



ACTION AGAINST MOTORWAY

Finally people are beginning to object to road-building. The M3 extension across Twyford Down in the Winchester area is being opposed by a local group. David Croker of the Twyford Down association said, "We are not prepared to say what we will do, but we will be taking action to stop the work if the government persists." They're circulating a list of people prepared to lie down in front of the bulldozers. It's not the revolution. They're not trying to stop motorways. They want it put in a tunnel-underneath, costing an extra £90 million. But it's a start.

STORM IN A GREEN TEACUP

The Green Party has been riven by a non-event, the success of Green 2000, a pressure group to make the party more efficient and electorally more attractive. They have swept the board in elections to their national committee.

It's a non-event because no issues of policy are involved, and they'll never be electorally attractive until their policies add up. Both sides still want to screw the poor with indirect taxes - the Basic Income Scheme having been shelved until "eventually". The effect of this will be to increase economic growth by increasing wages, labour costs and labour-saving

machinery. And the Green Party is supposed to be against economic growth. These big issues the Green Party simply refuses to address, talking only about structure and organisation, getting hot under the collar about Green 2000. Useless!

BIRTH OF ALTERNATIVE GREEN

The ideas of Green Anarchism, now Alternative Green, were presented over three evenings at the Rainbow Circle Green Gathering at Upper Hill near Leominster. The three evenings were billed as the Presentation, the Battle and the Resolution. On the first evening Richard Hunt presented the economic and political analysis (see pages 12 - 17). When it came to the Battle the Greens slunk away - it was no contest. They were unable to find any hole in the argument. It was almost disappointing that they couldn't even debate it. But it was certainly victory. Another group who came to present ideas for a decentralised green structure didn't even hold any of their three scheduled meetings. It was a battle we lost ten years ago at the first Green Gathering. This time we won with 'no contest'. The enthusiasm generated by the ideas created 'Alternative Green'.

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ALTERNATIVE GREEN

ISSUE NO. 1. WINTER. '92.

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The EC. - A CONFLICT OF TRENDS. PSI. HEMP.
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ALTERNATIVE GREEN

20 UPPER BARR, COWLEY CENTRE, OXFORD, OX4 3UX.

EDITOR: RICHARD HUNT

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ALTERNATIVE GREEN

GOAL: Autonomous, self-sufficient villages, with regression of technology - no hunger, no industry, no pollution, no bomb.

CAUSE OF POVERTY: Religion causes kings which causes taxation which causes poverty. Primitive societies are called the Original affluent society with food and fuel abundant and free.

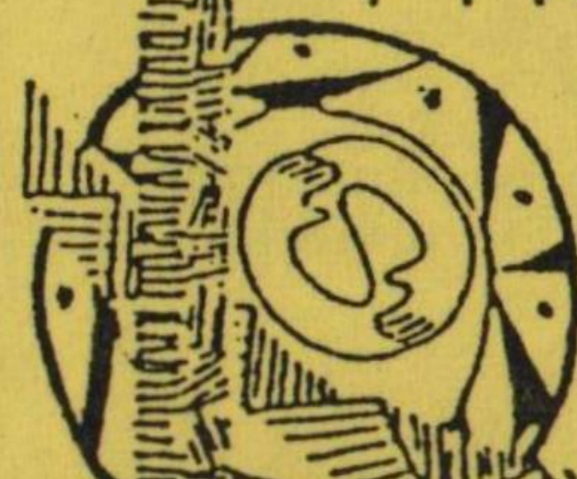
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Kinship keeps the peace and equalises wealth. The oppression of women is not caused by hierarchy, pornography, upbringing or sexist language, but by religion, then by money, private ownership of land and the welfare state which all remove the need to co-operate, allowing the males' natural competitiveness to grow unmoderated leaving the less competitive women to be exploited. The function of the male is to protect the female.

STRATEGY. Revolution on the periphery, the Third World, weakening our own government, who can therefore not stop free villages on its own periphery. And parliamentary moves to cut taxation, first, indirect taxes on the poor.

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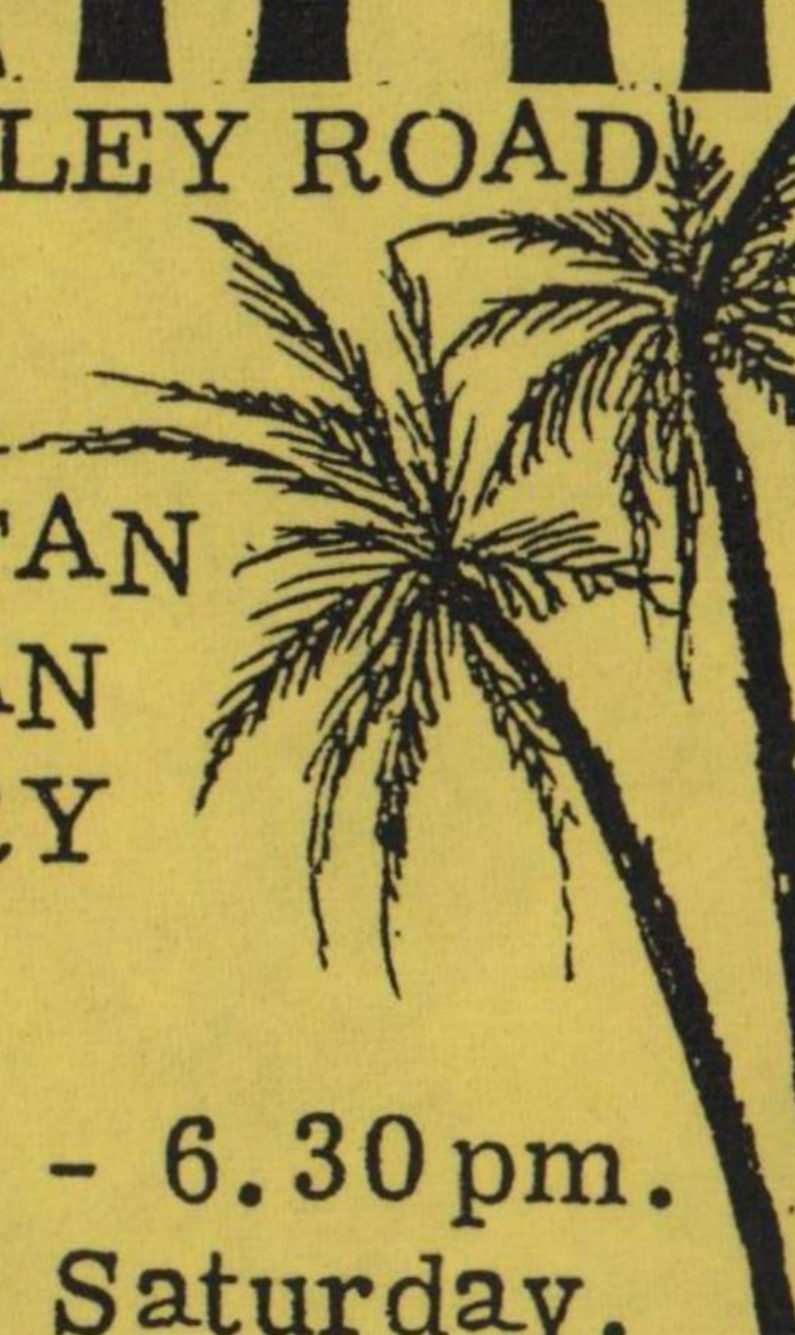
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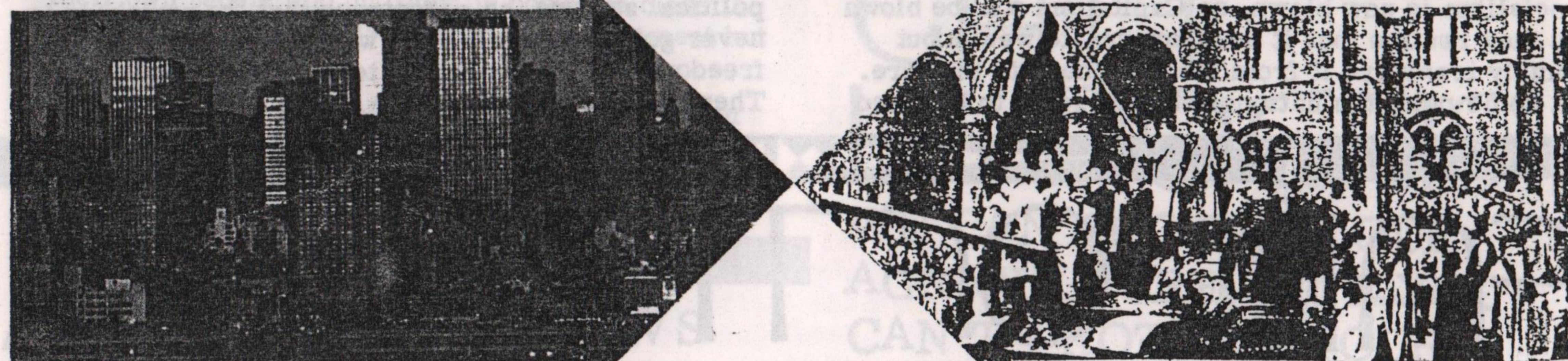


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WORLD VIEW



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

A CONFLICT OF TRENDS - GROWING BIG BUSINESS AGAINST GROWING NATIONALISM.

