

INSIGHTS

September-October, 2001

Volume VI. No. 13

Published by **Common Ground-USA**

Address communication to **Stanley Sapiro**, writer or **Marion Sapiro**, editor

24655 Royale Ridge, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 Phone: (949) 495-3805 Fax: (949) 495-3809 E-mail: mesapiro@aol.com

"The civilized world is trembling on the verge of a great movement. Either it must be a leap upward, which will open the way to advances yet undreamed of, or it must be a plunge downward which will carry us back toward barbarism." Henry George, *Progress and Poverty*

WHY THE MUSLIMS HATE US AND SHOULD WE CARE?

The October 15 issue of *News Week Magazine* included a major article by Fareed Zakaria on "Why do They Hate Us?." He starts the article as follows:

"To dismiss the terrorists as insane is to delude ourselves. Bin Laden and his fellow fanatics are products of failed societies that breed their anger. America needs a plan that will not only defeat terror but reform the Arab world."

Referring to the murder of 5,000 innocents, Zakaria then asserts: "To the question, 'Why do the terrorists hate us?', Americans then can be pardoned for answering, 'Why should we care?'" Zacharia asserts that we will need answers for what is sure to be a long struggle. He notes the answers previously given that they are poor, weak, and depressed is an insufficient answer, because there are billions of poor, weak, and oppressed people around the world, but they don't turn planes into bombs or blow themselves up to kill thousands of innocent people.

Unfortunately, Zacharia, himself, does not truly understand the particular problems of the Arab world, which are variations of the social and economic problems plaguing much of the rest of this planet. After we defeat the Taliban, we will have to insure that the land monopoly, which has destroyed the economies of every Muslim nation, is addressed. The immediate problem in the Muslim world is that their media and even their schools preach what they claim to be the word of Allah, that America and Jews are responsible for their poverty and oppression, rather than internally institutionalized injustice, corruption, fanaticism, archaic social mores and despotic government.

We must keep in mind that it is the landowning monopolists who control the media, the schools, such as they are, the politicians and the mullahs who delude the public as to the real source of their economic problems. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Iran is a good example. The Shah, with backing from the West, attempted to break up the pernicious land monopoly pervasive in Iran, to secularize education, to reform the government and Westernize the economy. The powerful landowners joined with the Muslim clergy to fight this modernization. Thousands of cassettes carrying the message of Ayatollah Khomeini were distributed throughout the country, stirring up the populace. The Shah lost control of the nation and Khomeini's constitution was adopted in 1979, making Iran a theocratic Islamic state which protected land monopoly.

An article by Hamid Hossemi, an Associate Professor of Economics, at Kings College, Wilks Barr, Pennsylvania described the principles of land ownership as set forth in the 1979 constitution of Khomeini. Hossemi states in this article printed in *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, April 1990:

"The prophet Mohammed recognized no separation of politics and religion, or church and state. Faith in Islam required faith not only in the oneness of God and Mohammed's prophethood, but also in the prophet's religious, moral, legal, and political commands. Khomeini's revolutionary heterodoxy views his theocratic despotism as establishing the rule of the 'just jurists'—the upper echelons of the clergy—and makes them and property owners the beneficiaries."

Hossemi concluded his review of the land provisions of Iran's constitution, stating.

"Since Quranic and Islamic laws are to perpetuate such ownerships, it and thus any Islamic State, must favor the property owner more than non-owners (even when both are regarded as faithful Muslims). It is for this reason that, in the Quran, inequalities of wealth are explicitly tolerated." ●●●●●●●●●●

That philosophy is obviously favored by the landed elite of the Muslim world.

In a previous copy of *Insights*, we described in greater detail the pervasive land monopoly found in Pakistan and other Mohammedan nations. If it be claimed that we should have no right to govern the economy of a nation after we have conquered it, we should keep in mind that after the defeat of Japan, in 1945, it accepted MacArthur's proposed land reform measures which were well intended, though poorly drawn.

The present belief of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda, that it can conquer this planet, brings to mind the delusions of the German Nazi party that it could conquer the world. The Economic problems that had so weakened Germany propelled Hitler to seize power. An immense amount of speculation and land monopoly in the cities and countryside undermined the entire economy. When it was first formed, the Nazi party platform included references to land being the heritage of all Germans and attacked speculation in land. These principles were eliminated from the Nazi party program and Hitler saw fit to arrange a trade with Von Hindenberg. In return for Von Hindenberg's appointment of Hitler as Chancellor of Germany, Hitler agreed that he would cause the pending charges of tax evasion against the East Prussian land owning nobles to be dropped. Bruno Heilig describes the land speculation disaster in his book, *Why the German Republic Fell*.

As in Germany in the 1930's, monopoly of rural land forced thousands of young unemployed Germans to rush to the cities only to still face massive inflation and a crippled economy. In short, peace and civilization in Islamic states as well as the rest of the world can only be achieved with the eradication of land monopoly and the scapegoat thinking that it fosters. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●