

# Recent Disturbances In Hong Kong

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SINCE the occupation of mainland China by communists in 1949, Hong Kong has become a market controlled by China's exports—especially foodstuffs, building materials and manufactured goods. Communists annually reap 4 billion Hong Kong dollars in export trade, remittances and other income from the colony. Their balance of payment could be met every year by relying on this sum alone. If Hong Kong were a dead port, like Shanghai and Tientsin, China would be tightly blockaded from the outside world and everything valuable would be lost.

Schools, students, teachers, the press and all news agencies have been under the net spread everywhere by communist forces. As in the mainland, all Christian churches are closed or under communist direction, simulating the dark ages. Some people believed that communist China would not disturb Hong Kong because of their important economic interests, but her ambition would be to control the colony completely, first economically, then culturally, and at last politically.

It was not until May 1967, when the economics force reached its peak, that the communists organized a strike and mass riots against the government. At that point the curve of the cycle seemed to reach a crisis which caused headaches for the upper classes and also among working people who lost their jobs and wages. Although agitators carried posters denouncing the government, communist-imported goods are being boycotted by the public and by 500 or more organizations who vowed to give the government their support. Public utility workers also determined not to participate in the

leftists' moves. Gradually the disturbances declined as people saw evidence that Marxist socialism could not work. Only Georgism holds the light of progress.

Since World War II China has suffered a very unhealthy mental environment; and a high percentage of the population is therefore terribly unhappy and incapacitated by mental or physical illness. For more than ten years China was affected first by the Sino-Japanese war, and since then, for more than fifteen years, by communist occupation. For a generation at least the members of many Chinese families have been separated, with their property lost and occupations changed involuntarily by compulsion. Several hundred million have suffered for most of their lives or their entire lives.

This condition places many people in a continuously abnormal situation to which they are reacting normally, even though by previous standards their behavior would be deemed pathological. The riots were mostly the result of such mental illness and emotional stress. Those who called themselves leftist held up Mao's image and yelled madly to release their mental distress. They want to eliminate the capitalist way of life and to establish Maoism which they believe is the real Marxism-Leninism. But Hong Kong's prosperity does not depend on Mao's magic book.

Of the nearly four million Chinese in Hong Kong it is estimated that at least two million or more have family relationships in mainland China. Each year overseas remittances from abroad amounting to 500 million Hong Kong dollars are being sent to China, es-

pecially to Kwantung and Fukien provinces. If Hong Kong got into trouble the people would be bankrupt and no more remittances would be sent.

There has never been an absolutely isolated country in the modern world, although Soviet Russia has been suffering from attempted isolation. She is changing her economy to a milder socialism by slowing down her centralization and adopting diversified control of production and enterprise. China cannot live with a closed door policy, and Hong Kong is the only port through which she can gain trade and international friendship. Because

it is a British colony it is a metropolitan city of the Far East. If the Hong Kong market is destroyed, China's international interests will be affected, which means the communists will not only create enemies among the British and Americans but all around the world.

Hong Kong is the melting pot of culture between the East and West. There has been very little feeling of racial discrimination. The spirit of democracy is strong and developing steadily. It would be crazy to propagate Maoism in substitution for all other strong cultural elements.

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## The New Era for African Students

Kul Bhushan, the colorful Georgist, director and educator, of Nairobi, has kept his word to the school children of Kenya, and has given them their own magazine. Each of the several thousand copies is eagerly snatched up and passed on to others, for there is an insatiable hunger for the printed word in Africa, and an acute shortage of periodicals and textbooks.

New Era, the children's monthly, helps young readers pass the Kenya preliminary examination, which selects students for secondary schools. It also offers incentive prizes. Because readers have limited funds, and advertisers have not yet discovered this medium, the dedicated editor continues to publish it at a loss.

"When I see the innocent faces of our children become strangely mature while reading a magazine of their own,



**Astronaut John Glenn at New Era College, Nairobi, with Kul Bhushan, New Era editor**

just like grown ups, it all seems worthwhile," says Mr. Sharma, director of the Centre for Economic Inquiry, an extension of the Henry George School. "When I watch an African child's face light up with a smile on receiving a New Era prize, I forget the grim figures of our balance sheet and find new strength to carry on."

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**For Georgists who like to enjoy their conferences in resort atmospheres 1968 is their year. Start saving those rapidly depreciating dollars for Miami Beach July 3-8, and Swansea, South Wales September 8-14.**