Earth Rights Democracy

Building a World Community of Peace and Justice

Alanna Hartzok

www.schalkenbach.org
Presentation Topics Include:

- The Worldwide Wealth Gap
- Military Expenditures and Human Needs
- Natural Resource Wars & US Foreign Policy
- Clarifying an Economics of Peace
- Taxation Policy to Build a World that Works for Everyone
- Citizen Dividends and Basic Income for All
- Earth Rights Democracy – Local to Global
New Concepts

- Earth Rights Democracy
- Resource Rent
- Law of Rent
- Rent Seeking
- Resource Wars
- Resource Rent for Public Revenue
By the end of this presentation you should understand the “land problem” and how “rent” relates to problems of war, poverty, rich/poor gap, enviro degradation and how “green tax” reform can help solve these problems.
Men did not make the earth... It is the value of the improvement only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property...

Every proprietor owes to the community a ground rent for the land which he holds.
Now, that we've replaced the left wing with another right wing...

Boy, howdy...
You're gonna see some flyin'
We need to Harmonize the values of the Right Wing of Freedom and Efficiency in the Production of Wealth with the values of the Left Wing of Fairness and Equity in the Distribution of Wealth.

We might ask, how do we build a fair market economy? A peace economy? How do we place the human economy within the limits of the biosphere of the Earth?
Wealth Gap
Shareholder Equity

The richest 20 percent of the world's population receives 82.7 percent of the world's income.

The second 20 percent receives 11.7 percent of the world's income.

The bottom 60 percent receives 5.6 percent of the world's income.
the assets of the 3 richest people are more than the combined GNP of all the least developed countries;

the assets of the 200 richest people are more than the combined income of 41% of the world’s people;

a yearly contribution of 1% of the wealth of the 200 richest people could provide universal access to primary education for all.
Total Net Worth in U.S.: $42.3892 trillion ($42,389,200,000,000)
Change in Average Household Net Worth, 1983-98

-76.3% 10.0% 20.7% 23.7% 20.8% 21.4% 42.2%

Bottom 40%  Middle 20%  Next 20%  Next 10%  Next 5%  Next 4%  Top 1%

Share of Total Ownership of Stocks, Mutual Funds, and Retirement Accounts, 1998

Bottom 90%
21.3%

Next 9%
36.6%

Top 1%
42.1%

The wealth gap is increasing in the US. According to the latest Federal Reserve data, the top 1% of the population has $2 trillion more wealth than the bottom 90 percent.
In 2002, 34.9 million people lived in households that were food insecure, 1.26 million more people than in 2001. This number includes 13.1 million children. The number of people living in households where someone was hungry also increased by 300,000 to 9.3 million.
OUR GREATEST HEALTH HAZARD is the economic "gap" between the rich and the poor. With greater economic inequality comes worse health — lower life expectancy and higher mortality rates.

The U.S. spends the most money on health care, but ties for 29th place in life expectancy.
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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
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(from UNDP Human Development Report)
Personal Savings Rate
lowest in 4 decades

2004 savings were $885 Billion less than had saving rate equaled that of '82

Grandfather Economic Report
http://mwhodges.home.att.net/
source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Since 1995 housing prices have risen nationwide by almost 35%. In some regions, real home prices have risen by more than 50%.

### THE RUN-UP IN HOME PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>East South Central</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
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<td>West South Central</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
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<td>South Atlantic</td>
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<td>West North Central</td>
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<td>Mountain States</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
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<td>Pacific</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
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</tbody>
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*Rate adjusted for inflation

*Source: Housing Price Index, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 2004.*
The growing gap between wage earnings and the cost of housing leaves millions of families and individuals unable to make ends meet.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, families across the country would need to earn a "housing wage" of $15.21 an hour, nearly three times the current minimum wage, to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the average fair market rent.
23% of all American houses bought in 2004 were for investment, not owner-occupation. Another 13% were bought as second homes.

