

# TURNING POINT 2000

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September 1992

TURNING POINT 2000 is about an enabling (for people), conserving (for the Earth), one-world human community for the 21st century. As the year 2000 comes closer, systematic programmes of change in this direction - personal, local, national, international - are beginning to take shape. We aim to encourage these, to report activities and ideas contributing to them, to bring out potential links and synergies between them, and to help readers to initiate them, take part in them and press governments, businesses and other organisations, to formulate stage-by-stage targets through the 1990s.

## NEWSLETTER AND MAILING LIST

The newsletter comes out twice yearly - the next issue in February/March 1993. Please send items for it by mid-January. Space being limited, we shall give priority to news about programmes and initiatives targeted through the 1990s. We shall give preference, other things being equal, to mentioning new people and organisations rather than repeating ones in previous issues. (Some back issues are available for new readers who ask us for them.) If we don't include an item you send us - and even if we do - please use the newsletter to make contact directly with people likely to share your concerns.

**Suggested Annual Subscriptions.** Personal, voluntary groups, NGOs, etc.: UK and Europe, £5; Worldwide outside Europe, £6. Business Corporations and Government Departments: £20. Other institutions: £10. Reduced charge or free to people, especially in Third World and Eastern European countries, who cannot pay the suggested rates. Donations towards this are welcomed from people who can pay more. All payments in sterling please. Cheques to Turning Point please.

Enquiries and communications to Alison Pritchard or James Robertson, The Old Bakehouse, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9NU, England. Tel: Cholsey (0491) 652346.

## ANOTHER TURNING POINT 2000 SEMINAR

Following the three Saturday seminars in the summer (see p.2), James Robertson will be leading one more here this year.

The date will be Saturday 7th November.

The subject will be **WHAT FUTURE FOR MONEY?**

Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the history, philosophy and politics of money and the practicalities for change - institutional, conceptual and personal.

Details are enclosed for readers in the UK and Europe. If anyone further afield would like to have them, please let us know.

## WESTMINSTER AND RIO: THE MESSAGE OF 1992

The April general election in Britain ignored the crucial questions. The June Earth Summit in Rio sidetracked them.

Here are three conflicting assessments of Rio - all of them valid.

"For NGOs concerned with environment and development Rio represented a push forward, a raised profile, and an added recognition by governments and international organisations. The issue now will be how to exploit this result." PERSPECTIVES No.9 1992, Earth Summit Special, from IIED (3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD).

"The UNCED process has divided, co-opted, and weakened the green movement... NGOs are now trapped in a farce by which they have lent support to governments in return for some small concessions on language and thus legitimised the process of increased industrial development. The impact of the lobbying will be minimal, while that of the compromise will be vast." Matthias Finger in ECOCURRENTS May 1992 (1 Emile-Nicolet, CH-1205 Geneva, Switzerland).

"The emerging strength and philosophies of the Global Citizen's Movement are remarkable. Virtually every nation and culture on earth was represented at the Global Forum... Being present with perhaps 10,000 individuals in a common quest for sanity on earth was a strangely uplifting experience." Will Sutherland reported on the Rio meeting of NGOs and people's movements and the 29 'Treaties' which they drafted, in IDEAS FOR TOMORROW TODAY, July 1992 (Alan Senior, 31 Bellevue Road, Ealing, London W13 8DF).

There is another important point too. The high profile of environment and development NGOs, very welcome in itself, allowed rich-country governments and media to present the key issue at Rio as a North/South conflict about money for environmental development in the South, and encouraged the misconception that our common future is a secondary, specialist matter - of concern principally to "environmentalists" and the Third World lobby.

For us in the North this now means two priority tasks.

The first is to persuade "ordinary" people, politicians and the media of the need for a new direction of progress, involving:

- \* Big changes in our own way of life, to improve its quality, enlarge its freedoms, and reduce its ecological impact to what a future world population of ten billion can share.
- \* New patterns of international relations, including trade, investment and aid, to promote equitable and sustainable ways of life elsewhere in the world as well as at home.
- \* New foreign policies geared to creating a fairer, more peaceful, more democratic world, rather than to pursuing short-sighted national and commercial interests.

The second - even more important - priority is to show that this change of direction, far from being a distraction from people's urgent concerns, is positively relevant to them. Internationally, it will help us to create a new world order in place of the Cold War. Domestically, it will help us to tackle the apparently insoluble problems of unemployment, incomes, prices, taxes, housing, health, education, crime, interest rates, currencies, and so on.

Some specific suggestions about unemployment are on page 3.

## WORKING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

We held three Turning Point 2000 seminars here in June and July: on *Sharing A Finite Planet; Sustainable Lifestyles and Policies; and Beyond Unemployment*. As they were successful and all were overbooked, we are thinking of repeating them next summer. We plan to hold them again on Saturdays, as a weekend activity. But we are also thinking of holding a parallel series on weekdays for people who would come to them as part of their working week. If this might appeal to you, or if you have ideas about it, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Meanwhile, we are holding another seminar here this year - on *What Future For Money?* on Saturday 7th November (see p.1).

## BEYOND UNEMPLOYMENT

More and more people realise that full employment is a thing of the past. But politicians continue to argue that their party's policies will eventually bring it back. A costly job creation industry continues to flourish at the taxpayer's expense, but to little effect. And the rules continue to create an "unemployment trap" and a "poverty trap" which stop people building up work for themselves. They even prevent unemployed people taking up voluntary work and education/training courses of their own choice, by requiring their immediate availability for the too few jobs offered by employers.

The longer the present arrangements go on the more people's lives will be spoiled and wasted, and the more damaging the resulting social alienation and unrest will be. A priority for the next few years must be a campaign to liberate work from employment.

