

# Henry George Newsletter

High School Edition



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## ***This Land is Whose Land?***

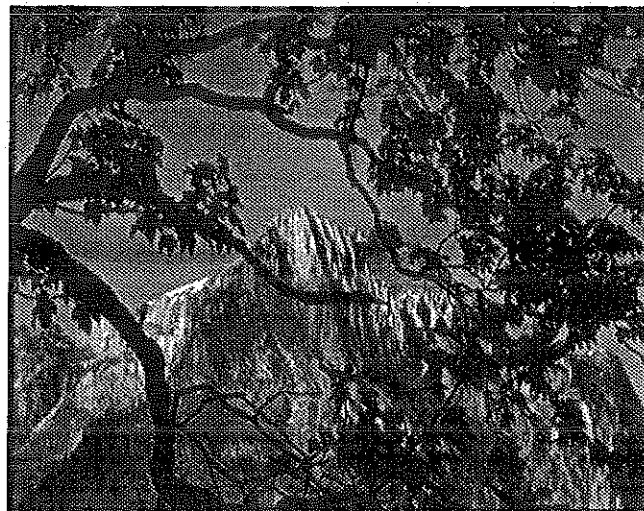
Throughout our history there has been a tension between federal rights and state rights. Some believe the federal government has intruded in areas that were previously considered under the purview of the states. Out West, much of the land is owned by the federal government, unlike other parts of the country where most of the land is either privately owned or owned by the states. There is a growing movement in the western states to seek sovereignty over federal lands in order to make them available for commercial exploitation. This article can be used with the Land and Freedom series in American History #13, *The Mexican Cessions* and #20, *Land: Our Natural Heritage*, and with #17, *The Closing of the Frontier*.

## ***Africa's Painful Transition***

As many countries in Africa are leaving behind the socialist era and struggling to adapt to a world market economy, they are finding economic adjustments both promising and disappointing. While there are many more goods on the market, there are few people who can afford to buy them. And after years of civil war and the rule of dictatorships, most foreign countries are wary of investing in Africa generally. Many countries also suffer from political corruption and land use policies that have discouraged agricultural self-sufficiency. This article can be used with Land and Freedom in Economics #3, *Economic Systems* and #8, *Markets and Prices*.

## ***Cartoons***

There are two cartoons on the back page. One is suitable for Economics Lesson #5, *Class Struggle* and #10, *Wages of Labor*. The other can be used with Economics Lesson #15, *Taxation* and #16, *The Single Tax*.



## ***Free Materials for Teachers***

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York will send you an illustrated booklet entitled *The Once Upon a Dime Comic Book*. The booklet touches on many economic issues including investments, world trade, taxes, inflation and recessions. The booklet has many classroom uses. Write to: *Federal Reserve of New York, Publication Section, Public Information Department, 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York, 10045*

The Ford Motor Company Educational Affairs Department will send you a large fold-out color chart entitled *A History of Measurement*. Beginning in ancient times and continuing through the present, this informative chart tells the history of the development of linear measurement and how its use helped civilizations advance, and its applications in various real-world situations. Write to: *Ford Motor Company, Educational Affairs Department, The American Road, Dearborn, MI, 48121*.



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# This Land is Whose Land?

by Brad Knickerbocker

Ashland, Oregon - Voters in Coos Bay, Oregon, soon may get the chance to decide whether to take over federal land and arrest government employees for trespassing.

"We don't want to be a colony of the rest of the United States," says John Shank, head of the ad hoc group Empower US that gathered signatueres for such a ballot initiative in this coastal community traditionally populated with loggers and mill workers.

While congressional Republicans and President Clinton jockey over the transfer of some government programs to the states, many out West are pushing for something far more radical: control, if not outright ownership of hundreds of millions of acres of territory owned by Uncle Sam.

Western lawmakers are drafting bills in the US House and Senate that would offer hundreds of millions of acres of federal lands to their their states.

Another proposal in Congress could lead to a "Park Closure Commission" similar to the military base closure commission. This envisions focusing federal resources on some national parks while turning others over to state control.

Legislators in five states (most recently California) have passed resolutions citing the US Constitution to assert sovereignty over federal land. About a dozen more states are moving in this direction.

Several hundred Western counties have passed "home rule" resolutions forcing federal agencies to pay more attention to local customs and economic interests in managing federal land.

"It's really getting to be a powerful movement," says Mike Kelley, a retired police officer from Oroville, Calif., who pushed for home rule of federal land in Butte County.

