

# LAND&LIBERTY

No 1230 Vol 120 Spring 2012

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ISSN 0023-7574



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## letter from the publisher

Every form of human activity is marginal somewhere i.e. it is only just worthwhile for someone to do it there, and anything that makes life more difficult for them there would render that place sub-marginal for that activity. This is as true for the hunter gatherer, miner, fisher, and farmer, as it is for the manufacturer, the merchant, the department store, the shopping mall and corner shop. It is as true for the butcher, baker, cobbler, tailor, actor, musician, beggar, busker, or thief, as it is for the doctor, banker, lawyer or academic. It is true of continents, countries, cities, towns and villages as well as forests, desserts, savannahs, mountains and valleys, of streets and alleyways and parking places. It is also true of the most fundamental human activity - living. Some people will find intolerable a place to live that others would find highly desirable. Some will survive where others would perish.

Living or earning a living on the margin however does not necessarily mean hardship or insecurity - only if no viable alternative is available. If however the only alternatives are dire, the margin is likely to be perilous as happens when people have no choice but to pay others for a place to live and earn their own living. In Europe, as elsewhere, land enclosure and duty free land ownership have given rise to conditions where more and more households have become dependent upon employment in marginal businesses. Many basic and labour intensive forms of economic activity e.g. farming, mining, manufacturing, retailing, accounting, consulting, banking etc. have become marginal for almost all but the largest organisations. This has led, through mergers and acquisitions, to the formation of huge corporations who then benefit from substantial monopoly, or near monopoly powers at the expense of smaller businesses and individuals.

Although it may not always be noticed because it is so common, a tax, by definition is always a burden on business. When businesses fail people often fail to appreciate how, if neither they, their products, or their customers were taxed, their business could still be viable. Business failure is not just a problem for the households involved but for the wider community who may then be required to support them. Likewise with industries, regions and countries - as the euro crisis continues to highlight so dramatically.

We apologise to our regular readers for the late publication of this edition of Land&Liberty. This has been due to a number of factors including health problems and abortive attempts at securing the services of students of journalism. We are now able to offer it, albeit unfortunately overdue. It would not have been possible without the sincere and able services of Jesper Raundall Christensen. Jesper arrived in London from Denmark in November for a short study tour/internship, looking for something constructive to do in connection with the promotion of economic justice and volunteered to guest edit the next edition of our magazine. We accepted the offer immediately and hope you will enjoy the result.

**David Triggs**  
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