Since the beginning of this century, as the empires collapsed, the number of independent countries has been increasing. The opposite trend is the increasing size of the economic unit, such as the European Community, pushed by the big traders and big manufacturers in order to benefit from the economies of scale.

BIG IS BEAUTIFUL.

The key decision is the opening or closing of the borders. Everything follows from that: therefore a common currency; therefore a central bank to control the printing of money; therefore a central parliament to control the bank; therefore a single state. In 19th century Germany: "The disappearance of the customs gates meant the gradual merging of the state into Prussia, for such states retained an independence of action that was more judicial than actual." (Milward and Saul.)

That key decision has already been taken: the borders are to open on Jan. 1st '93. At first glance it is all over but the shouting. The traders will want a common currency. When that is agreed, they'll need a central bank to control it, and then a strong parliament. And the European state will have been created.

THE PERIPHERY.

The reason why Germany should want to join the E.C. is clear. It gives them a larger potential market for their goods by undercutting the smaller countries' industries. But why should Greece, for instance want to open her industries to lethal German competition by joining the E.C.? Greece believes, quite correctly, that if it doesn't join, it will become a de-industrialised Third World country able to export hardly any goods to the E.C. at all because of E.C. tariffs to protect its industry. And since the theory of the E.C. is that everyone should be equally wealthy, and the

E.C. has promised regional aid and equalisation payments, Greece thinks, wrongly, that some of the E.C. wealth will rub off on her, and she will become technologically advanced as well.

But the deciding factor is that the rich, who make the decisions, will be much better off because a few of their largest businesses will prosper with the enlarged market, the richest farmers will be able to sell more crops abroad, and the shiny status symbols from Germany will be much cheaper than their Greek ones. It is only the poor who will be made unemployed and have to pay more for their food.

THE GROWING NATIONALISM

The process of integration in 19th century Germany took about thirty years. But they all spoke German and there was no issue of nationalism. This time there is a growing nationalism to oppose it, and it can only be done by nationalism. In the old USSR, the Ukrainians have closed the border with Russia and are about to print their own money. Nationalism is very obvious in the Balkans and the break-up of Yugoslavia. It's incipient in Britain with the Northern Irish and the Scots. In Italy they've formed a Lombard League which is being very successful politically with apparently no left or right bias. With the exception of Le Pen in France they all seem to be bridging the left/right divide.

But at the moment both the nationalists and the decentralists think that the regional policy of the E.C. will give them both more power and more wealth. They think that they can have both technological development and independence as well. The Scottish National Party, for instance, wants independence within Europe. Finally they'll find that they've got even less independence than they've got now under the English. And they'll find that they've lost most of their industry too as their bigger continental and English competitors undercut them.

Then things will start to get interesting as nationalism

fighters big business and the process of integration, however far it has got, will go into reverse. As socialism is now blown, so Capitalism will be blown as they realize that it does not create wealth but simply transfers it from the periphery to the core. At some point the nationalists are going to be faced

with the decision between freedom and technological development. It will require a revolutionary change in political attitude, an acceptance that the periphery is never going to get rich and would be better with freedom, independence and technological regression. Then they will secede.

FALL OF THE USSR

WITH NO BUSINESS LOBBY, NATIONALISM WINS



ANCIENT ROME FELL because the taxes went instead to Constantinople. Moscow fell because the republics, Ukraine, Kazakhstan etc. stopped sending their taxes to Moscow. Because of communism's failure to promote economic growth and therefore the USSR's ability to match America's arms, Gorbachev had introduced 'reconstruction' and 'openness'. To promote economic growth he had had to relax the chains. This gave the power to the republics to stop sending their taxes to Moscow, and so the thing unravelled.

Without the taxes Moscow started printing money but not sending it to the other republics. So Russia got

inflation, while the value of the same rouble remained higher in the other republics. So eggs cost more roubles in Russia than in Ukraine and the Russians were issued with more of the cheaper roubles to pay for them. So Russians with more of their less valuable roubles (in Russia) could go to Ukraine, where the same rouble was worth much more, and buy up all the food. To stop this Ukraine is closing the borders and introducing its own currency. (This is an example of how the core uses inflation to impoverish the periphery.)

Meanwhile the peasants are sitting on their hands. The thesis of Alternative Green, and Green Anarchism, is being graphically illustrated by the empty shelves of the Moscow shops. When the state stops forcing the peasants to produce food for the cities, the peasants stop producing that surplus. The rulers will probably try to use land reform and privatisation to increase food production by taxing the individuals to produce the surplus. But land reform in this context might be unpopular, the community preferring the land to be communally owned while no longer being forced to produce the surplus.

The situation is unstable. The rulers of the republics have too much to lose - their limosines and comfortable lifestyle. Without the food surplus the rulers can't buy their status symbols, nor the generals their tanks. Closing the borders has a cost to the rich. It keeps down the price of food, but if Ukraine is selling less food outside it can import fewer shiny manufactured goods that the rich like. Open borders benefit the rich; closed borders benefit the poor. At the moment with no vociferous or influential business lobby to press for open borders the nationalists have successfully closed them. But for how long? The remaining industries in the Ukraine had the whole of the USSR as consumers. With only the Ukrainians it gets no benefit from the economies of scale. So a battle will develop between the growing number of large traders, including their industrial workers needing the employment, against the nationalists with the small farmers and traders. On the side of the big traders will be the ex-communist nomenklatura now using their top-level contacts as businessmen. The battle is still wide open.

The rulers of the republics are caught between two pressures, bribery from Russia to keep the borders

open and use the rouble, and nationalist pressure from their own people who put them in power to close the borders. Nationalism is winning for the moment but for how long.

Usually religion is a reflection of tribal affiliation and kinship rather than spiritual conviction. So the end result might be a division on religious lines, catholic, orthodox, unite and muslim.

MOSLEM BLOCK GROWS

The moslem republics of the southern USSR. could be changing their allegiances from Russia to the moslem countries of the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO), comprising Iran, Turkey and Pakistan. Three of the Russian republics, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have joined. Tadjikistan is being considered as well as Northern Cyprus. Everyone's battering down the hatches ready for the trade wars of the nineties.

POLAND RETHINKS

A new Polish opinion poll shows that more than half the Poles now favour less privatisation, closing domestic markets to foreign goods and rejecting foreign capital investment. They've tasted capitalism and don't like it. The government, reflecting this, plans increasing intervention where it's really hurting to avoid social conflict. Poland led the way in its economic shock therapy. Is it going to make all the other eastern block countries rethink too. Or has the IMF got them by the short and curlies?

SOMALIA UNRAVELS.

Another country is quietly unravelling. After years of corrupt dictatorship by Siad Barre from Mogadishu, the northern part of Somalia has seceded as Somaliland. This is a strictly tribal and it sounds as though Somaliland itself is splitting again on clan lines. One clan is reserving for itself the export and import duties at the port of Berbera. And clans within the Somaliland army are fighting each other.

INDIA CRAWLS TO THE US.

Having lost its Russian protector and market for its goods, and broke, India is being forced to crawl to the US. for weapons and money from the IMF. This humiliation has been made slightly easier to swallow because Pakistan, India's rival, is at present unpopular with America because of its nuclear policy and its past support for the Afghan rebels. The crawling has been successful, \$6.2 billion in credits and loans. Short term this is bad news for Sikh Kalistan, moslem Kashmir and Assam, all seeking independence, until the credit and loans have to be paid back.

