

Henry George Newsletter

VOLUME 51, Number 4

April 1987

NEW LAND AND FREEDOM SERIES

Issues in World History

The New York School has produced a new, 15-part set of high school lessons for the Land and Freedom Series, this time exploring issues in World History.

World History, the series written by Stan Rubenstein, Harvey Snitiker, Dave Norflus and others, developed in response to the increasing demand on the part of high schools for land-related materials. The first series, the 20-part American Studies lessons, have already been distributed to over 2,000 high school educators nationwide. Rubenstein says, "The first Land and Freedom series generated a lot of enthusiasm. We want to meet that enthusiasm with more land-related materials which are geared for a high school audience." By September of this year, the new World History series will be available as a part of the School's ongoing high school program.

The fifteen lessons of the World History series follow the same format as the previous series. Page one of the four-page lesson states the major and minor themes of the reading excerpt, lists new concepts covered, gives performance objectives for the students, and provides a bibliography on related topics.

Activities which follow the readings are designed to test the student's understanding of various themes, as well as elicit discussion and critical evaluation of the topic explored. Activities include factual questions on the text, acting out mock trials of historical figures, a visit to the local assessor's office, and a new understanding of medieval society through examining the rules of a chess game.

Topics for the 15 World History lessons are:

1. Rome's Landed Estates
2. The Gracchian Revolution
3. The Feudal Land System
4. The Domesday Book
5. Mercantilism
6. The Enclosure Movement
7. The Old Regime in France
8. Malthus—Population and Poverty
9. Emancipation of the Russian Serfs
10. The Forerunner of Germany—Zollverein
11. Sun Yat-Sen's Three Principles
12. The Soviet 5-Year Plans
13. Chinese Land reform under Communism
14. American Occupation and Land Reform in Japan
15. Land Ownership in Latin America