of "domestic property interests." There is an interest in "the use value of land and housing as a means of accommodation." And there is "an interest in the exchange value of land and housing as a means of accumulation." A detailed review of this new book on community land trust experience is found in the Summer issue of *Community Economics* (see above).

Realistic Living is a small journal "on ethics and religion" that looks at social, economic and political issues from a decentralist perspective that draws on ecology, feminism, and spirituality. The June issue includes reviews of several significant recent books: *The Conquest of Paradise* by Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Nature and Logic of Capitalism* by Robert Heilbroner, *Adam Smith's Mistake* by Kenneth Lux, *Befriending the Earth* by Thomas Berry, and many more. Sale, who has spoken at the Henry George School, offers a critical look at Christopher Columbus and his legacy. Heilbroner makes the case that capitalism is a transitional phase from feudal monarchy to a future "true democracy." We counted 28 books and 13 films reviewed in this one issue. Realistic Living Press also publishes books and other material. A \$10 tax-deductible contribution payable to Realistic Living keeps you on the journal's active mailing list for one year. The address is PO Box 140826, Dallas, TX 75214.

The Catholic Worker has been on the front lines fighting for the oppressed and outcast for decades. Its August issue updates previous reports on the problems of New York City's increasing homeless population. Some of these problems are caused or at least exacerbated by the City government, which recently forcibly expelled squatters from Tompkins Square, a Lower East Side Park. Jane Sammon on "Tompkins Square - Another Kind Of War," writes: "Should people be allowed to buy enormous pieces of land, let them lie fallow if the market isn't 'good,' or buy up and 'warehouse' empty apartments, while the poor can't afford the high rents for the few that remain?" This excellent eight-page tabloid is published eight times a year. It sells for one cent per issue, and 25 cents per year! We suspect larger donations would be appreciated, and the paper is certainly worth it. Contact *The Catholic Worker* at 36 East First St., New York, NY 10003 (212-777-9817).

THESIS, ANTITHESIS...

Now the Synthesis is a new collection of papers on the application of Georgist political economy to today's, and tomorrow's, world. The papers were originally delivered at the 1989 International Georgist Conference at the University of Pennsylvania. Richard Noyes is the anthology's more-than-qualified editor, being former editor of New Hampshire's *Salem Observer* and current president of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, chairman of the Council of Georgist Organizations, and editor of *Groundswell*, the organ of Common Ground USA.

As the book's subtitle indicates, the synthesis refers to "Capitalism, Socialism and the New Social Contract." And as the various papers reveal, they're talking about how land ownership is treated, or should be treated. The centerpiece of such a new approach is Henry George's single-tax on land values, which combines the best of the free market (rewarding hard work and entrepreneurship), democratic socialism (re-cognizing equal rights to natural and community resources), and ecology (encouraging wise stewardship of the earth). As contributor Fred Harrison puts it, the single-tax is "a holistic philosophy."

As state socialism collapses, the single-tax appears as an idea whose time may at last be coming. But, as contributors to this book warn, if the new democracies in Eastern Europe rush blindly to imitate the West, they may find that capitalism has problems of its own for which state socialism has not prepared them. Scholars James Busey and Jerome F. Heavey both examine the "third world" to see whether the synthesis applies there as well.

The papers are divided into five sections: A Holistic Philosophy, The Transformation of Property Rights, The Evolution of Social Systems, Ecology and Eco-Politics, and International Trade. The book concludes with an Open Letter to Mikhail Gorbachev endorsed by thirty economists including three Nobel prize-winners and 1992 President-elect of the American Economic Association, Professor William Vickrey (see our Jan-Feb. 1991 issue):

While there is no way to predict whether or not the message of this book will be heeded by public policy-makers, one can predict that if it is not heeded, the morning after the celebration of the resurgence of democracy will entail a whopping economic hangover.

Now the Synthesis is published by Shephard-Walwyn (London) and Holmes & Meier (New York) @ \$29.95. Copies may be purchased from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 41 East 72nd St., New York, NY 10021 (212-988-1680). - M.A.S.

War's end? With the United States' bold unilateral cut-back in strategic nuclear weapons and the Soviet Union's similar response, the world is a safer place. In light of events these past few years in places like Latin America and the Middle East, perhaps we should at least ask: Is the world now also safer for conventional armed intervention on behalf of landed elites and natural resource monopolists? Let us hope a new era of world peace will be one of freedom and justice for all the earth's people (and earth herself), especially those who have already suffered so much at the hands of dictatorial regimes still heavily armed on behalf of earlier cold war strategies. [G]

Never doubt a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

SCHOOL NOTES

Sacramento: Evelyn Friend, Director of the Sacramento extension, was published in the Letters column of the July 3, 1991 issue of *The Sacramento Bee*. In response to a letter by James Hays, Evelyn pointed out that the property tax is only half-bad: the bad part falls on buildings and improvements. "But the portion falling on the land is the most fair of taxes," she wrote, and explained why.

A similar letter, by Wayne Luncy, followed on July 8, who also defended the fairness of a land value tax by pointing out: "The desirability of a piece of property is a function of its location, its zoning, the growth of the surrounding community and provision of public services."

Evelyn also contributed one of two articles on land taxation which were published in the May '91 (continued on pg. 6)