The price for India is to do what America tells it, rejecting non-alignment, recognising Israel, cutting

GATT HYPOCRISY

WE CAN PROTECT OUR AGRICULTURE, BUT YOU CAN'T PROTECT YOUR INDUSTRY.

The most important world discussions going on at the moment are the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Behind the much publicised row between the US and the EC. over how much the EC. should reduce its food subsidy on crops it sells to the Third World is a much more far-reaching debate about the West protecting its agriculture while demanding that the Third World does not protect its industry.

Although the US. is demanding that the EC. reduce its agricultural subsidies, the US. itself subsidises its food exports in different ways, so this particular squabble is only about how the Third World should be exploited. Australia, depending totally on its agricultural exports is virtually Third World. It is suffering badly by being undercut by America's cheaper, subsidised crops. Bush replied to Australia that he must protect his farmers' jobs. At the same time he is demanding open access for America's industrial goods. He is saying that it is OK for the industrial countries to protect their agriculture, but it is not OK for the agricultural countries to protect their industry.

In the end the rich of the Third World would rather have the cheap shiny goodies from the developed world than protect their own industries. They also need the western guns to keep themselves in power and the poor subservient. And by their debt the Western bankers have got them by the short and curlies. So, protesting loudly, they'll do exactly what the West tells them.

industrial support, reducing tariffs, the whole capitalist thing.

GENERALS AGAINST FUNDAMENTALISM.

Is an interesting new trend emerging? In Algiers the military have prevented an election which would have brought the moslem fundamentalists to power. In Pakistan the military are also taking a new anti-fundamentalist stance, stopping support for the Afghan rebels, preventing moslem demos in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, opposing moslem objection to usury. Perhaps the moslem generals are afraid of losing their western guns.

WORLD VIEW

OZONE DANGER

BUILD-UP OF HALOCARBONS OVER EUROPE

NASA has reported that halocarbons in the upper atmosphere over Europe are now in sufficient quantities to produce serious thinning of the ozone layer. It has issued a press release prior to its report to underline its severity. The situation has been made worse by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines. The most dangerous period is predicted to be the end of February.

The danger is always quoted to be the increase of skin cancers. But a far more serious long-term threat is

that the increased amount of ultraviolet would severely reduce crop production and food supplies. The ultraviolet would also kill off plankton in the oceans. The Guardian says that the plankton are "vital for the production of carbon dioxide, therefore increasing greenhouse warming".

These results are from computer models and no one's doing anything about it until further results confirm them. Well, that's the governments' story anyway.

BUSH ACTS.

The new threat to the ozone layer affects the whole of the northern hemisphere. The strong environmental movement in America has forced Bush to commit the US. to stopping production of CFCs by 1995, which he had previously refused to do.

ICI stops CFC production.

ICI, scared of its anti-environmental reputation has voluntarily decided to stop all production of CFCs by 1995. The British government is still waiting for the rest of the EC. countries, even though other countries have taken unilateral action.

SLUMP!

It looks like we're heading for a slump. The great depressions of the past, in the early fourteenth century, the Great Depression of the later nineteenth century and the thirties Depression were all caused by a fall in commodity prices caused by increased production. Therefore the big farmers, having borrowed on the expectation of future high prices, couldn't pay back their debts to their bankers. Banks went bankrupt and had nothing to lend to people to buy or build things.

That's what's happening today. World commodity prices are low and falling; caused by overproduction. Banks are making losses all over the world and aren't lending, so people have less money to buy products of the factories.

But this global trend is made worse because governments have stopped printing so much money (or credit), increasing the credit shortage. After World War II Keynes said that if a government prints money it would fire the engine for growth. So governments printed money. He also said that you have to withdraw

that money later. The governments didn't listen to that bit. So the world got massive inflation. Then Friedman said that if you stop printing money, you'll get economic growth. So they stopped printing money. But Friedman was wrong too. So we've got not economic growth but a slump because of the reduction in buying power.

The effect in Britain of the global slump has been made worse by the Tories special incompetence. When the City was hit by a frightening world fall in share prices, the Tory government printed credit to stop the banks collapsing. So did all the other countries but they withdrew the money again much more quickly before it created inflation. Lawson didn't. So with all the money we got a boom; house prices went through the roof and inflation went back up again.

But a slump is not necessarily bad news. In the fourteenth century that slump was known as the 'golden age of the peasant'. Food and house prices, rents all go down. For those still in work, the 85% in the thirties, times were easier. In a slump because the necessities of life go down in price the population as a whole has to work less hard. The problem is that in our present system most of the population works as hard as ever while a small proportion don't work at all, the unemployed.

HEMP FOR PAPER AS WELL

"City man's world first with cannabis paper" said the headline in the Oxford Mail on Friday, 13th December, 1991. The article went on to explain that Pete Messenger of Ecologically Sound Papers has achieved the near impossibility of making paper containing fibre from the plant that everybody loves to hate, cannabis sativa, or hemp as it is otherwise known. But they didn't tell the whole story.....

Back in 1971 Edward Hyams wrote in 'Plants in the Service of Man': "Today the word cannabis suggests not the centuries-old importance of hempen rope and hempen tissue, but the drug variously called hemp, cannabis, bhang, hashish, marijuana, pot, grass etc. This, however, is due to a fortuitous circumstance, the very belated discovery, by West European and American youth, of the mildly intoxicating qualities of the hemp leaf and seed, and to the hysterical excitement of the authorities in those parts of the world at the growth of a habit of smoking hemp, a practice which, provided the leaf used to be free from such dangerous impurities as opium, is demonstrably less dangerous from the health point of view than the smoking of tobacco. "But hemp is much more important as a fibre plant than as a drug plant. . . . In the East where its use as a stimulant has been tolerated for many centuries, it is clearly ancient in cultivation, since the name for it in oriental languages - bhang, ganga, hashish - are all derivatives of the Sanscrit names bhangs and gangila."

Then in 1980 The Ecologist put an issue into the hands of the hempophile, John Hanson, and the result was an excellent concentration of hempen wisdom called Hemptathy, which somehow managed to elude me until a copy came into Oxfin a couple of years ago.

The next milestone on the road to hemp paper was getting hold of Jack Herer's book "The Emperor Wears No Clothes" This came about through seeing an article entitled "Hemp - a plant to save the world?" in the journal of the Institute for Social Inventions. This book is a total revelation, so packed with stuff that you can hardly read it in places. The U. S. paper and chemical industries did not like the competition, especially as a machine had just been developed to separate the fibres from the rest of the stalk, a task which had made home grown hemp uncompetitive up til then (1937).

Announcing the development of this machine, 'Popular Mechanics' magazine (Feb. '38) hailed the 'New Billion Dollar Crop': "The machine . . . is designed for removing the fibre-bearing cortex from the rest of the

stalk, making hemp fibre available for use without a prohibitive amount of human labour.

"Hemp is the standard fibre of the world. It has great tensile strength and durability. It is used to produce more than 5,000 textile products, ranging from rope to fine laces, and the woody 'hurds', remaining after the fibre has been removed contain more than 77% cellulose, and can be used to produce more than 25,000 products, ranging from dynamite to Cellophane."

And "From the farmer's point of view, hemp is an easy crop to grow and will yield from three to six tons per acre on any land that will grow corn, wheat or oats. It has a short growing season so that it can be planted after other crops are in. It can be grown in any state of the union. The long roots penetrate the soil to leave it in perfect condition for the next year's crops." Not only that but:

"A large paper company, which has been paying more than a million dollars a year in duties on foreign-made cigarette papers, now is manufacturing these papers from American hemp grown in Minnesota. A new factory in Illinois is producing fine bond papers from hemp. The natural materials in hemp make it an economic source of pulp for any grade of paper manufactured, and the high percentage of alpha cellulose promises an unlimited supply of raw material for the thousands of cellulose products of our chemists have developed."

Fine bond paper? From hemp? So why are we killing the last of the trees and paying farmers to sit on their asses to reduce surpluses when they could be growing our paper and board and a whole lot more?

According to Jack Herer, it was the U. S. paper industry who nipped this very promising modern industry in the bud, as it were, and the circumstantial evidence he presents is pretty convincing.

