

On the Sept. 11th Terrorist Attack in the USA

by Paul Martin

I was and am as shocked and moved as anyone viewing the constant live updates. I actually have flown on the very route from Boston to LA which yesterday ended up plowing into the World Trade Center. Wide-eyed, I took in every image and word uttered by the expert reporters. But I sure would've liked to also hear the Georgist point of view on this latest experience of barbarity! We only get to hear the news from one perspective, especially when something big hits the ground. Even here in Nicaragua, on the self-proclaimed "alternative to monopoly" radio station, our Tuesday morning show was bumped so they could connect to the monomind international news network. In effect, when history is being written in its most critical and emotionally potent hour, the monopoly system has things well wired to ensure full control over the microphone.

What would we have said in our show? First, we would have asked different questions, such as: Why would someone want to do such an act? What is the goal of those people? Who are they trying to serve and please? What has the USA done to attract such animosity? Does the US government bear any responsibility for this event?

Our answer is, take a step back from the personalization of the event and look at the socio-economic world in which it took place. The world functions upon natural laws. No empire has ever been able to defy them, although they have all tried their best. Wherever there is injustice, the world presses for the reestablishment of justice, like water seeking its level against a flimsy dam. The law of justice is the natural law. There can be no security, no peace without justice as the reigning principle, because sooner or later, the dam will break, sometimes in increments, sometimes in larger more dramatic explosions, and justice will be served, even if an empire has to come crumbling down.

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The United States of America houses the economic-military structure which supports the imposition of an international system of economic slavery, benefitting a minority who control the Earth's natural and socially developed monopolies. There, I said it. The United States was not so much the innocent victim here as the target of retribution. As always, the innocent took the hit: the passengers, the WTC workers, etc. These victims are just the latest addition to the body count for which the global system of monopoly is responsible. To get the full count, you need to add in all the domestic homicides, suicides, drug related deaths, death squad hits, military massacres, bombings, etc. that have been perpetrated as a conscious or unconscious result



of our unjust economic system.

All over the world, millions of people see the attack on the USA as a tragic, but all-too-likely consequence of its Government's arrogant disregard of human and national rights.

Nothing can be done to keep terrorist acts like this from happening unless we

change the system that moves much of the world to hate the United States because of the resource monopolies which it serves. The only thing that the US can do to stop these acts of war is to allow freedom and justice to reign as universal principles in the world. If we don't, no amount of "security measures" will be sufficient. How long will it be before the first suitcase atomic bomb, or vial of bubonic plague, arrives to New York or Washington? This is the beginning of the end of the US as we know it if we don't work on resolving the cause of the problem: economic injustice. There will never be enough security, and the government will have to sacrifice more civil rights and constitutional rights (as they have already been doing for some time — just ask someone who has been arbitrarily detained or humiliatingly searched in an airport) to keep us all safe from the growing threat of terrorism.

Anyone who has read and understands the georgist economic analysis knows that all this drama about finding and punishing the perpetrators of the terrorist act is just more of the same energy which caused the attack. Each side believes that they are punishing the other for past transgressions. We know that the only way our civilization will not spiral into self-destruction, as have all other empires before us, is for the people of the world to reject the true cause of the conflict, monopoly economics (a form of slavery), and to embrace the new paradigm of objective economic justice (the only real freedom) which George ably spelled out for us in *Progress and Poverty*. For instance, the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis is over territory. We know that by applying the georgist remedy over the whole region in conflict, a strong moral base can be established for all to be able to live in justice, prosperity, and peace there.

We stand at a crossroad, each day, each absurd horrific event proving the Georgist theory correct, and it is up to those of us who have been blessed with the privilege and responsibility of knowing the truth, to get up and speak it in a way that will be heard by others, all over the world.

We should feel confident and strong in this mission. All we are proposing is that people learn about political economy so that (*continued on page 43*)

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supplies for less. I have news for them. No supplier is going to sell for less unless he needs to. But he doesn't need to unless he has a competitor. And he won't get a competitor until it gets easier for someone to become a competitor. The competitor won't appear until he can afford a location and such buildings and equipment as he might need. Enter tax incentives (a tax on bare land makes it cheaper to buy, while taxes on buildings and equipment makes such things more expensive).

Unfortunately, advocates of such "incentive taxation" too often emphasize the term "land value tax", forgetting the all-important policy of tax relief on improvements. Farmers react with fear because they think of themselves as land owners. The fact is that the expensive land is in town and farm taxes would actually go down in a land value tax system. Many farms would pay no property taxes at all.

To summarize: the farm problem is a market problem, and the market problem is a city problem, and the city problem is expensive land (taxed too lightly) and expensive buildings (taxed too heavily). This reduces the number of people who would like to sell to farmers, and also the number who would like to buy farm products. (G)

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they may oblige their governments to apply the remedy. Let us develop projects in the US, in Europe, and in whatever countries they are possible, such as: scholarships for university students to study georgist economics, projects to establish nationally syndicated radio and TV shows which educate and advocate the georgist remedy, educational videos, multi-media PR campaigns, popular education programs and member organizations which offer something for attending and passing the course. We must attract good youthful people to the cause, and find ways to make promoting georgism profitable and self-sustaining.

A country like Nicaragua has everything to gain and little to lose from giving the georgist remedy a try. Here, with a rented office and less than \$20K a year, the IHG has been able to arouse the interest of thousands and the participation of hundreds of Nicaraguans in promoting the georgist remedy. And our numbers keep on growing. In the coming years, we hope to establish the critical mass here to make the question of the georgist remedy a national priority.

Yesterday's tragic act of terrorism is horrible and should not be condoned, but it is not giving approval to say that there is a cause for its perpetration, a cause that must be addressed if we really want to avoid the repetition of this horror. — *Mariagua, Sept. 12, 2001* (This article was edited for publication by Lindy Davies)