In some rural areas, this has led to confrontation in meeting rooms and out in the countryside.

A commissioner in Nevada last March used a gentle persuader - a county bulldozer - to knock down three miles of fence around federal land.

The Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, a reform-minded group of whistle-blow-

ers and other federal workers, has filed suit in federal court challenging a home-rule ordinance in Walla Walla County, Washington.

"As we looked at what was happening throughout the West, we didn't just want to make a statement, we wanted to make something happen," says Mr. Shank, the retired naval officer who heads the effort in Coos County, Ore., which is 51% federal land.

Across the West, federal agencies control much - in some cases most - of the territory within state borders. Some of this is in national parks, wilderness, and

tries they're supposed to oversee. (Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recently backed off a proposal to raise grazing fees on federal land.)

But many rural Westerners feel corralled by federal bureaucrats' to protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems. And they resent the heavy hand of Uncle Sam felt particularly in the West. "Other states aren't half-owned by the federal government," complains a congressional aide from Wyoming.

For the moment, it seems that most historical thinking and case law is running against home-rule activists.

"I recognize that those are publicly owned lands," Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt (R) reportedly told a recent meeting the Western Governors Association, which he chairs. "The argument has passed us in terms of who owns the lands."

But others insist that the 10th amendment to the US Constitution (reserving to the states "the powers not delegated to the United States") opens the possibility of a state takeover.

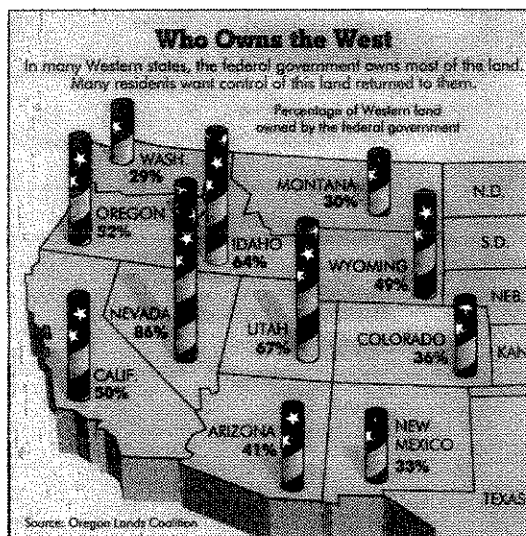
"The 10th Amendment movement may be America's last chance to peacefully get Congress to obey the Constitution," conservative economist Walter Williams warned in a recent syndicated column. "Politicians have seriously under-

derestimated public anger and are blind to the rebellion spreading across the land."

While home-rule activists in the West are eager to disengage from Uncle Sam, their representatives in Congress are moving more deliberately.

A main concern is the loss of federal revenue from natural resources at a time when the push is on to balance the US budget.

-Reprinted from the Christian Science Monitor



other areas set aside for conservation and public enjoyment. But most of it is held by two agencies that trace their roots back to westward expansion.

These are the US Forest Service (part of the Agriculture Department) - which oversees forested areas for timber production, recreation and environmental protection - and Bureau of Land Management (part of the Interior Department), which got the arid land left over after homesteaders picked the best range land and railroads chose their routes.

Between them the Forest Service and BLM are landlords for some 30 million acres.

Control of such lands became a political big deal when Congress started passing major environmental legislation about 20 years ago, after which federal-land managers began imposing new regulations on such traditional activities as logging, mining and ranching.

For the most part, environmentalists say, agencies like the Forest Service and BLM have stayed too cozy with indus-

## Questions

1. What are some western states doing to gain control over federal lands?
2. What kinds of areas are held by the federal government?
3. What role have environmentalists played in this controversy?
4. How might the 10th amendment to the Constitution play a role?
5. Based on the chart, what states have the highest percentage of federally controlled lands?

# Africa's Painful Transition

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

by Judith Matloff

In what he calls the bad old days of socialist rule, mechanic Mohammed Kombo struggled to find a kilo of rice to feed his family. Soap and milk were luxuries better forgotten.

Ten years on in the new capitalist era, the shortages have ended. Mr. Kombo drives a visitor through the capital's markets brimming with everything from olives to electric blenders to running shoes.

But there is one big problem. Mr. Kombo doesn't earn enough to take advantage of the new selection. He eats what he can, which isn't much.

"Am I a freer man? In principle, yes. But I'm still hungry," he complains.

Such is the story across Africa - Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Benin, Congo, Madagascar, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana and Zambia - that are shedding heavy state management of their economies.

