

"TOLSTOY: PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER

David Redfearn

Publ. Shephard-Walwyn. 196 pp.

This book is an excellent coverage of Tolstoy's life and thought. In particular, it provides a superb account of the interaction of Tolstoy with Henry George. It also includes other areas of concern for Tolstoy: the influence of religion (especially the Sermon on the Mount); the role of non-violent resistance; the nature of the State (here Tolstoy's attitude was decidedly negative).

There are also some illuminating historical passages on the power games

of the European imperialistic nations.

Redfearn brings out very clearly the extraordinary misunderstandings of both Tolstoy and George on the part of certain scholars. (Such gross distortions are undoubtedly a major reason for the slowness of response towards the Georgist message.)

The final chapter on Tolstoy and *perestroika* is of special topical relevance.

The book highlights the tragedy for Russia of following Marxist /Leninist ideas instead of the wisdom of Tolstoy, and indeed, on a world scale, of pursuing *Realpolitik* instead of Tolstoyan principles.

There is a most informative Foreword by Anatoly Govalov, of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

Sadly, the author, David Redfearn, died shortly after the appearance of the book. Hopefully, however, it will play a key role in the dissemination of the ideas of both Tolstoy and George that are so desperately needed in today's world.

Geoff Forster.