The Economist
What does a house produce?
Labor
Land
Rent
Wages
Capital
Interest
Land Values Correlate to Population
The predictability of the "law of rent" - that land values will continually rise, and faster than wages - fuels frenzies of land speculation and the inevitable bust that follows the boom.
According to an Associated Press report, sales dropped by "22% in the West, the biggest decline in the region since February 1995."
"Over the past four years, consumer spending and residential construction have together accounted for 90% of the total growth in GDP. And over two-fifths of all private sector jobs created since 2001 have been in housing-related sectors, such as construction, real estate and mortgage broking." (The Economist)
In November the sales of new homes plunged by the largest amount in 12 years. The 11.5% decline from October was 4 points higher than expected by Wall Street analysts, fueling the belief that the red-hot housing market is headed for the dumpster.
Brief Discussion
Now on to Military Expenditures, US Foreign Policy and Resource Wars
The federal budget is a reflection of our country's moral values. Does this budget reflect your values?

If this budget is out of balance with your values, please tell your representative and senators. At FCNL, we make it easy to get in touch with your legislators: go to www.fcnl.org or call your senators at (202) 224-3123.
Military Expenditures
Military Spending Per Capita
Share of World Military Expenditures, by Country or Group, 2001

- United States (36%)
- Other NATO (24%)
- U.S. Asia-Pacific Allies (7%)
- Russia (6%)
- China (4%)
- States Considered Hostile by United States (3%)
- Rest of the World (21%)

Source: SIPRI
US Military Budget

- 1950: $13B
- 1952: $44B
- 1998: $265B
- 2004: $399B
As of June 2005 the United State military spending exceeded 500 billion dollars, or one half of the entire total of global military spending.
So What Are We Buying?
The American Empire
Coming Soon to a Country Near You

Rogue State:
A Guide to the World’s Only Superpower
William Blum
A Concise History of United States Global Interventions
1945 to the Present
- China
- China
- France
- China
- France
- Marshall Islands
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- Columbia
- Yugoslavia 1999
Ramsey Clark (former US Attorney General): In the speech that Martin Luther King made, the most startling thing that he said at the time and the thing that caused the most anger and hatred to be directed toward him, was this sentence: "The greatest purveyor of violence on earth is my own government." (King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, exactly one year after delivering his famous Beyond Vietnam speech at the Riverside Church in NYC on April 4th, 1967.)
Ramsey Clark - We have a war party in this country and we've had it all along! And you can call it Democrat for a while, you can call it Republican for a while, but it has been the special economic interest in this society that's governed us from the time that we founded our governments on this continent. And the people have never controlled those governments.
We call ourselves the world's greatest democracy - we are absolutely a plutocracy! It's the most obvious thing in the world! Wealth governs this country! And wealth uses military violence to control the rest of the world as best it can. And we're responsible! And we will pay the price for it!

If we don't control our violence, if we don‘t control the effect of the symbol of our glorification of violence, on our children and on the rest of the planet, then this human species is going to be the first to destroy itself completely. And that's the road the United States government has put us on."
The playwright Harold Pinter turned his Nobel Prize acceptance speech into a furious howl of outrage against American foreign policy, saying that the United States had not only lied to justify waging war against Iraq but had also "supported and in many cases engendered every right-wing military dictatorship" in the last 50 years.
Harold Pinter: The crimes of the United States have been systematic, constant, vicious, remorseless, but very few people have actually talked about them. You have to hand it to America. It has exercised a quite clinical manipulation of power worldwide while masquerading as a force for universal good. It's a brilliant, even witty, highly successful act of hypnosis.
Major General Smedley Butler

War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.... The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag. I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the Bankers.
Out of war nations acquire additional territory, if they are victorious. They just take it. This newly acquired territory promptly is exploited by the few - the selfsame few who wrung dollars out of blood in the war. The general public shoulders the bill. And what is this bill? This bill engenders a horrible accounting. Newly placed gravestones. Mangled bodies. Shattered minds. Broken hearts and homes. Economic instability. Depression and all its attendant miseries. Back-breaking taxation for generations and generations.
John Stockwell, former CIA

- Trying to summarize this Third World War that the CIA, the U.S. National Security Complex with the military all interwoven in it in many different ways, has been waging, let me just put it this way, the best heads that I coordinate with studying this thing, we count at least minimum figure six million people who've been killed in this long 40-year war that we have waged against the people of the Third World..... They are people of countries like The Congo, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nicaragua, where conspicuously, they nor their governments do not have the capability of doing any physical hurt to the United States. – John Stockwell, former CIA Station Chief
Daniel Sheehan, Chief Legal Counsel for the Christic Institute:

