

### MARX ON PROPERTY IN LAND

I maintain on the contrary : the future will decide that the land can only be national property. The giving over of the land to the association of land workers means delivering the whole of society into the hands of one single class of producers. The nationalization of the land will bring about a complete change in the relations between labour and capital and will result in the final end of capitalist production, both industrial and agricultural. Then indeed will class differences and privileges disappear, together with the economic basis from which they have sprung. Society will become an association of free producers. Living on the labour of others will become entirely a thing of the past. There will no longer be a government or State whose existence is separated from society itself.

Agriculture, mining, manufacture, in short all the branches of production, will become rightly organized. The national centralizing of the means of production will form the natural foundation of a society which consists in the free association of the various classes of producers. This objective opposes the great economic movement of the nineteenth century.

Karl Marx, *The Property in the Soil*. A Preliminary Essay on the Question of the Nationalization of the Land. From unpublished material in the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute, Moscow. Quoted (in German) in *Agrar Probleme*, Moscow, vol. 5, p. 48.