The out-of-date idea that the only proper way for people to work is to depend on employers for jobs is central to old-fashioned trade unionism and to the dependency culture that conservative politicians claim they want to do away with. A genuine culture of self-reliance will positively enable and encourage people to take up useful work - unpaid and paid - for themselves.

After our July "Beyond Unemployment" seminar we sent participants an outline for letters to Members of Parliament and others. If you would like a copy, please send us an s.a.e. (Replies have started to come in. We will report progress in the next newsletter.)

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In 1991-92 UK expenditure on social security benefits, plus revenue foregone through personal income tax allowances and reliefs, totalled nearly £122 billion - or £42 per week for every man, woman and child. Replacing this with an unconditional Citizen's Income would help in many ways. E.g., "With the existing [pension] system anyone who puts caring for others above making money risks poverty in old age, with the result that pension entitlements are heavily skewed in favour of men." - BIRG BULLETIN, July 1992. The Basic Income Research Group (102 Pepys Road, London SE14 5SG - Malcolm Torry) has an educational video and a new series of factsheets on "Aspects Of Basic Income".

The latest "job creation" gimmick - after Canary Wharf, enterprise zones, golf-course-led growth, etc. - is "business incubators". See the OECD/EC newsletter INNOVATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT, April 1992 (OECD-ILE Programme, 2 rue Andre Pascal, 75775 Paris 16, France).

## ONE WORLD - OF MANY CULTURES

NB 12th October 1992 is the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Western hemisphere - the start of the modern Eurocentric era.

"History tells us Americans that we have reached a dividing line between the consolidated, Western-centric world which began with Columbus, and a new world order in which Western man will no longer play the overwhelmingly dominant role that he has played in the past ... Our task is to adjust to a world in which the non-Western peoples (who outnumber the West four to one) are going to influence regional and world affairs more than they did in the Western Age; not only in terms of power but in terms of values." Professor William Woodruff (1710 NW 66th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605, USA) in *THE BURDEN OF POWER IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD*, Royal Institute of International Affairs Journal, May 1992.

The HEIDELBERG APPEAL to Heads of States and Governments, signed at the Rio Earth Summit by 425 scientists and intellectuals (Dr. M. Salomon, 10 avenue de Messine, 75008 Paris, France), warns against "an irrational ideology which is opposed to scientific and industrial progress and impedes economic and social development". It fails to question the rationality of employing the vast majority of the world's scientists on rich-country military and commercial research.

"Every policy-maker is profoundly aware of the pressure of events and the obstacles to constructive change... 'Realism' says we cannot expect either early or large-scale action. Nevertheless, many thoughtful observers now feel that the various global threats are converging fast and that the avoidance of disastrous scenarios in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia - and indeed world-wide - may require far more radical steps...". *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: THE NEED FOR NEW THINKING* by Ronald Higgins is ISIS Briefing No.26, March 1992, International Security Information Service (St. James's Rectory, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 9LF).

*Think Globally, Act Locally* is not now enough. To create a new world order, people's movements need to act both locally and globally. Report of the Second International Conference on a More Democratic United Nations (CAMDUN-2) in Vienna in September 1991, and details of CAMDUN-3 to be hosted by UNA Ghana in Accra in November 1992, from Jeffrey J. Segall (CAMDUN, 308 Cricklewood Lane, London NW2 2PX).

The UN system as a whole is ripe for reform. Meanwhile, a report by Erskine Childers and Brian Urquart on reorganising the UN secretariat and strengthening the international response to humanitarian emergencies was published as *TOWARDS A MORE EFFECTIVE UNITED NATIONS* (Development Dialogue 1991:1-2) by the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation (Ovre Slottsgatan 2, S-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden).

Ross Masood Hussain is chairman of the Pakistan Futuristics Foundation and Institute (PO Box No.254, Islamabad), which is holding an international conference jointly with the World Futures Studies Federation on *THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD* on 24-27 October in Islamabad. He authored a 1991 report (80pp) on *THE EVOLUTION AND PROSPECTS OF SAARC* (The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) - *THE VIEW FROM PAKISTAN*.

The LOOP Center (Liza Loop, 760 Homer Avenue, Suite 3, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA) promotes intercultural awareness and teaches effective communication across language, ethnic and cultural boundaries.

TURNING POINT 2000 MAILING LIST

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## PHILOSOPHY, SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION

The Need for a Shared Vision of the Future, Hatred Inspired by Religion, and the Violence-Justice-Earth problematique, are questions for the PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS, Chicago, 28th Aug to 5th Sept 1993 - Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions (PO Box 377760, Chicago, IL 60637, USA) and Institute for 21st Century Studies (1611 N Kent Street, Suite 610, Arlington, VA 22209, USA).

"Vrindavan is the sacred playground of Radha and Krishna. However, we have cut its trees, polluted its river and spoilt its dust with rubbish. I pledge that from now on I will protect it from further destruction and restore its original beauty." Ranchor Prime (10 Grafton Mews, London W1P 5LF) is working with WWF INDIA and ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) on a community project for tree planting and restoration of this Hindu sacred site.

The 1992 Schumacher Lectures on REVISIONING SOCIETY: LINKING ECONOMICS, ECOLOGY AND SPIRITUAL VALUES will be given by Sir James Goldsmith, Susan George, Herman Daly and Fr. Bede Griffiths in Bristol on Saturday 10th October. Details from the Schumacher Society (Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon EX39 6EE).

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE's programme of one-day workshops (details from Robert Vint, 8th Floor, Rodwell House, Middlesex Street, London E1 7HJ) - to promote understanding of the spiritual roots of today's world crisis, and the recovery by all peoples of their indigenous spiritual tradition - includes: Helena Norberg-Hodge on 11th October on "Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh"; Edward Goldsmith and Richard Woods on 31st October on "Returning to the Way: Living with the Natural Order"; and Satish Kumar on 28th November on "Indigenous Development: The Relevance of Gandhi to the West".