There exists in operation now, a secret team of some two dozen men, former CIA covert operatives, former US Pentagon arms suppliers, who have joined together in private enterprise outside of the control of the American government, either the Congress or the President, who are mounting their personal wars around the world.... And that's the group we are dealing with right here - who're making war around the world for their own personal profit.
To think of the democratic governments that have been overthrown in the last 30 years by military coups, it is almost like giving a capsule history of CIA covert operations in the last 30 years. I mean there was the overthrow of Prime Minister Mosaddeq in Iran in 1953; there was the overthrow of Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954; there was the overthrow of the Brazilian government in 1964; there was the overthrow of the Ghana government in 1966. A lot of the governments I just mentioned got into trouble with international oil companies because they tried to assert their national prerogatives over their own resources. Time after time the CIA has come in on behalf of those multi-national companies.
What are you thinking right now?
US Wars

- Spanish-American – Spain ceded Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines to the US for $20 million. The Philippine patriots’ struggle for freedom from America was violently suppressed from 1899 through 1903 in a manner very similar in tactics and level of violence of the Vietnam War. An estimated 600,0000
First Gulf War – Before the early 20th-Century subdivision of the Middle East, Kuwait was a province of Iraq. Kuwait’s cross-border drilling was stealing oil from Iraq which moved to bring her lost province into the fold. This led to the First Gulf War with 200,000 Iraqis killed, destruction of her industry and infrastructure, a 12-year embargo in which another million Iraqis died for lack of food and medicine.
The Iraq Wars - For many years, US, British and French oil companies owned 95% of Iraq's oil while they maintained a puppet monarchy in power. The people lived lives of extreme poverty. When the Iraqi people carried out a revolution in 1958 against King Faisal II, US and Britain lost their stranglehold. They sent thousands of troops to the Middle East, but it was too late. Iraq had become a sovereign country.
Iraq nationalized its oil and used the wealth to develop industry, modern sanitation, education and excellent health care system, electricity and highways. Iraqi women won new rights. The United States wants to return Iraq to its earlier status as a virtual colony in order to secure its control over the Gulf region's oil which is two thirds of the world's petroleum reserves.
Iran – Gained freedom under Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, overthrown by CIA covert Operation Ajax. Under the reinstalled Shah, Gulf Oil, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Texaco and Socony-Mobil gained a 40% share of Iranian oil rights. Britain claimed remaining rights. Thousands of Iranians were tortured by SAVAK and a few thousand were killed.
Conquest of the Amazon – Corporate powers, working in part through missionary groups first to gain control of indigenous societies and then to gain control of their land, had been behind these destabilizations and genocides throughout the 20th century.