All the nonsense like 'Reefer Madness', the brain-damage(d) scare stories, the busts, the prejudiced trials, the millions of person-years wasted in jails, were all because a few American breadheads in the thirties wanted us to wear plastic clothes and wipe our arses on Gaia's lung tissue.

Now, if your business was ecologically sound papers, what would you do in the light of such knowledge? Pete Messenger went and organised some hemp paper: this page of this magazine is made from it. He can be contacted on Oxford 311151.

Harry Alderslade.



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FIRE NOISE

'THE ALTERNATIVE MOVEMENT IS BEGINNING TO PRODUCE ITS OWN CULTURAL FORMS. 'FIRENOISE' EXPLOITS JUGGLING, FIRE AND DRUMMING TO PRODUCE A NEW SPECTACULAR ENTERTAINMENT.

AS THE ARENA'S LIGHTING FLARES were ignited, two dozen half-naked savages began their charge, roaring, snarling, drumming, whistling, and returning to their positions in front of a scaffold sculpture with every manner of clangable object suspended from it. Magdalen College Ball '91 had been hit by FireNoise!

The sight of Oxford's elite, all with ball gowns, dinner jackets and champagne glasses, skating on artificial ice and fighting to be the next on the dodgems was certainly a bizarre sight. However, preceding the Kinks, on a pitch outside the main marquee must have been the most incongruous sight of the evening.

The fact that the 75 minute performance that followed was carried off without mains electricity was one

keep the whole show on the road, we like to do stuff for ourselves sometimes. It's just that that keeps you going. Last year we took the show to Torpedo Town Free Festival, found a space, waited for dark, and just started the show. Bang. I think the mixture of doing it for ourselves and negotiating moving a heap of equipment through a throbbing throng of crazed crazed weidoes having one serious party, is an example of the diversity that keeps us fresh.

FireNoise works as a co-operative and seems to cope with the resulting stresses and strains well enough. On the one hand, we could be described as a bunch of hippies whose main uniting factor is a love of painting up, making a lot of noise and dancing about playing with with fire. On the other hand, for it all to work, we've



surprising feature. That the Kinks' manager was impressed by a show with tribal facepaint, raw rhythm and fireplay is not to be discounted either. In fact, if watching the show was half as exhilarating as being in it, then the 'penguins and debs' in the audience certainly got value for our share of their remarkably high ticket prices.

FireNoise is an odd bunch. Not without its Archaos influence, it was born at the end of 1990 of an idea to have a largescale fire and drumming show for the wealth of juggling talent in and around Oxford. Juggling is certainly FireNoise's forte. Plans for a Mark III fire show are on the drawing board now

But it doesn't stop there. Acting as a general umbrella, FireNoise runs various workshops, and one major sideline is ultraviolet and luminous juggling, called "Ultravision", some of which was included in the recent recent indoor show "Jugannath". Jugannath, from which we get 'jugonaut' means a relentless destroying force which demands obedience. Three fire-demon-type beasts, called Rubedi, are born into an ultraviolet valley, only to have it developed, in one minute flat, into a grey industrial conurbation by the uniformed, systematic Fex, whose only form of creativity is some of the grimmest juggling you're likely to see. The fact that most of these quasi-robots had long hair was unusual, but the simple, wordless portrayal of the clash between urban man and beasts as a vehicle for entertainment was well received by full houses at the Pegasus Theatre. The environmental message and upsurge in the popularity of juggling was picked up on by Central News South who ran a feature, and the show was followed by some outdoor fire juggling for tops.

The fire show (with some U.V.) was aired at some four balls last summer as well as a number of private and public parties. Whilst it's the paying gigs that had to go semi-professional, with bank balances, newsletters, general meetings and some members taking on the onerous tasks of organisation. A delicate balance exists between the necessities of a simple hierarchy and the principles of collective input. One factor which had notable success at a meeting recently

was the use of an object, here an apple, being held by the only person allowed to speak, and chucked on to the next speaker. If you've not used this one, it's very effective. Meanwhile it's down to the directors, producers etc. to do their bit, and working with a group as large as ours is not undaunting

Looking back to Magdalen Ball, the Kinks manager was impressed with our professionalism, and one ball-goer (who set himself on fire accidentally on one of our flares) remarked that it all seemed a bit anti-establishment. Students are very bright nowadays.

So come and see the show. We'll be in the Oxford area all summer.

Eugene
Renals



Photos
and
cover
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Firenoise.

Contact: FireNoise. 68 Church Way, Iffley, Oxford.



THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD IS NIGH

GOAL: Autonomous, self-sufficient villages, with regression of technology - no hunger, no industry, no pollution, no bomb.

CAUSE OF POVERTY: Religion causes kings which causes taxation which causes poverty. Primitive societies are called the original affluent society with food and fuel abundant and free.

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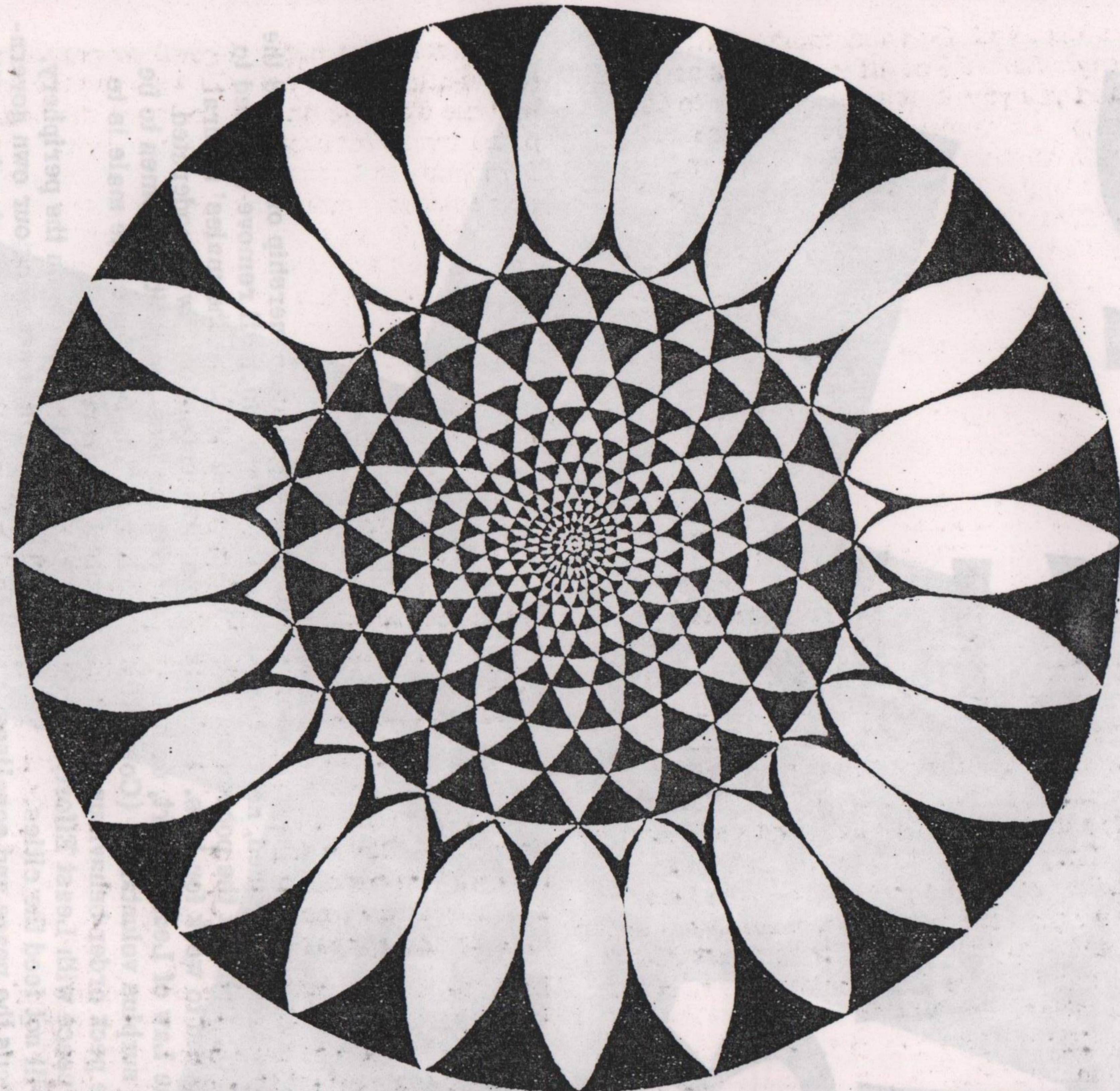
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STRATEGY. Revolution on the periphery, the Third World, weakening our own government, who can therefore not stop free villages on its own periphery. And parliamentary moves to cut taxation, first, indirect taxes on the poor.

