

THE GREENS

Green Politics, by Fritjof Capra and Charlene Spretnak. E.P. Dutton, New York, 1984. \$11.95. 244 pages.

This book is about the new political party that has recently won some seats in the West German Bundestag. Calling themselves simply die Grünen (the Greens), they claim to be neither left nor right, but "in front." The Greens evolved from the ecology and student movements of the late '60s and '70s, and in turn have inspired similar movements and political parties throughout the world. Their four basic principles are: ecology, social responsibility, grassroots democracy, and nonviolence.

In addition to ecology, other major foci of the Greens include peace, feminism, and a decentralized economy. Many of their positions, especially in the area of economics, represent compromises of differing viewpoints within the Green movement and indicate an insufficient awareness of economic realities. A minority of Marxist-oriented Greens often oppose the more spiritual or holistic approach taken by the other Greens toward economic problems. Economics cannot be separated from other aspects of human life, from our aspirations to more than material satisfactions, the holists assert.

This holistic orientation makes the Green movement a potential ally to the Georgist movement. This is demonstrated by the fact that Britain's version of the Greens, the Ecology Party, has viewed Georgist ideas favorably. And there is a Green movement in the United States pioneered by Mildred Loomis and the late Ralph Borsodi, both ardent Georgists. Recently, the Planetary Initiative and the Bioregional Conference have been supportive of Georgist proposals.

Capra and Spretnak claim that the Green movement is the wave of future social change. This movement may well prove to be fertile ground for some of our activists to plant the seeds of Georgist ideas.

- Reviewed by Mark A. Sullivan

(Mitchell Chanelis and Alanna Hartzok in the U.S., Shirley-Anne Hardy in the U.K., and other good friends are already introducing a Georgist presence in "Green" activities.)