

«DON'T CRY THIS TIME, ARGENTINA?»

After eight years of military rule, Argentina had a democratic election in November 1983. The winner was the Unión Cívica Radical (Radical Civic Union), a moderate party whose platform includes some Georgist principles (land value tax, reduction of income tax, etc.). The new President, Raul Alfonsín, was a co-founder of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights and stands for clean civilian government. However, he faces massive economic problems.

HGI member Juan Carlos Zuccotti of Philadelphia, an architect, is active both in Georgist and Argentine affairs. He is Coordinator General of the Comité de Estímulo a los Universitarios Argentino en el Exterior, an organization of Argentinians living abroad, of which it is estimated that there are 2½ million. At a reunion of this group in Philadelphia, September 3-4, 1983, the Committee passed the "Philadelphia Declaration for a New Economic, Social, Political and Moral Order for the Argentine Republic." Mr. Zuccotti calls it "100% Georgist" and it features the Georgist analysis and remedy for social ills.

There has been an active Georgist movement in Argentina and Mr. Zuccotti has submitted to us

A Brief History of the Argentine Georgist Movement

From the early days of the 20th century the Georgist movement in Argentina had organizations, periodicals and members, and the influence was strong until Keynesian ideas were imported by conservatives and militarists, especially President Peron.

To help rebuild the Georgist influence, Dr. Bernadino C. Horne founded the Instituto Social Agrario (Agrarian Social Institute) in 1963. Mauricio Birabent, engineer and economist, author of many books and pamphlets on the land question, was President of the Institute until his death in January 1982. Saul P. Martinez, a civil engineer, is the present Secretary of the Institute, and Dr. Jose Vasquez, economist, conducts research for it.

Another researcher at the Institute is Dr. Fernando Scornik, author of the book El Problema de la Tierra en Argentina (The Land Problem in Argentina) and other works. Dr. Antonio Manuel Molinari, lawyer and economist, leads the Institute at present. He was President of the Consejo Agrario Nacional (National Agrarian Council), an official organization. He is the author of several books on the land question, including La Ley de Colonización y la Enmienda Palacios (The Law of Colonization and the Palacios Amendment), El Drama de la Tierra en Argentina (The Drama of Land in Argentina), Por qué Muere la Libertad (Why Liberty Dies), and other works.

Dr. Molinari is also an experienced journalist. With Dr. Birabent, he founded the bi-weekly paper Democracia, published in Buenos Aires. Present director of this paper is Hector R. Sandler. Georgist material appears in Democracia regularly, and the Philadelphia Declaration cited above was printed in it.

In connection with a press release on illegal immigration into the U.S. from Mr. Zuccotti's Committee, a Spanish translation of the famous words by Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty (quoted in GJ No. 40) was included. Here is the translation:

Dadme vuestras cansada, vuestras empobrecidas,
vuestras amontonadas masas humanas
anhelando respirar la libertad.
El desecho miserable de vuestro fecundo litoral,
Enviadme eso: los que no tienen vivienda,
los marginados.
Alzo mi lámpara junto a la entrada dorada.