Re: Distribution & Redistribution

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Date: 12/11/04

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William C Colley wrote:
> *Seems to me so long as land titles can only be*
> *owned by individuals, all of us who are mortal*
> *and can't take it with us, then a land value tax*
> *based on the amount of land one actually owns,*
> *collected by local county or possibly State*
> *governments, could be a bearable tax so long as*
> *it was assessed and collected without attempt to*
> *punish those who, for whatever motives, had*
> *accumlated land legally in the past.*

Ron Allen answers:
How is it to be determined whether or not land was legally accumulated in the past? For example, in 14th, 15th, and 16th century England there were state−established and state−enforced land enclosures, which caused and created poverty, homelessness, and rural depopulation. In Europe, enclosures occurred on a large scale during the 19th century. And then, in colonial America, there was the Spanish encomienda system, and the British colonial settlements. The Native Indians were willing to share the land, but the Europeans elected to take the land, to privatize the land. All of this is the historical and material context and preparation for modern capitalism.

royls@telus.net wrote:
> *It is normal for those who have been the*
> *beneficiaries of an injustice to claim that its*
> *amelioration would "punish" them, while*
> *studiously ignoring all the punishment _already_*
> *inflicted_ and _still_being_inflicted_ on its*
> *victims.*

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"A grievance is most poignant when almost
redressed."
−− Eric Hoffer