The September-December 1992 programme at The Abbey includes James Robertson with Elizabeth Nathaniels on 21st November on "Ethics, Culture and Economic Life" and with Bishop Stephen Verney on 5th December on "Spiritual Values and Economic Values". Details and full programme from the Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon OX14 4AF.

"The prime questions for human beings are questions like 'What shall I do?' and 'How shall we live our lives?', rather than questions like 'What can we know?' and 'What is the nature of reality?'... Ever since Descartes, I fear we have allowed ourselves to be misled on this point by scientists, philosophers and academics - whose trade, of course, is knowledge not action". In "Future Wealth and the Evolution of Consciousness: The Reintegration of Economics and Morality", in THE TEILHARD REVIEW, Autumn 1991 (Teilhard Centre, 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN), James Robertson also questions whether the traditional faiths can offer a new post-modern worldview.

Salamah Pope (35 Brian Avenue, Mount Pleasant, WA 6153, Australia), former director, Center for Futures Studies, National University, Jakarta, calls for "The Development of More Responsible Religions" in LEADERS, Vol.15, No.1, 1992. "I pray that bikus, rabbis, priests, ulemas and other religious leaders join us ordinary mortals in a quest for knowledge, for integration and for the Spirit of God".

IDOC INTERNAZIONALE, 92/1 (Via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, 00186 Rome, Italy), is on "God's Right Wing". For Islam, "intellectualism cannot be revolutionary... It works within a framework of Western civilisation and will not dismantle the foundations of humanism".

## ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT AND NEW ECONOMICS

"The Northern powers have managed the transition from a colonial to a post-colonial world in a manner that has actually tightened their control over the use of world resources whilst transmitting the Western model of development, culture and lifestyle to the newly independent countries." In **THE FUTURE OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS: CONFLICT OR COOPERATION**, 1991, 57pp (Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250, Penang, Malaysia) **Martin Khor Kok Peng** proposes positive cooperation to promote the transition to a more equitable international order.

In **AN ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS**, 1991, 63pp (from Popular Bookstore, MIT Bldg, Doroteo Jose St, Sta.Cruz, Manila) **Green Forum - Philippines** publishes a radically new community-centred analysis and policy programme, based on the household rather than the enterprise as the basic unit, and on local ecosystems and settlement rights.

World democracy is conspicuous by its absence in the workings of the IMF, the World Bank and the GATT. We warmly recommend **Myriam Vander Stichele's** 20pp paper on "The Democratic Deficit in the Uruguay Round Negotiations" (European Ecumenical Organisation for Development - EECOD - 174 rue Joseph II, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium).

**Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice** (25-1 Chongro 5-Ga, Chongro-Gu, Seoul, Korea 110-125) publishes a bi-monthly report on peaceful and non-violent citizen action for reform and progress.

The **Development Resources Centre** (PO Box 6079, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa) is a new non-profit information sharing and networking agency for community-based people's organisations working for a just, inclusive and sustainable society in South Africa.

A good **TOES** (The Other Economic Summit) meeting was held in Auckland in April. Another is planned for 2-4 April 1993. Details from **Alan Marston** (PO Box 10 344, Auckland 3, New Zealand). Meanwhile, **Ed Mayo**, **James Robertson**, **Martin Summers**, and **Jakob von Uexkull** from the **New Economics Foundation** were at the Munich **TOES** in July.

A new kind of **TOES** (The Other Europe Summit) will be held in Edinburgh on 11th December, preceded by a seminar programme on 7-9 December, in parallel with **John Major's** post-Maastricht European Community Summit. Details from **New Economics Foundation** (see p.7).

"Whether regions in the South European semi-periphery (Greece, Portugal, Spain, Southern Italy) should continue the process of their integration within an EEC dominated by the Northern metropolises, or whether instead they should pursue a programme of regional integration within a Mediterranean subcommunity of regions at similar levels of development... will probably become an important issue...". **Takis Fotopoulos** (20 Woodberry Way, London N12) on "Economic Restructuring and the Debt Problem: The Greek Case" in **INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF APPLIED ECONOMICS**, Vol.6, No.1, 1992.

In **NEW EUROPEAN** (ed. **John Coleman**, 14-16 Carroun Road, London SW8 1JT) Vol.5, No.2, 1992 **James Robertson** argues that a multilevel system of co-existing currencies will be needed, if the dynamic of economic integration in Europe is to become democratic and decentralising. In Vol.5, No.1, 1992 **Jakob von Uexkull** and **Josef Vavrousek** argue for a democratically controlled Environmental Protection Authority - pan-European, not just for the 12-nation EC.

Lecturers on a NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION COURSE - ten sessions, Thursday evenings, 1st October to 3rd December, at the London School of Economics - will include Victor Anderson, Michael Jacobs, George McRobie and James Robertson. Details from New Economics Foundation (88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA).

The amount of money invested in ethical funds in the UK has increased by more than 17% over the last year, whereas the total invested in all unit trusts has risen by only 3% - THE ETHICAL INVESTOR, July 1992 (from EIRIS, 504 Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ). Social investors now manage funds worth more than \$650 billion worldwide. Social Investment Forums in Australia, Canada, UK, and USA, together with the International Association of Investors in the Social Economy, put a Rio Resolution to the Earth Summit in June, calling on individuals, companies and NGOs, financial institutions and governments to encourage investment in projects which enhance the common good. Details from Alan Miller (UK Social Investment Forum, Keeley House, 22-30 Keeley Road, Croydon CR0 1TE).

NEW SECTOR (Society Place, West Calder EH55 8EA, Scotland; ed. Kay Caldwell; £15 p.a.) is a new magazine of community and cooperative enterprise, published six times a year in place of COMMUNITY BUSINESS NEWS. In Issue No.1 April/May 1992, John Smith, now Labour Party leader, welcomes a larger role for new sector enterprises.