(See Thy Will Be Done: The Conquest of the Amazon: Nelson Rockefeller and Evangelism in the Age of Oil)
Indonesia — Rich in oil and other resources, was establishing an honest democracy, 25% of its citizens were Communist Party and so entitled to 25% representation. The CIA overthrew Sukarno, installed Suharto, and following “strategies-of-tension” the suppression of freedom resulted in slaughter of 800,000 people by the CIA’s on estimate.
Nigeria 1966-71 – Oil again, as possibly two million Biafrans starved as relief was prevented from reaching the people. British managers-of-state with the passive support of American managers-of-state were behind that disaster to prevent a nation with huge natural resources from gaining control of its own destiny.
Vietnam – US refused to support Ho Chi Minh’s efforts to establish democracy and instead supported the French suppression. Three million people slaughtered (four million if counting previous 15 years of French suppression), millions of acres poisoned with herbicides, then embargoed. Vietnam resources are now available to imperial-centers-of-capital.
Guatamala – In 1951, knowing that foreign-owned land had been obtained under unfair conditions, President Arbenz started the legal process of reclaiming several hundred thousand acres of idle land from United Fruit Company. CIA launched propaganda campaign that Arbenz was a Communist. Arbenz was overthrown, 200,000 were killed.
Chile – Salvadore Allende was freely elected in 1972 on a platform of control of Chilean resources for Chileans. Chile was embargoed and the CIA and America’s military, primarily the Navy, and Chilean military personnel trained at the School of the Americas (now in Fort Benning, Georgia) coordinated plans for Allende’s overthrow. Pinochet put in power. The government figure of 3,197 killed is probably many times too low.
El Salvador – The 1980 – 1992 suppression of El Salvador’s break for freedom. The UN El Salvador Truth Commission 1993 report placed responsibility for 85% of the 70,000 plus deaths on security forces trained, armed and advised by the American military and another 10% upon the El Salvadoran elite’s private death squads. El Salvador remains as a provider of cheap resources and labor.
Nicaragua – Gained its freedom in 1979 when the Sandinista liberation forces overthrew President Somoza. American managers-of-state immediately made plans to reverse that revolution. The CIA armed, trained and oversaw the sabotage and assassinations within Nicaragua by Nicaraguan defectors called Contras. The improvements in education, health and living standards under the Sandinistas were reversed and Nicaragua is again a country going nowhere.
Congo – The CIA with support from Belgium destabilized the Congo and assassinated the popular Patrice Lumumba. Control still could not be assured so Zaire was created to remove those rich copper deposits from the uncontrollable Congolese and Joseph Mobutu was installed as the Belgian/American puppet.
Southern Cone of Africa – The suppressions to prevent breaks from freedom after WWII cost between 1.5 million and 2 million innocent lives and left those nations shattered, deeply in debt and torn apart by factions fighting for political supremacy yet today.
Cuba – In 1959 the American-backed Cuban dictator, General Batista, fled as Fidel Castro’s forces freed Cuba. The new Cuban government was not Communist and attempted to maintain friendly relations with America. But the redistribution of the wealth-producing-process in Cuba from foreign ownership to Cuban ownership and their regaining control of their destiny threatened American managers-of-state. Embargoes were put into effect to force a rescinding of those policies.
Cuba then turned to the Soviet union for technological and economic support. The Cuban economy developed rapidly. Cuban students lead the world in education, their health care equals America’s and infant mortality is lower. No Cubans are hungry, housing was rapidly built. American people remain blissfully unaware of Cuba’s successes.
Efforts to destabilize Cuba — Saboteurs, trained, armed, financed and managed by the CIA, counterfeited Cuban money, burned cane fields and infected them with fungus, infected tobacco fields with mildew and potato fields with the Thrips palmi insect. African swine fever, never before seen in the Western hemisphere ravaged Cuba twice and 500,000 pigs had to be destroyed. Over 300,000 Cubans were infected with dengue fever, 158 died (1/3 children). Enough operatives have acknowledged their part in this biological warfare that serious researchers accept the accuracy of these allegations. Newly released CIA documents alerted researchers that crop warfare was practiced against a number of impoverished countries.
Whose Planet are we living on?
To live is to use Land - To own Land is to own Life itself

- Every inch of our planet is now owned by some person or organization
- The majority population (60% to 90%) in EVERY inhabited country are landless - own no part of the planet whatsoever, not even their own homes
- The richest 5% in every nation, rich and poor, North and South, East and West, now own between 70% and 95% of their own countries
Earth Ownership

- 95% of the USA is owned by the richest 3% of Americans
- 60% of El Salvador is owned by the richest 2% of El Salvadorians
- 86% of South Africa is owned by the white minority
- 74% of United Kingdom is owned by the richest 2% of Britons
- 84% of Scotland is owned by the richest 7% of Scots
If you own no land to support yourself, you must rent, hire or buy it from those that do, so that you may both live and make a living.

If you cannot use the planet to feed, clothe and provide for yourself then to stay alive, you must choose to either work for those who own your planet, to become a thief or a beggar, or to die. This servitude has taken on many forms throughout history:

slavery, serfdom, day-labour, employment. The only variation being the share of the wealth produced left to the planet borrowers by the planet owners.
This simple reality underlies much of today's poverty, inequality, lack of freedom, unemployment and powerlessness, experienced as the sheer struggle to get by that looms so large in so many peoples' lives.
These latter day pharaohs, the planet owners, the richest 5% - allow the rest of us to pay day after day for the right to live on their planet. And as we make them richer, they buy yet more of the planet for themselves, and use their wealth and power to fight amongst themselves over what each possesses ~ though of course it's actually us who have to fight and die in their wars.
How are you feeling right now?
Essentials of Economic Rent and a War Economy

In a naturally just and harmonious society, everyone has fair access to the gifts of nature in order to procure their livelihood.
Privilege Fund Grows

When people must pay rent for access to land, exploitation of labor begins. Because of the Rent Leak, people cannot get capital without borrowing from the Privilege Fund lending system, and paying interest.
Privilege Fund Enables War System

People → Rent → Land → Interest → Wealth → Privilege Fund → Armaments → Foreign Investment
Collectors of the Privilege Fund invest inland and resources in “underdeveloped” countries.