ALTERNATIVE GREEN



THE THEORY OF ALTERNATIVE GREEN

THE CAUSES OF POVERTY

HUNTER-GATHERER SOCIETIES are not poor. They have been called the 'original affluent society'. Food and fuel is abundant and free, with never a need to store or cultivate. So poverty is not caused by lack of development or lack of knowledge.

Hunter-gatherers do not trade or barter. When they kill game, they share it with the rest of the group; they do not exchange it. Exchange is considered highly anti-social. "Far from being of a trucking disposition, primitive man was strongly averse to acts of barter." (Polanyi. '77.) So there's nothing natural about trade.

Sometimes a charismatic, often paranoid figure

arises, who, with his companions, like a street gang today, terrorises the district into submission, forcing the people to hand over their food to feed him, his companions and their henchmen. But these tyrants die and without his ruthless charisma his companions lose their power. There's nothing we can do about this sort of tyrant.

But later their power was transmitted to others, and that we can do something about. When he dies his companions lose their goodies, so they pretend that the tyrant had been descended from the gods and that therefore his son was also semi-divine and so should inherit the kingship. That way the companions keep their goodies.

This can only happen when a belief in a god or gods already exists. What had started out as a harmless, pretty explanation of the natural world becomes a tool for the companions of the tyrant. Moses goes up the

mountain, has a chat with God and comes back down saying, "God says that 10% of all you own is holy and is the Lord's and you pay it over every year to the Chief Priest (who just happens to be my brother.)" Religion demands obedience to 'God's' laws and the priests say that 'God's' laws say "pay your taxes". It was those taxes that created the fabulous wealth of Solomon and his companions; and the poverty of everyone else. It is religion and government which causes poverty. If someone naively invents one of these silly gods, someone else will come along and exploit it.



THE ENFORCED SURPLUS

In Mesopotamia the kings traded with other kings for luxury articles. There was no trade in the villages. "Babylon is possessed neither market places nor a functioning market system." (Polanyi. "Trade and market in Early Empires.") The kings took what food and materials they wanted by force and religious taxation. Villages, contrary to convention economic wisdom, did not exchange their food for the manufactured goods produced by the artisans of the cities, who only produced for the rich. The villages were proudly self-sufficient. They produced no more than was necessary including storage against the seven lean years. They never produce a surplus. Like every other organism in nature, they obey the law of Least Effort. This implies that in a future free society the villages will not feed the cities. So it is crucial to validate the law of Least Effort. Two car garages, climbing Mount Everest and competitive games don't sound like Least Effort.



THE PECK ORDER

When a group of birds are competing round a carcass, it saves a lot of fighting if each remembers which is stronger than another. So each stronger bird reminds the next weaker by the occasional peck. Instead of having to fight every time, the peck is enough. Keeping the peace with Least Effort. This behaviour pattern was first noticed amongst domestic chickens so was called the pecking order, or peck order or dominance hierarchy or rank order. In a pair bonding species the female takes the status of the male.

The rank order is constantly changing as the young grow strong and the strong grow old. Among chimpanzees: "The young male must challenge the females of his community, one by one, and then, when all have been dominated, he must begin to work his way into the dominance hierarchy of the adult males." (J. Goodall. "Through a Window." London '90.) But it's not 'red in tooth and claw'; one of the functions of an alpha male is to support the weaker ones, who are not a threat to him, and to preserve the peace generally. The object of the peck order is to keep the peace with Least Effort.

Many species are able to avoid fighting altogether by deciding the peck order with ritualised methods. Bower birds attract their mates, not by fighting, but by competing to decorate their nests with objects attractive to the females. This behaviour is called 'conventional means to conventional goals.' The human species also uses this system. To find our place in the peck order we agree to compete to get a ball between

two posts (conventional goal) by only using our feet (conventional means). Or we compete by what sort of picture we have on our walls; at the bottom a flower print from Woolworths, then a reproduction of an 18th century flower print, then an amateur water colour, professional water colour, oil painting, etc until we reach the Van Gogh irises costing millions. By being able to afford it - whatever it looks like - he has reached the top of that peck order. In these cases the painting is the conventional goal, money the conventional means.

Your make of car states your rank order without having to beat your neighbour over the head every morning. Or we compete by how many books we have on our shelves. So keeping up with the Joneses is very important - keeping the peace by Least Effort. Thus the two car garage, climbing Mount Everest or competitive games are all consonant with Least Effort.

All hunter-gatherer societies have peck orders. They sometimes even have chiefs in some of the larger groups. These command respect and influence, but not obedience. "One word from the chief and everyone does as they please." (Sahlins. "Tribalism".) The problem is not hierarchy. There will always be hierarchy (peck order). The problem is obedience to hierarchy. It is obedience, not hierarchy, that causes poverty and oppression.

Because it undermines the possibility of total socialist equality, sociology and psychology for the last forty years have been fighting a rear-guard action against this concept, like the priests fought Galileo. But with the death of Socialism the concept of peck order is now incorporated into both sociology and psychology.

Without the concept of the peck order this economic analysis could not be validated. It could not show that the human species obeys the law of Least Effort and that therefore in a free society the villages would not feed the cities



