

# THE NEW REVOLUTION

## European Opportunity

By DAVID SIMMONS (Tucson, Arizona)

The Russian satellite countries in Eastern Europe, and even the Soviet Union itself, are in the process of abandoning their unworkable system based on the ideas of Karl Marx, which have proven to be such a disaster that even they are forced to admit it. They are attempting to produce sufficient goods and services to provide for their needs. This is not going to be easy considering the mental attitudes that have been instilled in these people for so many years by government propaganda.

Economists from a number of universities in the United States are being consulted by the Soviet Union and Eastern European governments for assistance in changing over to a more free market type of economy, which has without doubt provided a much higher standard of living for most people in the west. Unfortunately the advice they have been getting has serious defects. The "experts" are urging them to allow private ownership of "property," without distinguishing between land and wealth created by human labor.

Communist economic theory is based on the idea that the means of production should belong to the "people," which really means the government. The mess these countries are now in is irrefutable proof that this system can never work. They did get one thing right - land and all natural resources should belong to the people. However, capital should belong to the individuals who saved their wealth for the purpose of producing more wealth rather than consuming it.

In the so-called capitalist system the owners of capital are partially free to produce (in collaboration with labor) the goods and services that make for abundance, but are severely restricted in their efforts by the heavy burden of punitive taxation. Unfortu-

nately, landowners are also free to appropriate a large portion of the wealth produced as rent, without making any contribution to its production. This, of course, is the principal defect of the system, and results in an extremely unjust distribution of the wealth produced.

The Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe have before them a golden opportunity to combine the one sensible part of Communist theory with the best aspects of "capitalism" to create a new system which would be far superior to any economic system currently being used anywhere in the world. Thus they could at last realize their ambition to dominate the world, not by force of arms or by subversion, but by the force of ideas - by setting an example that the rest of the world would have to follow.

Since all land in the Soviet Union and its satellite countries already belongs to the government, there would be no need to confiscate it from the owners, nor could there be any question of compensation. All that needs to be done is to institute a heavy tax on land values, and then sell it to the people, with preference being given to those already occupying homes on the land or farmers currently tilling the land. Because of the heavy tax on land values the selling price of the land would be low, and could be paid for over a period of years. The end result would be similar to that of the government renting out the land, but would be much fairer because the government would not have the power to give preference to people with influence. Land "ownership" instead of being decided by corrupt bureaucrats would be decided by market forces. Naturally, factories, and all other means of production that are not natural resources, should be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Now is the time to try and make our ideas known to those in positions of power.

+ + +

A NATION that does not provide some access to land for all its people is uncivilized. - Sam Venturella