To quell protests, investors call for military intervention.
Transforming the Privilege Fund

People → Resource Rent Fund → Land → Wealth → People
Transforming the Privilege Fund

- The Privilege Fund is equitably returned to society by public collection of land and resource rents.
- Workers, with their just economic opportunities restored, can now accumulate capital through their own savings.
- Economic Justice, abundance and peace restored.
Men did not make the earth… It is the value of the improvement only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property…

Every proprietor owes to the community a ground rent for the land which he holds.
Amendment for Municipal Charters, State and National Constitutions

The Earth Rights Amendment

People have a right to the Earth, sustained in a healthy condition.

1. Government shall enforce the liability of persons - corporate or real - who damage the carrying capacity of Earth.

2. People have a common heritage right to "resource rents" - the economic value of landsites and natural resources used to meet human needs.

3. Their agent - government - is obliged to effect this sharing by:
   a. Collecting resource rents via taxes, leases, use fees, dues, or other means and then
   b. Disbursing the recovered rents as dividends and/or via services that benefit all members of society equally.
Earth Rights Tax Policy

Pay for what you take (from the earth, the commons) Not what you make! (with your labor, efforts.)

Tax Land Not Labor!

Privatize Wages / Socialize Rent
Current Global Taxes
Mostly on Labor/Production

- Environmental Damage: 3%
- Resource Windfalls: 4%
- Work and Investment: 93%
Proposed Shift to Resource Rents and Enviro Damage

- Work and Investment: 65%
- Environmental Damage: 15%
- Resource Windfalls: 12%
- Subsidy Cuts: 8%
Current Pacific NW Tax Structure

- Property taxes: 27%
- Business, income and sales taxes: 48%
- Existing environmental taxes: 18%
- Miscellaneous: 7%
Earth Rights Tax Shift Proposed for Pacific NW

- Land value taxes: 27%
- Existing environmental taxes: 18%
- Business, income and sales taxes: 16%
- Miscellaneous: 7%
- Water, timber, fish and minerals taxes: 4%
- Hydropower taxes: 8%
- Traffic taxes: 5%
- Pollution and carbon taxes: 15%
Current and Proposed Tax Shift for Pacific Northwest
Alaska Permanent Fund staff fielding questions from high school students in Juneau, fall 2005.
Alaska Permanent Fund pays Annual Citizen Dividends to All Alaskans!
### Annual Dividend Checks Received by Each Alaskan Last Ten Years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dividend Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$845.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$919.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$1107.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$1540.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$1850.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$1963.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$1769.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$1540.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$1296.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$1130.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Split Rate Tax: A Way Towards Earth Rights

Democracy

- Removes taxes on homes, buildings to give incentives for improvements.
- Reduces or removes taxes on wage/labor.
- Increases tax on value of land only to discourage land speculation and encourage infill development which reduces sprawl and promotes livable cities.
How is Land Tax Used in the US?

- Taxes on Capital and Labor are Shifted to the Value of the Land
- This Means: Income Tax, Sales Tax, Business Tax, Building Tax
## LVT Cities In PA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Land Tax Rate</th>
<th>Building Tax Rate</th>
<th>Land Tax Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aliquippa School District</td>
<td>16.5000%</td>
<td>2.0000%</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aliquippa</td>
<td>7.7000%</td>
<td>0.0900%</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allentown</td>
<td>3.6210%</td>
<td>0.7710%</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clairton</td>
<td>28.0000%</td>
<td>1.2200%</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coatesville</td>
<td>1.0160%</td>
<td>0.4000%</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connellsville</td>
<td>11.3500%</td>
<td>1.7500%</td>
<td>1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubois</td>
<td>9.5000%</td>
<td>0.4500%</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duquesne</td>
<td>1.6000%</td>
<td>0.8470%</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebensburg</td>
<td>4.0000%</td>
<td>1.3300%</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>2.4414%</td>
<td>0.4069%</td>
<td>1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lock Haven</td>
<td>5.2140%</td>
<td>1.3570%</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKeesport</td>
<td>16.5000%</td>
<td>4.2600%</td>
<td>1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Castle</td>
<td>9.2459%</td>
<td>2.3337%</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil City</td>
<td>9.1500%</td>
<td>2.7100%</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton</td>
<td>0.0821%</td>
<td>0.0179%</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steelton</td>
<td>0.6490%</td>
<td>0.4440%</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titusville</td>
<td>5.9160%</td>
<td>1.9000%</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>19.1216%</td>
<td>1.1000%</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two-Tiered Real Estate Taxes. Harrisburg is the only municipality in the region with a tax rate in which taxes on improvements or buildings are only 20% of the tax rate on land. This encourages the highest and best use of land and discourages land speculation, while providing significant savings to property owners over the usual single-tax rate system in use elsewhere.
Harrisburg: From the Ashes