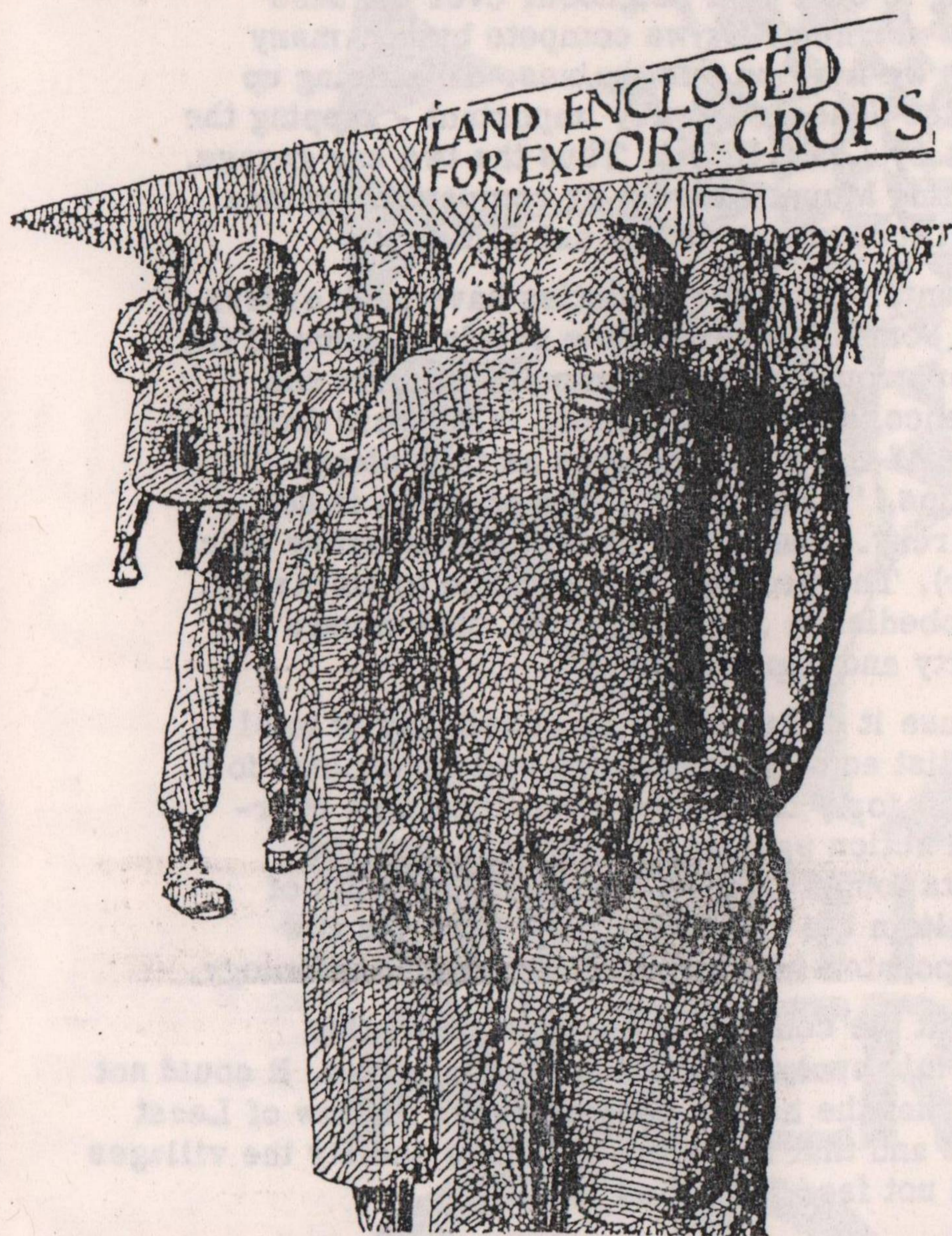
TRADE

Conventional economics says that trade creates wealth. This is not true; it simply moves it from the poor to the rich. With the invention of money the kings found that by taxing their traders who fed the urban artisans etc. and who would pass the tax straight on to these consumers, the kings could increase their income considerably without their subjects noticing that they were paying the hidden tax. So it was in the king's interest to increase trade to increase his power. Therefore he built the King's Highway, the bridges and the ports which all drain the raw materials from the periphery to the core.

Cash is also used to force the peasant to feed the city. He is taxed in cash so he has to grow extra crops to sell in the city, not for urban artifacts, but for cash to hand back as taxes. He benefits in no way. That is why the villages feed the cities and the Third World feeds us, while they starve.

A city is parasitic on its food-producing hinterland/periphery. The more land it controls, the bigger the city. Sometimes, like Athens, it runs out of land and

poverty forces it to make a living by the profits from trade. To do this it has to support client kings who supply their timber, wheat and wool. Because the cost of living at the core is always more expensive - water wood and food have to be bought, sewers built - than on the periphery, labour costs are always higher therefore labour-saving machinery is more necessary and so technology is always more advanced at the core. The governments can therefore keep the client kings in power with their technologically more advanced weapons. These client kings are bribed to exploit their own people by selling their crops, as is happening in the Third World today. The core cannot



eat without the periphery starving. Poland starved to feed medieval Europe. As Europe grew more populous, the food-producing and starving periphery expanded into the Balkans and Russia then to the slave plantations of the Americas. Today the starvation has expanded into the Third World.

Athens is a good example of a city driven by lack of land into trade. Others are Tyre, Venice, Singapore and Hongkong. But the main reason for trade is to increase the government's power by the hidden indirect taxes.

So trade does not create wealth. It removes the raw materials from the periphery to the core, and only the core and the rich on the periphery benefit. If the people had a choice there would be no trade.

INDUSTRY

Specialisation did not start because man was able to produce a surplus but because of poverty. When a man does not have enough land he is forced to specialise in weaving, or pottery, or basket-making. Such people are looked down on. In Polynesia: "in some villages

there is a despised community of craftsmen and traders, highly skilled in wood-carving and basketry." (Diamond. "The Evolution of Law and Order")

Specialisation means more work, not less. The hunter-gatherers work 1-3 hours a day, cultivators in Africa about 4 hours. Athenian farmers worked only half the year, there was little to do in the winter. In the Middle Ages they were beginning to work harder, but not too much: "At Thaxted a virgator had worked and worked 137 days in winter and summer (together) and 38 during the harvest on the basis of a five day week, four weeks holiday at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun and 61 saints days." (N. Kenyon. Econ. Hist. Review. '34.)

Today, taking travelling time and overtime into account, we work about as hard as the Victorians. But three quarters of the female population now do paid work as well. So altogether we're working half as hard again. "Certain orthodox views are better turned around; the amount of work per capita increases in proportion to technological advance and the amount of leisure decreases." (Sahlins. "Tribalism". '68.)

The effect of industrialism at the core is to de-industrialise the periphery. In the nineteenth century British cheap manufactured goods destroyed the thriving Indian weaving industry. If India is able to re-industrialise now it is only at the expense of the further periphery in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal etc, and also British industry.

It is the loss of the land, not population growth, which is the cause of industry. In Indonesia, until recently just as high a density of population produced not industry but a very intensive, self-sufficient agriculture.

DIVISION OF LABOUR

The economic theory which justifies driving the population off the land and into the factories was worked out by Adam Smith. His theory of Division of Labour says that if in a business each person specialises in what he is best at, then the firm is more successful. Correct. It then says that therefore all the members of that firm are better paid. Incorrect. The wages of the workers are determined, not by the success of the firm, but by hungrier unemployed people at the factory gate, prepared to work for less.

This theory was expanded by Ricardo to justify the destruction of periphery industry by international trade: The theory now says that if two countries specialise in what each is best at, (even if one can produce everything more cheaply), more is produced overall. Correct. The theory then says that the workers in both countries are therefore better paid. Incorrect. The wages of the Third World today prove that the wage levels are determined, not by the success of the country's economy, but the starving prepared to work for less.

SPRINT THROUGH HISTORY

Rome did not need to industrialise because it obtained its raw materials by force and taxation from land

within its own jurisdiction. As with the Chinese empire the state derived its income by direct taxation on land rather than indirect taxation on trade, so for both these reasons it didn't need to trade. Nor were either of them threatened by technologically superior neighbours so did not need to invest in military research and development. China even forbade further research into gunpowder.

When the Roman Empire declined, only the western half fell; the eastern half survived for another thousand years. The fall was caused by the transfer of taxes when the emperor moved from Rome to Constantinople. Constantinople could afford to defend itself; Rome could not. With the fall came a strong decline in population and regression of technology. In some areas the potters wheel vanished and so did the woodworker's plane.

After Rome's collapse began the growth of technology which culminated in our present civilisation. It was caused by the Church's extravagant building programme, which had to be paid for by higher agricultural output and reduced labour costs. They were forced to increase the use of the water mill (6th cent), the heavy plough (7th cent), the three field system (8th cent.) and the horse shoe and collar (9th cent.) Until the 14th century the Church with their agriculture, building, hydraulics and metallurgy led the technological way. And from where the monasteries were most concentrated, northern Italy, northern France and Flanders, developed the leading industrial centres which had grown from servicing the monasteries.

Europe at the time was broken up into many warring cities and states, deriving much of their income from taxation on trade. Gradually the cities without a large tax base to afford the weapons, were incorporated into the larger states until there were three major players, Holland, France and Britain. The British parliament would not vote sufficient taxation to Charles I to build the necessary army and navy, but Cromwell got the money to be raised by indirect taxation. This continued for a century until Britain ruled the waves at the cost of the highest indirect taxation in Europe and therefore the highest cost of living. This meant high wages and our goods were being priced out of the European market. Britain was forced to cut labour costs by industrialising, forced by the indirect taxation. Indirect taxation causes economic growth.

Germany, frightened of its neighbour's technological military superiority and slaughtered by the cheap

A VILLAGE SOCIETY

Alternative Green advocates a return to autonomous, self-sufficient villages of around 500 people. 500 is about the largest number of people that one person can know. Above that number social disruption increases because of anonymity. "When a group exceeds 500

British imported goods, was then forced to industrialise. And so was everyone else. The people who paid the cost of this industrialisation were the Third World who's land grows crops for us instead of food for themselves.

CHECKLIST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

So if the Tories or Labour want to increase economic growth, it's very simple. You make sure the population has no land and can be forced into the factories. You hit them with indirect taxes to increase the cost of living wages and labour costs and make labour-saving technology necessary. You need a high population to provide enough consumers to buy the output of the factories and make the economies of scale profitable. You need threatening neighbours to encourage high military expenditure which will keep you client governments in power to force their people to supply the raw materials.

So the causes of poverty are the loss of the land, government taxation, trade and industry. Religion caused the kings which caused taxation which caused trade and industry which caused poverty.