David Ross is director of the new Centre for International Statistics on ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE FOR FAMILIES (Canadian Council on Social Development, 55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, K1Y 4G1, Canada).

FOURTH WORLD NEWSLETTER, July 1992 (ATD Fourth World, 48 Addington Square, London SE5 7LB) announces 17th October 1992 as a World Day to strengthen our determination to overcome extreme poverty.

Raymond Obomsawin (RR No3, Crysler, Ontario, Canada K0A 1R0) welcomes information and contacts relevant to his international applied research review of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Development.

"Gandhi formulated his economic order in the context of his design of an ideal social order: a non-violent, non-exploitative, humanistic and egalitarian society. His approach to economics is through the avenue of truth and non-violence. Its goal is not pure material benefit but the advancement of humanity on its road to progress...". Jai Narain on Non-Violent Economy, GANDHI MARG, Vol.13, No.3, Oct-Dec 1991 (221-223 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India).

"In accordance with Gandhi's teaching we must withdraw our cooperation from those who act unjustly. The industrialists [and] agribusinessmen... will not change while they can find a market for their products. We must refuse to buy them and demonstrate the validity of better ways." Kathleen Jannaway in GANDHI WAY, Spring 1992 (Gandhi Foundation, Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, London E3 3HJ).

ADBUSTERS, Summer/Fall 1992 (The Media Foundation, 1243 West Seventh Ave, Vancouver, BC V6H 1B7, Canada), is mounting an international media campaign against First World excess and waste, including a first annual BUY NOTHING DAY on 24th September 1992.

"As consumers we have the power to say YES to trade that protects the environment, pays Third World producers fairly, advertises ethically." This year's ONE WORLD WEEK (18-25 October) is about trade. (Details from PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT).



## BOOKS RECEIVED

A bumper crop of important books, many on the evolutionary transition of our time. Should we see it as a return to stability, as a new stage in evolutionary progress, or even as the final stage? As human-centred, or as life-centred? As religious, or cultural, or political, or economic? Take your choice.

**Robert H. Nelson: REACHING FOR HEAVEN ON EARTH: THE THEOLOGICAL MEANING OF ECONOMICS:** Rowman and Littlefield Inc, 1991, 378pp, hbk. We warmly commend this analysis of the "Roman" and "Protestant" strands in economic thought to anyone interested in the evolution of ideas. "The economic way of thinking in the 20th-century welfare state derives its basic social legitimacy not as a form of science (where its claims are dubious), but from a theological tradition. The authority of current economics is the authority of the Roman tradition... Many current advocates of free trade in effect seek to achieve a single economic theology over the whole world... This is a modern reflection of the crusading spirit of western religion, which has always believed in one message for all the world."

**Edward Goldsmith: THE WAY: AN ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW:** Rider/Random Century, 1992, 442pp, pbk £12.99. One of the world's foremost environmentalists sets out "to state clearly the basic principles underlying an ecological worldview". He holds that natural evolution tends towards a stable state, that vernacular societies are in tune with nature in this respect, that progress - as seen, for example, by Peter Russell (see below) - is anti-evolutionary, and that we urgently need converting to an ecological worldview. Some will find Goldsmith's approach unduly conservative and feel that he fails to consider the practical implications of returning to an earlier way of life - or even to define it clearly enough. But there is much of value here, including a very powerful critique of modern science.

**Peter Russell: THE WHITE HOLE IN TIME: OUR FUTURE EVOLUTION AND THE MEANING OF NOW:** Thorsons/Aquarian, 1992, 234pp, pbk, £8.99. "We could be standing on the threshold of a moment towards which the Universe has been building since time began - an evolutionary climax more profound than any of us could dare to imagine. ... The window in time that opened when life on Earth took the leap into *Homo sapiens sapiens* is at the point of closing. We are in the last moments of our 50,000-year dash from emerging consciousness to full enlightenment." Even those who disagree with Russell's "This is really it, this time" approach will find much of great interest here.

**Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy: THE CHRISTIAN FUTURE: OR THE MODERN MIND OUTRUN:** Harper Torchbooks, 1966, 248pp, pbk. "Modern man's temptation to impatience expresses itself in the craving for panaceas and shortcuts. He wants to escape from his nervous pace by finding some sure-fire scheme that will offer a final solution of all his problems... So men like Marx, or Hitler, or Huxley proclaim ideas - the classless society, 4000 years of the swastika, a 'brave new world' - that would put an end to history." Harold Stahmer (University of Florida, Department of Religion, 125 Dauer Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA) has drawn our attention to the philosophy, law, history, sociology, theology, adult education and voluntary work of Rosenstock-Huessy (1888-1973). A colleague of Martin Buber, Karl Barth, and others in the 1920s in Germany, Rosenstock-Huessy was admired by W.H. Auden in his later life in the USA. His thinking, then a good half century ahead of his time, is clearly relevant now.

**Hazel Henderson: PARADIGMS IN PROGRESS: LIFE BEYOND ECONOMICS:** Knowledge Systems Inc, 1991, 293pp, pbk, \$16.95. The "planetization process is visibly accelerating and three distinct zones of this unprecedented transition can be mapped to help decision-makers negotiate the unfamiliar terrain: the Breakdown Zone; the Fibrillation Zone; and the Breakthrough Zone". Highly acclaimed in the USA, this sequel to *Creating Alternative Futures and Politics of the Solar Age* is a must for admirers of Henderson's earlier work.