- The value of taxable real estate is now $2.2 Billion, versus $212 Million in 1982.
- Over 26,000 building permits issued from 1982 to present, over $2.65 Billion in new investment. Adjusted for inflation, this is more than for any period since Harrisburg became a municipality in 1791, with most investment undertaken since 1990.
- There are over 5,500 businesses on the city tax rolls in 20032 compared to 1,908 in 1981.
- The number of vacant structures, over 5,500 in 1982, have been reduced by 85%.
- The Crime Rate has dropped 53% and fire rate has been cut by 72%.
Figure 4.6 — Building Permits And Total Building Permit Value Increased In Harrisburg With Each Tax Increase On Land Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tax Ratio Land/Building</th>
<th>Value of Bldg Permits ($m)</th>
<th>Number of Permits (100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>37.91</td>
<td>10.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>41.68</td>
<td>9.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>59.19</td>
<td>10.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>46.96</td>
<td>12.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>27.05</td>
<td>13.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>36.42</td>
<td>13.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>28.99</td>
<td>13.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>39.44</td>
<td>15.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>67.04</td>
<td>16.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>59.08</td>
<td>18.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>102.65</td>
<td>19.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>77.74</td>
<td>20.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>68.40</td>
<td>18.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>101.76</td>
<td>18.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Harrisburg Building Permit Database
Reassessment Years: 1973, 1985, 2001
Figure 4.7 — The value of new residential and commercial construction in Allentown increased after the adoption of land-value taxation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Land/Building Ratio</th>
<th>Value New Commercial</th>
<th>Value New Residential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>$7,983,000</td>
<td>$1,983,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>$5,015,260</td>
<td>$1,090,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>$469,097</td>
<td>$2,619,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>$11,754,250</td>
<td>$2,829,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>$41,504,620</td>
<td>$4,424,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>$10,330,070</td>
<td>$7,683,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>$6,392,250</td>
<td>$12,020,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>$17,688,458</td>
<td>$11,416,305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Bureau of Code Enforcement, Allentown.
Discussion

- Do you understand the concept of RENT?
- What is the Law of Rent?
- Do you understand how increase in land rent contributes to the wealth gap?
- Do you have a new understanding about root causes of poverty, homelessness, hunger?
- How do you understand the property rights ideas behind the earth rights policy of untaxing wages and taxing (capturing) rent?
Land is not property ~
land is life.
Land is not created by people – it creates people.
Evo Morales, Bolivia’s new president:

We will nationalize all of Bolivia’s natural resources. We will recuperate what is ours. We cannot give away what was given to us by Pachamama (Mother Earth).
The Earth Belongs to Everyone
ECOLOGICAL ERA ECONOMICS

SMALL BUSINESS
INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

MEDIUM & LARGE BUSINESS
VOLUNTARY COOPERATIVES & WORKER OWNERSHIP FOR FAIR SHARE RIGHTS TO CAPITAL

KEY INDUSTRIES
DEMOCRATIC SOCIAL CONTROL OF INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES & HEAVY INDUSTRY AT THE MOST DECENTRALIZED LEVEL POSSIBLE

MONEY
COMMUNITY OR GOVERNMENT ISSUED MONEY BASED ON TRANSPARENT & STABLE STANDARD OF VALUE

RESOURCE RENTS REPLACE TAXATION FOR FAIR SHARE RIGHTS TO A HEALTHY EARTH

MUNICIPALITIES COLLECT SURFACE LAND RENT
STATES OR BIOREGIONS COLLECT NATURAL RESOURCE RENTS
GLOBAL RESOURCE AGENCY COLLECTS TRANSNATIONAL RENTS PLUS PORTION OF OTHERS. RESOURCE RENTS ARE DISTRIBUTED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, CITIZEN DIVIDENDS, PEACEKEEPING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LAW & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, RESTORATION AND PROTECTION.
Remember back in the '50s, we looked forward to the days when machines would be doing all the work?