On one hand, disastrous collectivist experiments and poor planning ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The way has been paved to freer choice in economics and politics.

But the cold war's end has left a vacuum, as the perceived strategic importance of the world's poorest continent has dried up. Russian, Bulgarian, Cuban and Chinese doctors, military advisers and agrarians have mostly packed up and gone home.

New benefactors from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have often prescribed austerity measures that hurt initially. Mis-management and corruption, which hobble most of Africa, make matters worse in formerly socialist countries, with their legacy of ruined roads and industry long starved of Western support.

"Socialism as policy was not a mistake. But the way it was practiced was," said Ali Ameir Mohamed, deputy secretary general of Tanzania's formerly Marxist Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Party of the Revolution), which has ruled for 30 years. "The models of Eastern Europe were wrong for an underdeveloped country like ours. We lost a lot of time in terms of development and are sorely trying to catch up now."

The adjustment has generally been more painful here than in East Europe, as African nations started from a more im-

poverished base with less skilled administrators. They also face greater indifference from the West.

"There are no socialist success stories in Africa," said Tom Lodge, a political scientist from Johannesburg's Wiswatersrand University. "These countries didn't just have incompetent governments, which is the generality in Africa. Many had large-scale warfare linked to the cold war. So they have a tough time."

South African economist Alex van den Heever attributes much of the problem to the lack of resources and adequate planning by the formerly socialist governments.

Following foreign models that didn't fit, they built roads and big hospitals that they couldn't maintain. They ran up high government deficits, but didn't have domestic capital markets to finance them. They printed money that was then devalued. "The planning was poorly conceptualized. Absolutely appalling," Mr. van den Heever said.

The best-case scenario is Ghana, cited as one of the few success stories in Africa overall. Its leader, Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, threw aside socialism and adopted a program early on that drew crucial foreign investment.

Less successful is Guinea-Bissau, one of the world's poorest countries. The drought-stricken Atlantic island state of Cape Verde jettisoned its tepid experiment with one-party socialist rule several years ago, but survives only because of foreign aid.

In Tanzania, some facets of the economy have improved with reforms. But others are still ravaged from the days when it was starved of foreign investment.

Zambia, once a middle-of-the-road socialist state, embarked on a poorly conceived structural-adjustment program and privatization that proved disastrous. A falling price in copper, its mainstay, didn't help. A popular outcry has erupted against a falling standard of living since President Frederick Chiluba came to power in the first democratically elected government in 1991.

Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique are struggling not only with transitions, but with the aftermath of devastating civil wars.

Angola's infrastructure is com-

pletely ruined. Land mines prevent agricultural self-sufficiency, keeping investors wary. Corruption drains potential oil wealth. "were our socialist policies erroneous? Maybe. But the main point is that the economy was destroyed by the war," Planning Minister Pedro Morais said. "Our priority is emergency reconstruction. We must rebuild bridges, roads, schools, and a health system from practically scratch, which will take years, decades. Carrying out privatization is a subject of great debate."

In Ethiopia, virtually no development occurred during a brutal 18-year dictatorship. The 1991 exit of pro-Soviet leader Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam heralded a new entrepreneurial spirit. But pundits say results will take a long time.

Mozambique held its first democratic elections last year which ended 16 years of war. But the economic liberalization launched in the 1980s has barely advanced.

Prexy Nesbitt, a Chicago based expert on southern Africa, says the jury is still out, but that many formerly socialist states are moving into a more stable era. "Measured in strictly economics terms, progress has not been strong. But it has been impressive considering the forces arrayed against them that were intent on eliminating them."

-Reprinted from the Christian Science Monitor

## Questions

1. How has life changed for Mohammed Komo?
2. What effect has the end of the cold war had on African nations?
3. Why have formerly these socialist countries had trouble adjusting to capitalism?
4. Cite three African nations and describe briefly their difficulties in adjusting to economic changes.
5. What does Prexy Nesbitt see as the future for these countries?
6. How has the use of agricultural land affected some economies in Africa?



"EVERYBODY WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN, BUT NOBODY WANTS TO DIE."

### Questions

1. What is meant by *Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die?*
2. What is a balanced budget?
3. What are some arguments in favor of a balanced budget?
4. What are some of the sacrifices that might go with balancing the budget?
5. What programs are politicians saying may be changed in order to balance the budget?

### Questions

1. What would be a good title for this cartoon?
2. What is the message of the cartoon?
3. Identify each of the characters.
4. What might be the impact on US workers when goods are imported from countries who use cheap labor?
5. What is GATT? What is an international trade agreement?



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