**Diarmuid O-Murchu: OUR WORLD IN TRANSITION: MAKING SENSE OF A CHANGING WORLD:** Temple House Books, 1992, 146pp, pbk, £6.95. Twelve chapters discuss different aspects - e.g. From A Static To A Dynamic Worldview, From Church To Kingdom Theology, From Physical to Psychic Evolution - of the current transition, which the author sees neither as going back nor as final nor as anthropocentric. "We must not and cannot assume that we are the final life-form in the evolutionary scale. There is every reason to believe that higher forms of creature will emerge in future evolutionary unfolding." Recommended.

**Adrian B. Smith: GOD AND THE AQUARIAN AGE: THE NEW ERA OF THE KINGDOM:** McCrimmons, 1990, 134pp, pbk, £6.95. "As people are becoming more intuitive they are shifting from concern about religious facts, to a desire for religious experience... The coming Age of the Spirit, of deeper consciousness, is calling us beyond institutionalised religion in any form." Readable and stimulating.

**Robyn Eckersley: ENVIRONMENTALISM AND POLITICAL THEORY: TOWARD AN ECOCENTRIC APPROACH:** UCL Press Ltd, 1992, 274pp, pbk, £10.95. Discusses the development of modern ecopolitical thought; anthropocentrism and ecocentrism; the ecocentric challenge to marxism; ecosocialism; and ecoanarchism. "From an ecocentric perspective, the exercise of dynamic autonomy requires psychological maturity... This does not mean having control over others but rather means having a *sense of competent agency in the world*... In contrast, the quest for radical independence from others, or power over others, leads to an objectification of others and a denial of their own modes of relative autonomy or subjectivity." Good introduction to the politics of freedom in an ecological society.

**C. George Benello: FROM THE GROUND UP: GRASS ROOTS AND WORKPLACE DEMOCRACY:** South End Press, 1992, 251pp, pbk, \$12. Fifteen splendid essays by George Benello and six substantial commentaries by thinkers and activists who worked with him. "Understanding the nature of the power system and the psychology of power requires a far broader form of social transformation than a simple mobilising of the oppressed with the objective of seizing power. Liberatory organisation must be created which can both express the psychology of voluntary association free of authoritarianism and at the same time confront and challenge the power system... Where natural forms of face-to-face association have broken down, seeking after power becomes an alternative means to security and a sense of the self."

**Wolfgang Sachs (ed): THE DEVELOPMENT DICTIONARY: A GUIDE TO KNOWLEDGE AS POWER:** Zed Books, 1992, 306pp, pbk, £14.95. As we come to the end of the age of development that started with President Truman's declaration in January 1949 that the Southern hemisphere was 'underdeveloped', Claude Alvarez, Ivan Illich, Ashis Nandy, Vandana Shiva and other scholars contribute to this powerful collection of radical criticisms. Nineteen different aspects of the "development worldview" are covered, including Environment, Equality, Market, Needs, Population, Progress, Resources, Science and Socialism.

## BOOKS RECEIVED (cont'd)

**Helena Norberg-Hodge: ANCIENT FUTURES: LEARNING FROM LADAKH:** Sierra Club Books, 1991, 204pp, hbk, \$25 (obtainable by mail from ISEC/Ladakh Project, 21 Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4ES). A clear, moving and beautifully illustrated account of how development, in stimulating dissatisfaction and greed, "is destroying an economy that had served people's needs for more than a thousand years... Since development first came to Ladakh, I have watched the gap between rich and poor widen; I have watched women lose their self-confidence and power; I have watched the appearance of unemployment and inflation and a dramatic rise in crime; ... I have watched the disintegration of families and communities; and I have watched people become separated from the land, as self-sufficiency is gradually replaced by economic dependence on the outside world." Concluding chapters discuss the need for counter-development, the Ladakh Project initiated by the author, and lessons for the West.

**Lester Brown et al: STATE OF THE WORLD 1992:** Norton, 1992, 256pp, pbk, \$10.95. "Treating the Earth's ecological ills as separate from issues of debt, trade, inequality and consumption is like trying to treat heart disease without addressing a patient's obesity and high-cholesterol diet... Who will lead an intervention against our collective denial of environmental threats? Who will be the Gorbachevs of the Environmental Revolution?". Once again Worldwatch has produced an immensely useful annual compilation.

**Donella Meadows, Dennis Meadows, Jorgen Randers: BEYOND THE LIMITS: GLOBAL COLLAPSE OR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:** Earthscan, 1992, 300pp, pbk, £9.95. The authors of *Limits to Growth* (1972) have updated their computer models. They find many essential resources being used and many pollutants being generated at rates that are unsustainable. But given a reversal of present growth-orientated policies and practices, and a big increase in the efficiency of materials and energy use, a sustainable society is still technically and economically possible. We particularly recommend the last two chapters on Transitions to a Sustainable System, and Overshoot But Not Collapse.

**P.F. Chapman and F. Roberts: METAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY:** Butterworth, 1983, 238pp, hbk. This study - pitched at final year students of engineering, geology and economics - originated as a response to *Limits to Growth*. It analyses the future availability of metals on the basis of the energy required to produce them, and concludes that energy analysis produces valuable new insights.

**M.D. Young: SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT AND RESOURCE USE: EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY AND ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY:** UNESCO and Parthenon, 1992, 176pp, hbk, £35. A valuable analysis of ecological, economic and social concepts, and policies for building a sustainable economy - Volume 9 of UNESCO's *Man and the Biosphere* series.

**Vandana Shiva: THE VIOLENCE OF THE GREEN REVOLUTION:** Zed Books, 1991, 264pp, pbk, £10.95. "The Green Revolution strategy for generating abundance by improving the productivity of land and water has turned into a strategy for creating scarcity of land and water and generating new conflicts." Vandana Shiva shows in convincing detail how the Green Revolution created social conflict as well as ecological breakdown in the Punjab. It represented the "planned destruction of diversity in nature and culture to create the uniformity demanded by centralised management systems".