THE GREEN PARTY

This analysis means that Green Party policies, by increasing indirect taxes, would cause more, not less economic growth. They themselves have costed their policies at £8.4 billion more than present government expenditure, which would increase the power and control of government. They plan to raise this extra money by increasing indirect taxes. This would increase the cost of living and therefore wages and therefore the need for labour-saving machinery which would cause unemployment and more economic growth, the unemployment being mostly in the Third World. It would also mean that small businesses would fail because they could not make the extra money to cover the increased cost of living. All labour-intensive activities like repairing, recycling and all the caring activities would become uneconomic: The small communities would be made even weaker, making even fewer decision, and big would become beautiful.

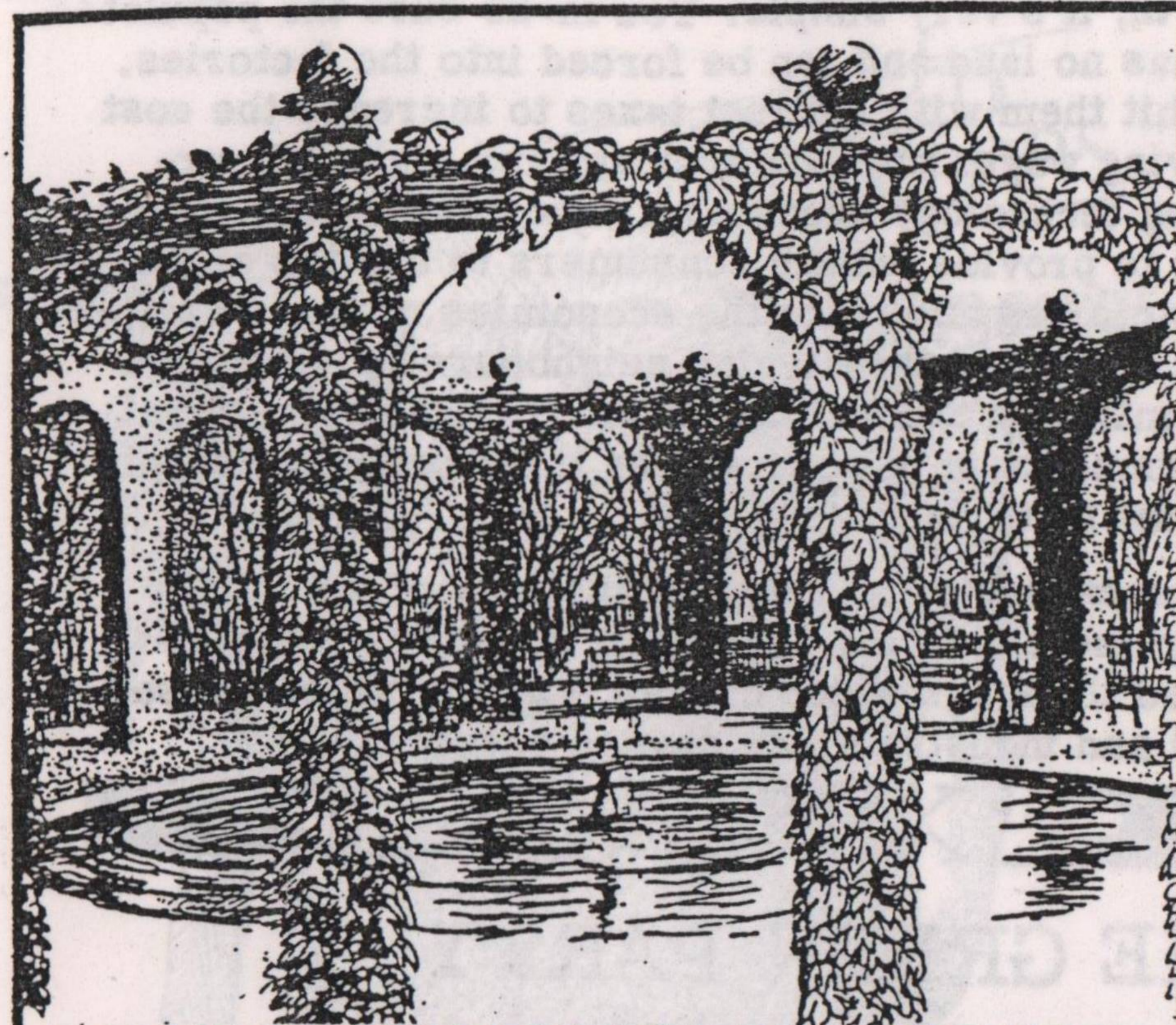
persons, it requires some form of policing." (J. Pfeiffer. "The Emergence of Man".)

KINSHIP

Disputes in societies of this size are settled not between individuals but between families. In extreme cases such as murder all the relations of a murderer are expected to contribute to the 'blood price' paid to all the victim's family. A lot of cows exchange hands

and the murderer's family is very angry for losing them their cattle. So there is strong family pressure to make individuals behave. It is the kinship tie which is the crucial element in keeping the peace; and for the weaker members of the group a strong source of protection. For a wife it is a useful insurance to have a father and brothers living down the street.

Kinship helps create equality too. Amongst the Gurkhas: "Over the past 50 years in Thak there has been a gradual equalisation of land holdings towards



AUTONOMOUS, SELF-SUFFICIENT, ARMED COMMUNITIES. RELIGION AS THE CAUSE OF OBEDIENCE AND ITS POVERTY. REGRESSION OF TECHNOLOGY. REVOLUTION ON THE PERIPHERY. DISPROOF OF DIVISION OF LABOUR

the five-plot level. Macfarlane suggests that the numerous cross-cutting bonds, linking every with everyone else, has reduced conflict and maintained a kind of non-competitiveness." (Gellner and Humphrey. 'New Society'. 17. 8. 78.)

The importance of kinship as the only factor in creating a community has been made clear by the Bethnal Green studies. In the 1940s and 50s there was much concern over the breakup of the community and many studies were made to find what held a community together. In Bethnal Green, famous for the last surviving urban community, in four different studies the only factor they could find was kinship to the extent that all the studies were excluded from "Community Studies". (C. Bell/Newby. London. '78) on the specific grounds that they only mentioned kinship.

The changeover from our kin-dispersed society to kin-based communities would probably be achieved by unrelated families first forming supportive coalitions and then intermarrying to create a kinship group.

DEFENCE

Wars are fought to take the crops. You cannot defend the crops with non-violence. Every village will have to be defensible otherwise the next village will surely encroach and try to extend its boundaries. However friendly they are you can never be sure that one day they won't produce a Saddam Hussein.

It's no big deal. Half the population in the villages today, the farmers, are already armed and they don't go around shooting everyone. In fact it has been said that an armed society is a very polite one.

TECHNOLOGY

As we have seen, towns, cities, technology are all exploitative, so there'll be no place in the villages for technology. You can't knock up a kidney dialysis machine in the garden shed. If you want just a little technology, you are asking for just a little exploitation. Who are you going to exploit? Who are you going to force to spend their lives making screws and nails for you? If they've got their own land, they won't do it voluntarily.

THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN

The difficult fact that feminists gloss over is that men are bigger and stronger and can hit harder. The function of the male is to protect the female and that fact must be brought into the equation.

For feminists the oppression of women is caused by hierarchy, pornography, sexist language and the up-bringing of children. The oppression is caused, rather, by the dog-eat-dog society where the more co-operative women lose out to the more competitive men.

In a village society people will still be both co-operative and competitive, but there will be no police force or army to enforce laws of land ownership. To get your plot you will have to co-operate with the rest of the village. There will be no money to buy care in your old age or illness. We'll need to co-operate with each other for our own self-interest. Our natural competitiveness will be moderated by our need to co-operate.

In our present society the state takes care of the old and the ill; the police enforce the laws of property. The need to co-operate has been destroyed by money, the private ownership of land and the welfare state. So our natural competitiveness is no longer moderated by the need to co-operate and grows into a monster. Hence the dog-eat-dog society.

All people have both competitive and co-operative urges. But men grow up, pushed by their hormones, to be more competitive, the women more co-operative. In a dog-eat-dog society the more competitive men win out. The more co-operative women go to the wall

Thus the feminists are wrong to find the cause of their oppression in hierarchy, pornography, sexist language and the upbringing of children. The capitalists will be delighted to excise all unsuitable language, ban pornography and change the upbringing of children because they know that it will change nothing. They'll put a few token women on the board and have a free hand to employ the rest as factory fodder at the lowest wages in a 'free market', another phrase for the dog-eat-dog society.