And here they are!

I know. Now remind me why we thought we'd still be getting paid.

How else would we all be able to buy our own personal airplanes?
The Wealth Pie

- Rent
- Wages
- Interest
The Law of Rent
Production & Distribution
of Wealth
Land Prices Compared with Other Housing Costs

Sources: Appendix B.
Land value index shows stability in the increases in the value of land for the fourth quarter of 2004

The annual increase in the value of land is equal to the previously forecast rate at +7% for 2004 Q4. The rate of increase over the last three quarters of 2004 has been stable at approximately +7%.

The quarterly percentage change in the value of land has fallen slightly to +1%.

The forecast annual rate of growth for the first quarter of 2005 is +5%.

Henry George Foundation
Land Value Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Land Value Index</th>
<th>Land Value Index (seasonally adjusted)</th>
<th>Quarterly percentage change (seasonally adjusted)</th>
<th>Annual percentage change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 Q4</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Q1</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>7.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Q2</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>6.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Q3</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>7.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Q4</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>7.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The full index, including a detailed breakdown of regional variations, is available upon request.
Since 1995 housing prices have risen nationwide by almost 35%. In some regions, real home prices have risen by more than 50%.
$300,000,000,000
Taxes, Lies, and the Least of These

Bush’s out-of-balance tax agenda.
Alaska Model: Alaska Permanent Fund

(Share of the commonwealth)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Dividends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$919.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$1107.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$1540.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$1850.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$1963.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$1769.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$1540.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$1296.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$1130.68</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>$990.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$983.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>$949.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>$915.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>$931.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$952.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>$873.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>$826.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>$708.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>$556.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>$404.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>$331.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>$386.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Relationship of Fund Income to State Oil Revenues: Past and Future

- State Oil Revenues
- Fund Income

Projected
Thomas Paine, Agrarian Justice 1797
“Men did not make the earth...it is the value of the improvements only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property...Every proprietor owes to the community a ground rent for the land which he holds.;...from this ground rent...I...propose to create a national fund, out of which there shall be paid to every person...a sum.”
Amendment for Municipal Charters, State and National Constitutions

The Earth Rights Amendment

People have a right to the Earth, sustained in a healthy condition.

1. Government shall enforce the liability of persons - corporate or real - who damage the carrying capacity of Earth.

2. People have a common heritage right to “resource rents” - the economic value of landsites and natural resources used to meet human needs.

3. Their agent - government - is obliged to effect this sharing by:

   a. Collecting resource rents via taxes, leases, use fees, dues, or other means and then

   b. Disbursing the recovered rents as dividends and/or via services that benefit all members of society equally.
Land Values in Philadelphia are High in the Core, Near Transport
Land Values Correlate to Employment Centres
Vacant Lot Pictured From Commuter Train Platform

Market and 52nd
Abandoned Stores and Flats
2700 North Broad Street
-The Problem-
Land Speculation Holds Land Out Of Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vacant Parcels</th>
<th>Total Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42,168</td>
<td>9,504 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7% of all</td>
<td>11% of all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Parcels</td>
<td>Philadelphia Land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Market Value of Land Not Being Utilized:
$787,000,000 of 6,600,500,000
Tax Structure Analysis Report

Office of the City Controller
City of Philadelphia

Jonathan A. Saidel
City Controller
World population arranged by income

Distribution of income

Each horizontal band represents an equal fifth of the world's people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World population</th>
<th>World income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richest</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
John Haynes Holmes
1879 - 1964
John Haynes Holmes:

Four Reforms Which Would Save the World

1. Socialization of land (values)
2. Socialization of the machine (capital)
3. Population / Birth Control
4. The Abolition of War
It was Henry George who as prophet, economist and statesman, faced the problem of the land, and solved it for all time... This program for socializing the land through the taxation of land values...is the first reform which I commend for the saving of society. It is the foundation which we must lay, if our edifice is to stand.