**Colin Spencer: THE NEW VEGETARIAN: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GOURMET COOKING AND HEALTHY LIVING:** Gaia Books, 256pp, pbk, £7.99. Mouth-watering recipes, supported by a lot of useful information about such things as vitamins, protein, carbohydrates, minerals, fats, sugar, salt and additives - together with a little philosophy. Beautifully produced and illustrated. Outstanding value for money.

**John Elkington and Julia Hailes: HOLIDAYS THAT DON'T COST THE EARTH:** Gollancz, 1992, 384pp, pbk, £5.99. "Tourism is currently where the nuclear power and pesticide industries were in the early 1960s." Then they promised electricity too cheap to meter and food for all. Later we realised their environmental costs. Green tourism involves challenging the tour operators, goading governments, and acting as responsible holiday-makers. This green consumer guide tells us how.

**Jennifer Meek: SICK EARTH SYNDROME: AND HOW TO SURVIVE IT:** Optima, 1992, 198pp, pbk, £6.99. Pollution in the environment, electromagnetic pollution, pollution in the home, pollution at work and school, pollution we consume - this book discusses them all, and suggests how to start improving our bodies, homes, schools, workplaces and our world to make them safer, healthier and happier.

**Group of Green Economists: ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS: A PRACTICAL PROGRAMME FOR GLOBAL REFORM:** Zed Books, 1992, 162pp, pbk, £10.95. Economists associated with the German Greens offer a programme of world development based on self-reliance, ecological balance, solidarity, equalisation of development opportunities, protection of human rights, and democratisation of the global economy.

**Vandana Shiva (ed): BIODIVERSITY: SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES:** Zed Books and World Rainforest Movement, 1991, 123pp, pbk, £9.95. Six contributors reflect the WRM's philosophy of pluralism. "The disappearance of ecological diversity and the intolerance of cultural diversity are... intimately linked." Instead of green capitalism and the commercially driven gene revolution, we should use "the experiences of local people to create a world where their rights become recognised as inextricably bound with conservation issues".

**Olaf Egeberg: RIGHT NOW:** McGee Street Press (PO Box 56756, Washington, DC 20040, USA), 118pp, pbk. \$6.50 + \$3 p&p. A thoughtful little primer for citizenship in the new emerging world, written to help people into a deeper and larger view of themselves. "Maybe at some time in the future we will look back and be intrigued that for such a long time we saw God as something other than ourselves".

**Benjamin B. Ferencz (ed): WORLD SECURITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS:** Adamantine Press, 1991, 228pp, hbk, £32.50. Report of a colloquium between American and Soviet legal experts in June/July 1990. Includes a 28pp bibliography.

**Howard Horsburgh: POWER TAMING: PEACEMAKING STRATEGIES FOR THE WORLD:** Gooday Publishers (PO Box 60, East Wittering, West Sussex PO20 8RA), 1991, 220pp, pbk; and **Howard Horsburgh: QUENCHING WRATH: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND NON-VIOLENCE:** Pax Books (c/o George Paxton, 87 Barrington Drive, Glasgow G4 9ES), 1992, 100pp, pbk, £3. On non-violence and dis-arming as the only practical way forward.

**Archie J. Bahm: WHY BE MORAL?:** World Books, 1992, 435pp, pbk. "One ought to want to know the difference between wise and foolish self-interest. So long as wise self-interest is recognised as the end of ethics, ethics will never end."

## ENERGY, SUSTAINABILITY AND A GREEN FUTURE

For Britain to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to a level that the whole world could share, may require a 90% reduction in fossil fuel use. A report to the CHURCHES ENERGY GROUP (secretary: Diana Hasting, The Middle House, 11 High Street, Milton, Nr. Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4ER) from the ASSOCIATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY (9 Sherlock Mews, London W1M 3RH - contact: Linda Taylor) shows that a powerful bias towards using more energy, rather than using less more efficiently, now distorts the market for energy services. The ACE report suggests what churchpeople and others can do.

GLOBAL COMMONS INSTITUTE (Aubrey Meyer, 42 Windsor Road, London NW2 5DS) publishes campaigning information on the rich countries' need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to globally sustainable levels.

"It will become clear that efficient use of energy is the quickest way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and that renewable energy is the only sensible long-term solution. It will also be understood that in the new information society anyone using excessive energy is a pathetic relic of the industrial age." From ECODECISION, March 1992, a quarterly magazine for "decision-makers" in English and French from Environment and Policy Society (Royal Society of Canada), 276 rue St. Jacques Ouest, bureau 924, Montreal, Canada H2Y 1N3.

ENVIRO, May 1992 (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, S-171 85 Solna, Sweden) reports that use of renewable energy, technically and economically feasible now, could reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a third in Western Europe by 2020, and suggests that an International Renewable Energy Agency should be set up. Greenpeace International is also proposing - see DEVELOPMENT 1992:1 (Society for International Development, Palazzo Civiltà del Lavoro, 00144 Rome, Italy) - a new UN body to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy use. The only energy technology for which a global promotional agency now exists is nuclear power - the International Atomic Energy Agency, "a body whose function is both anomalous and anachronistic".

Hazel Henderson has established a CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ALTERNATIVE WORLD FUTURES (PO Box 3687, St. Augustine, FL 32085, USA) in affiliation with the University of Florida. It will focus on redefining wealth, progress, development, and human goals and values.

The ELMWOOD INSTITUTE (2642 College Avenue, PO Box 5765, Berkeley, CA 94705, USA), an ecological think-tank founded by Fritjof Capra, aims to build an intellectual/activist community around the new paradigm. Projects include Ecomanagement (sustainable business), Ecoliteracy (curriculum development), and Native American Environmental Ethics.