The feminists will never get rid of hierarchy (peck order). It's what holds social groups together with Least Effort. And it isn't the problem. The problem is not hierarchy but obedience to hierarchy. In village societies there will be a rank order, and in some larger groups even chiefs. But they cannot command obedience. "One word from the chief and everyone does as they please." (Sahlins.) Without obedience the religions and governments could not enforce their oppression of women, however hierarchic they are. The problem is obedience, not hierarchy.

The feminists are quite right to realize that competitiveness has run out of control, but are wrong to think it can be solved by bringing up boy children without toy guns. It hasn't worked. Competitiveness can only be moderated by the need to co-operate. And persuading women to be more assertive is only coping with the dog-eat-dog society, not changing it.

Sexist language is another red herring. Words do not influence what we think. They reflect it. So removing sexist language will not reduce the oppression of women. If words changed the way we thought, any sort of expression of logical thought would be impossible since it would be changed by the words used to express it.

But perhaps the major fault of feminism is that it has nothing to say to poor women. The function of the police is to protect the property of the rich and the middle classes against the poor. The function of the police is to suppress the poor. Poor women know that they will get little protection from the police. So they need to find a strong male, or if not strong, one who looks strong, macho. Feminism is a luxury for the middle classes in a police state.

So, the cause of the oppression of women is not hierarchy, pornography, sexist language and the upbringing of children, but the dog-eat-dog society, caused by money, the private ownership of land, the welfare state and obedience.

THE FUNCTION OF THE ARTIST

The place of the artist today is to reinforce the authority of the elite by building their palaces, or office complexes, decorating their walls, making their furniture and status symbols. In a village society that will have no place but artists will still be useful, though not envied.

Freud was right to say that art is born out of neurosis. The artist in his unhappiness paints for approval and applause. The community would use his talent. "Write a song for us to sing." "Carve us a totem pole." This relationship is clearly illustrated in the following extract. "Andrew was a disturbed child. His drawings revealed a very active fantasy life peopled by some imaginary characters called Poppy, Purple, Tulip, Dandelion and later on Bud who represented his baby brother. These figures had exciting adventures with much aggressive action, and the other children in the nursery school group became interested and began to take the names and act out the parts in

character. He was a very intelligent child and the other children were giving him a great deal of help by their reliance on his intellectual and imaginative stimulation in their play activities." (J. E. Cass. 'The Significance of Child's Play'.) It is only a small step from Andrew to the bard singing his sagas to the villagers. So they would welcome the bard's imagination but would not envy it. Creativity and self-expression would be exploited but not encouraged

Craftsmanship is a little different to Art. One can foresee houses, clothes, utensils and weapons being decorated as an expression of pride and status, but Art for Art's sake will have no place.

POPULATION

With the decline in economic growth always comes a decline in population. Self-sufficient communities limit their population growth since another baby means less for everyone else. Economic growth reduces self-sufficient communities and increases the number of families who buy food and are therefore outside the sphere of community pressure to maintain population stability. So a decline in economic growth and an increase in self-sufficient communities would see a decline in population.

THE CHANGEOVER

There are two approaches, both depending on cutting government power by cutting its lifblood, taxation. The legal way is to elect MP, committed to cutting taxes, first indirect taxes on the poor: As taxation declines, so does the cost of living, making small businesses more successful because they don't need so much turnover. A lower cost of living means lower wages, maintaining buying power, so that repairing and recycling are more economic and tender loving care can replace drugs. Small communities are made stronger. Small becomes beautiful. Taxes can be cut until there are no taxes and therefore no government.

The revolutionary way must start in the Third World where already, because America is broke, the Third World tyrants are receiving less arms 'aid'. So they will lose control of their peripheries and the crops. This, by cutting taxation on trade, will weaken our own governments, who will be unable to control their own peripheries, where no-go areas can be set up. As governments lose more taxes by legal and illegal means and become weaker, the no-go areas of autonomous, self-sufficient villages will spread.

"Green Anarchist" accepts our economic analysis, but would probably reject the sections on peck order, kinship and the oppression of women.

ALTERNATIVE GREEN.
20. Upper Barr, Cowley Centre, Oxford.

HOW WE'LL GET THERE

ECONOMIC GROWTH HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Financed by profits on Third World crops
Cold War to maintain empires in Third World.
Pollution Resource depletion. Insufficient energy

SELECTED ECONOMIC GROWTH & TECHNOLOGY

Not possible. They are determined by labour costs, not political decision. If labour costs go down ALL technology regresses.

NO ECONOMIC GROWTH LOW TECHNOLOGY

Few crops from Third World, so that their land grows food for themselves.
No Arms sales.
No jobs making arms

Grassroot tax avoidance. Buy second-hand. Grow your own food.

To reduce government power, cut indirect taxes on the poor.
Less government income from taxes on jobs and trade. Fewer govt. jobs.

Lower cost of living.

Less govt. spending.

Unemployment in cities.

Lower labour costs
Farmers and businesses don't need to produce so much.

Smaller economic size of farms and small businesses. No need for expensive, high-output, labour-saving machinery. (Technological regression.)

Eg. Organic farming becomes economic. No need for expensive bag fertilizers. Closure of fertilizer plants. (Bhopal!)

We can't build the Bomb!

Growth of autonomous self-sufficient villages on the periphery. Present population density means intensive crop cultivation. Timber will be a big problem.

No money. (No govt. to mint and enforce it.)

Little trade except barter.

Fewer police & soldiers. Govt. unable to control periphery.

Land Reform and squatting

Few factories. (No pool of landless labour.)

No taxes.

No cash crops

Advertisement (sort of)

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COUNTER-CULTURE

PSI

A REPEATABLE EXPERIMENT?

If we don't get rid of religion, even if we get back to autonomous villages, then the whole process will start again. So it's important to deny religion the use of unexplained phenomena as a pretext for a god. It's important to understand psi.

So far we've nothing to get our teeth into, no way of measuring anything. Perhaps one approach is to find not what increases the phenomenon but what stops it. In experimenting with a pendulum, I found that inserting an iron tray between the pendulum and the ground stopped the pendulum swinging. An aluminium tray did not. Does that mean that the phenomenon is electromagnetic? Is this a repeatable experiment. Can someone else try it? Where does that take us?

Some psychics have reported strong feelings in the solar plexus when tuning in to psi. Is there a receptor in this area? Does it reduce the effect if you shield it with iron.

Richard Hunt

HERBS

EVENING PRIMROSE.

Oenothera Lamarkiana.

Part used: the extracted oil.

Main use: pre-menstrual syndrome. In 1981 at St. Thomas's Hospital 61% of women experienced complete relief, 23% partial relief.

In studies it also seems to calm hyperactive children, counteracts alcoholic poisoning - it prevents hangovers, it regenerates alcohol-damaged liver. It reduces blood pressure, it helps reduce weight. With fish oil it seems to help arthritis. It might be helpful for multiple sclerosis.

The active ingredient is gammalinoleic acid which is an anti-blood clotter also found in black current seeds



and borage seeds. But it's not yet clear why it is so useful in such a wide range of problems.

BOOKS

THE WILD MUSHROOM COOKBOOK.

Joy O.I. Spoczynska. Greenprint. £6.99.



Fig. 4 The deadly four: (a) Death cap, (b) Destroying angel, (c) Red-staining inocybe, (d) Leaden entoloma.

- Gills white in all four, but becoming pinkish in (d) with age.
- Ring round stem in (a) and (b); no ring in (c) or (d).
- Volva (bulbous sheath) at base in (a) and (b); no volva in (c) or (d).

You can see why cookbooks sell so well. The recipes sound mouthwatering. All kinds of mushrooms and gallons of cream. As someone said, even hay tastes good with cream. And this book makes you feel virtuous too by teaching you how to recognise the poisonous mushrooms and which of the others taste best. Civilised self-sufficiency.

DIET

IS IT CHLORESTEROL?

A long term study in Finland has compared the effects of changing to a low polyunsaturated diet to control heart disease. A group of men numbered in thousands were persuaded to change their diet. Another group were left alone. Fifteen years later more of the first group had died than the second. In Wales high milk drinkers have been found to live longer. Other studies have opposite results: The evidence is contradictory. There's some other factor perhaps.