From “Four Reforms Which Would Save the World” by John Haynes Holmes
The Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice, composed of 60 faith communities, is working with the Mayor of Hartford for passage of Enabling Legislation for Land Value Taxation in CT.
Suggestion for Tri-Cities Area

- Build a coalition.
- Urge city leaders to discuss tax shift.
- Ask that a formal analysis be conducted.
- Take it to the state level for enabling.
- Know that you can WIN on this!
Natural goods = land, natural resources and the environment
NEXUS = rent seeking collusion between MC and MF over natural goods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFLICTS</th>
<th>DEATHS</th>
<th>NEXUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WWI</td>
<td>20 mn</td>
<td>protection of sea lands in the scramble for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>50 mn</td>
<td>responses to reparations, trade restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan USSR</td>
<td></td>
<td>proxy for US/USSR conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan US</td>
<td></td>
<td>Taliban, land occupation, drugs 2/3 of GDP oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chechnya</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>3.1 - 4.7 mn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatamala</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq sanctions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq war (civilians)</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"The world itself is stolen goods. All property is theft, and those who have stolen most of it make the laws for the rest of us." - John Updike, Brazil
There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" to point out enemies its "muscle men" to destroy enemies its "brain men" to plan war preparations, and a "Big Boss" Super Nationalistic-capitalism. It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General.
And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle-man for big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher'ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.
I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909 - 1912.
I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.
War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small "inside": group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.
President George H. Bush
(September 11, 1990)
Our involvement in the Gulf is not transitory. It predated Saddam Hussein's aggression and will survive it. Long after all our troops come home, there will be a lasting role for the United States in assisting the nations of the Persian Gulf.
Household Debt Ratio

Grandfather Economic Reports
http://mwhodges.home.att.net/
data Fed Reserve

2004 record high and $5.3 trillion excess to 1963-70 ratio, or 55% too much debt
The world oil market daily produces 82 million barrels. The United States, with 5% of the world's population, daily consumes 20 million barrels -- or 25% of the world's total. And, America consumes 3 times more oil than it produces.
The U.S. is now the World's largest debtor nation, compared to being the largest creditor in my generation - which means foreigners now own more U.S. assets than Americans own overseas.
The left chart shows the trend of debt interest spent per each and every hour of the year. The 2000 figure is equivalent to more than $41 million in interest per hour, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
President George W. Bush’s $2.57 trillion budget proposal for fiscal year 2006 would cut spending on government programs outside defense and national security by 0.7 percent.

### Evolution of the U.S. Budget Surplus / Deficit

#### 2006 Budget Spending Proposals

- **INCREASES**
  - US foreign aid
  - Homeland Security
  - Defense Department
  - Housing and urban development

- **DECREASES**
  - Agriculture
  - Environment Protection Agency
  - Education

**Source:** Congressional Budget Office; Office of Management and Budget
Male Median Income year-round full-time workers

Male income decline 6% despite economy growth

Grandfather Economic Report
http://rmwhodges.home.att.net/
data - census bureau b-33 2/04
Distribution of Real GDP: Australia

In 1999 recommended actions: “The Council of the District of Columbia should (c) After the public has had an opportunity to appeal assessment apportionment, the Council should initiate a gradual reduction in property tax rates on building values and a gentle increase in tax rates on land values.”
These organizations endorsed this recommendation:

- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Clean Water Action
- Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Green Party of D.C.
- Institute for Local Self Reliance
- Sierra Club, New Columbia Chapter
- Sustainable Communities Initiatives, D.C.
- Washington Bicyclist Association
- Washington Regional Network
In a naturally just and harmonious society, everyone has fair access to the gifts of nature - land and natural resources - in order to procure their livelihood.
When people without land resources must pay rent for access, the exploitation of their labor begins. Resource “owners” collect rent and now live by privilege rather than by labor.

Because of the Rent Leak, landless ones cannot easily accumulate capital and must borrow from the Privilege Fund lending system and pay interest. The Privilege Fund grows.
The left chart shows the trend of debt interest spent per each and every hour of the year. The 2000 figure is equivalent to more than $41 million in interest per hour, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
Earth Rights Democracy

Building a World Community of Peace and Justice

Alanna Hartzok

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