FUTURES is a new series of quarterly briefings from the Futures Unit, US Environmental Protection Agency (David Rijeski and Joe Abe, Office of Strategic Planning and Environmental Data, OPPE, PM-222A, USEPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460, USA). James Robertson gave a seminar there on "Alternative Economics and the Environment" in his March/April speaking tour in the USA.

"Training the corporate environmentalists of the future represents one of the most important challenges we face". In THE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTALISTS: SELLING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BUT CAN THEY DELIVER? (234pp, £27, from SustainAbility, The People's Hall, 91-97 Freston Road, London W11 4BD) John Elkington (with Anne Dimmock) reports on SustainAbility's 1991 Greenworld Survey.

DYNAMICS OF SOCIETAL LEARNING ABOUT GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, International Social Science Council and UNESCO, 1991, is by a Survey Research group chaired by Robert M. Worcester (MORI, 32 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP). The aim is to improve "understanding of the awareness and perceptions of the world's population of global environmental change and its threat potential". Meanwhile, an interesting NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PARADIGM SURVEY 1991 (Hong Kong Environment Center, S301, Lai Mei Hse, Lai Kok Est., Cheung Sha Wan, Hong Kong) shows "how inadequate the current programmes [of environmental education] are in generating environmentally friendly actions. The anthropocentric attitude is still predominant".

WHAT FUTURE?, from the SAFE Alliance (21 Tower Street, London WC2H 9NS) for sustainable agriculture, food and environment, includes "Farming for the Future: The Ten-Point Challenge" and suggests practical ways the reader can help to change things for the better.

"Recent comment in the press may have left the impression that serious support for organic farming.. is .. on its way. We hope it is, but... ". Elm Farm Research Centre's (Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG15 0HR) first BULLETIN offers a balanced assessment.

Leaf For Life (37-39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES) promotes the use of leaf concentrate as a response to malnutrition in the Third World. It needs support for its programmes in Bangladesh, India, Bolivia, Mexico and Nicaragua.

GREENPATHS CENTRE's autumn programme includes seminars on Domestic Comfort in a Conserver Society (at Plymouth University School of Architecture) and on Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and the LETSystem (at Dartington). Details from Michael Kendall (Greenpaths Centre, Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EB).

HOLIS, The Society for a Sustainable Future (Lester Milbrath, Environment and Society, Sociology Dept., Park Hall, SUNY/Buffalo, NY 14260, USA) was launched in March - academic/professional membership.

A nationwide autumn GREEN SPIRITUALITY Festival will include a Weekend Workshop in London on 10-11 October. Centre For Creation Spirituality (St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 9LF).

CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK's 10th Anniversary Conference, 20-22 November, is on "Living as if the Earth Belongs to God". Details from: editor, Green Christians (The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon OX14 4AF).

INFOLIFE (23 New Mount Street, Manchester M4 4DE; Jake Gomilny) is an information service for Local Authorities on sustainable development.

DIRECTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SOURCES is free locally, £5 elsewhere, from Cumbria Environmental Information Network (Cumbria County Library, Arroyo Block, The Castle, Carlisle, CA3 8XF).

Arend Hoogervorst edits EAGLE BULLETIN (PO Box 3266, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa), an environmental newsletter for the professions.

The BIODIVERSITY COALITION (Alistair Graham, C/PO, Cygnet, 7112 Tasmania, Australia) published its first newsletter in January 1992.

ECONORD Magasin is a new joint Russian/Norwegian/Swedish environmental magazine (Dr. Alexander Baklanov, Econord Environmental Information Centre, PO Box 220, 184200 Apatity, Russia).

## PEOPLE, POLIS, AND POLITICS

Destruction of people's self-esteem causes social as well as personal damage. A new SELF-ESTEEM Network for those concerned to promote people's self-worth and to put the issue on the mainstream agenda, will be launched at Regent's College, London on 17th October. Details from Titus Alexander (32 Carisbrooke Road, London E17 7EF).

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM (88pp, 1991) proposes liberatory mental health reforms based on Re-evaluation Counseling - \$3 from Rational Island Publishers (PO Box 2081, Main Office Station, Seattle, WA 98111, USA), or £2.20 inc. p&p from A.G. Simmons (35 Dartmouth Street, Stafford, ST16 3TU).

SOCIETY AND NATURE is an International Journal of Political Ecology (PO Box 637, Littleton, CO 80160, USA; ed. Takis Fotopoulos - see p.6). Its "new liberatory social project" involves transition from a hierarchical to an ecological society and a synthesis between the autonomous democratic, the libertarian socialist, and the radical green movements. Contributors to Vol.1, No.1 on THE POLIS AND SELF-MANAGEMENT TODAY include Janet Biehl: "The very logic of democracy demands the inclusion of women, that the separation of oikos and polis be overcome, and that work in the 'realm of necessity' and the 'realm of freedom' be redistributed [between men and women].." Also Murray Bookchin, John Friedmann, James Robertson.

"Current versions of socialism and democratic capitalism fail to offer workable visions of a good society that can guide or inspire progress". PEGS Newsletter (Committee on the Political Economy of the Good Society, Dept. of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA) aims to contribute to new theoretical foundations for real-world political-economic systems.

REAL WORLD: THE VOICE OF GREEN POLITICS is a new journal published by the Green Party (10 Station Parade, Balham High Road, London SW12 9AZ) to fill a gap in existing media analysis of issues and events.

Continuous, direct democracy "... is the proper agency of the volunteer, the principled professional and the disadvantaged. Their combination is the constituency of the future." Peter Cadogan (3 Hinchinbrook House, Greville Road, London NW6 5UP) on "People Power", FOURTH WORLD REVIEW (John Papworth, 24 Abercorn Place, London NW8).

Gunnar Adler-Karlsson (The Capri Institute, Box 79, I-80071 Anacapri, Italy) suggests - in "Lessons from our Failures on the Swedish Experience of Democratic Socialism", Journal of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Vol.35, 1991 - that history tends to minimise the proportion of A to P (adrenalinomaniac rulers to population), that inequality will remain a basic reality for at least 50 years, and that the best hope is to create societies in which only good rulers come to the top, and keep them good when they get there.

Nicholas Falk (URBED, 3 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NT) is on the steering group of VISION FOR LONDON (The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT), an alliance of diverse aspects of London aiming to stimulate informed debate on its future. Newsletter £2.50.

URBAN VILLAGES: Urban Villages Group (5 Cleveland Place, London SW1Y 6JJ), 1992, 95pp. Finely produced report with 'Greenville' town map, on concept of mixed-use Structured Planned Urban Developments (SPUDS) on a sustainable scale. Foreword by Prince Charles.

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

Our governing party depends on business financial support, our information media on business advertising, our culture and sport on business sponsorship. We heard of a carol service last Christmas sponsored by British Nuclear Fuels. What next?

"Babymilk companies realise that they only have a market if mothers do not breastfeed. To create and maintain a demand they undermine breastfeeding, using methods such as free supplies to maternity hospitals, free samples to mothers, misleading information, advertising and promotion to health workers." In "The Ecological Impact Of Bottle Feeding", 1991, from BABY MILK ACTION (23 St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AX), Andrew Radford says bottle-feeding not only causes one and a half million infant deaths a year, but contributes to Third World debt and environmental damage from unnecessary packaging, processing, transport, and dairy farming.

The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in the Philippines, built by the American company Westinghouse on an earthquake fault for \$2.2 billion amid accusations of fraud, has never functioned and is now costing the Philippine people \$355,000 a day in interest payments. In the March/April World Development Movement newspaper SPUR (25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR) Ed Mayo, now director of NEF (see p7), reported that rich-country debt relief proposals would prevent the Philippines government taking Westinghouse to court.

A leaked internal memo by World Bank chief economist Lawrence Summers last December stressed that economic logic demands the dumping of toxic wastes and pollution in low-wage countries, where people put lower monetary values on a good environment and good health. The problem with counter-arguments was that they "could be turned around and used against every Bank proposal for liberalisation". Quite!

The GATT "free trade" proposals for patenting genes would make biotechnology an unattainable dream for Indian industry, science and research, and 650,000 Indian small farmers could become landless labourers. DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES, April 1992 (B-32 TARA Crescent, Institutional Area, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110 016, India) reports on the GENE CAMPAIGN (F-31 Green Park (Main), New Delhi 110 016, India) for the rights of Third World farmers and scientists.

"Free traders enthusiastically malign the former command-and-control economies of Eastern Europe and the USSR. They ignore the fact that the command-and-control economies internal to the 100 largest global corporations exceed the GNP of more than half the world's nation states... These giant corporations... represent great islands of unaccountable central planning within the global market." David Korten and Paul Ekins on "Beyond the Market Versus State" in HUMAN ECONOMY newsletter, June 1992 (Box 14, Economics Dept., Mankato State University, Mankato, MN 56001, USA).

According to the February 1992 EC Green Paper on Transport, Europe will face a "completely unmanageable" situation if the growth of road traffic continues. As Stephen Plowden (69 Albert Street, London NW1 7LX) points out in a recent paper for the Institution of Civil Engineers, "traffic restraint, far from limiting choice, is the only way in which a decent range of options - including the option to use a car in tolerable conditions when it would be especially convenient - can be provided". Freedom is not limited by rules. "Suitable rules are the condition of freedom".



## STILL MORE ABOUT BOOKS

Pedro di Girolamo's 1992 Spanish edition of James Robertson's *The Sane Alternative* is going well in Chile and there is interest elsewhere in Latin America. Copies by mail order from him at: Pedro de Valdivia 1801, Santiago, Chile. Prices (inc. p&p) as follows:

* North, Central and South America	-	US\$14
* Rest of the World	-	US\$15
* Chile	-	\$4000
* cheques payable in Chile.		

## BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM US

An era in world history - European, scientific, industrial, masculine - is ending. The post-modern transition to more humane and sustainable ways of living, organising and thinking will dominate the coming years. James Robertson's books are about this transition.

**FUTURE WEALTH: A New Economics For The 21st Century** (Cassell, 1990; 160pp; pbk £6.95 + £1.00 p&p).

"The subtitle, *A New Economics for the 21st Century*, is an exact description of this very remarkable book."

Harford Thomas, *The Good Book Guide*.

"It could well be that *Future Wealth* will ultimately be required reading for economics students, alongside *The Wealth of Nations* and *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*."

Francis Kinsman, *Management Today*.

**FUTURE WORK: Jobs, Self-Employment and Leisure After the Industrial Age** (Gower/Temple Smith, 1985; 220pp; pbk £6.95 + £1.00 p&p).

"The best book of its kind so far... Packed with ideas... Enthusiasm and verve."

Prof. R.E. Pahl, *Times Lit. Supp.*

"Important work... Highly relevant to our present society."

Rt.Hon. David Howell MP, *Financial Times*.

**THE SANE ALTERNATIVE: A Choice of Futures** (Robertson, Revised Edition, 1983; 156pp; pbk £2.95 + 50p p&p).

"Indispensable. A rare combination of important new theory with practical guidance."

Hazel Henderson (in the foreword to the US edition).

"The most practical book on futures that I know."

Prof. John Morris, Manchester Business School.

These books are obtainable by mail order from us (payment in sterling - cheques to James Robertson, please - see p.1 for address). US\$ orders to Bootstrap Press, Suite 9a, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 (please ask Bootstrap for prices).

## CLICHE CORNER

Which players will climb through a window of opportunity to kickstart a more vibrant economy on a level playing field? This question encapsulates an out-of-date paradigm.