



green books

# Press Release

04/11/2011

## THE BREAKDOWN OF NATIONS

Leopold Kohr

Forewords by Neal Ascherson & Richard Body

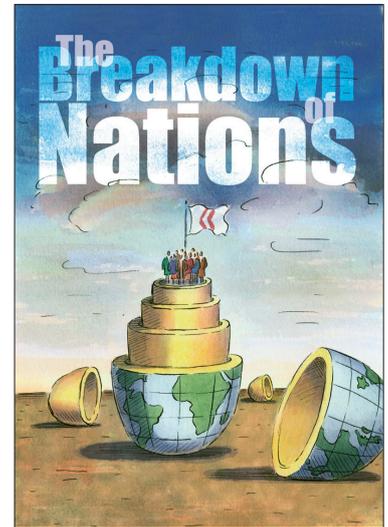
- Featured as a main focus of an article in The Guardian by Paul Kingsnorth

*"Little states produce greater wisdom in their policies because they are weak. Their leaders could not get away with stupidity, not even in the short run. It is not by accident that the politically and socially most advanced countries of the world today are (small) states. Large powers, on the other hand, can get away with stupidity for prolonged periods. But who amongst us, if he feels that he can get away with stupidity, which can be had so effortlessly, will ever take the trouble and pains of being wise?" - Leopold Kohr*

In *The Breakdown of Nations* Leopold Kohr shows that throughout history, people who have lived in small states are happier, more peaceful, more creative and more prosperous. He argues that virtually all our political and social problems would be greatly diminished if the world's major countries were to dissolve back into the small states from which they sprang. Rather than making even larger political unions, in the mistaken belief that this will bring peace and security, we should minimise the aggregation of power by returning to a patchwork of small, relatively powerless states where leaders are accessible to and responsive to the people.

This new edition is published at a time when Britain faces its most important political decision for hundreds of years - whether or not to join a common European currency. Many believe that this would lead inexorably to a European sub-state, so it is timely to re-examine the implications of the size of political groupings, whether they be states nations or federations.

**The Author:** Leopold Kohr was the originator of the concept of 'the human scale', an idea later popularised by his friend E.F. Schumacher, notably in the best-selling book *Small is Beautiful*. Born near Salzberg in 1909, Kohr was an economist by profession, holding academic positions at many universities, including Professor of Economics and Public Administration at the University of Puerto Rico; he also held visiting Professorships at Swansea, Cambridge, Mexico City and Salzberg. His other books include *Development Without Aid*, *The Over-Developed Nations*, *Freedom From Government* and *Is Wales Viable?*. He died in 1994



Available Now

Green Books

ISBN | 870098 98 6

234 mm x 205 mm

256 pp

£9.95 pb

### Contents:

- The Philosophies of Misery
- The Power Theory of Aggression
  - Disunion Now
- Tyranny in a Small-State World
  - The Physics of Politics
- Individual and Average Man
  - The Glory of the Small
- The Efficiency of the Small
  - Union Through Division
- The Elimination of Great Powers
  - But Will It Be Done
  - The American Empire

#### PUBLISHERS

Bee West, Green Books,  
Dartington Space, Dartington Hall,  
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN  
Tel: 01803 863260  
Fax: 01803 863843  
sales@greenbooks.co.uk  
www.greenbooks.co.uk

#### PUBLICITY

Stacey Hedge, Green Books,  
Dartington Space, Dartington Hall,  
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN  
Tel: 01803 863260  
Fax: 01803 863843  
publicity@greenbooks.co.uk  
www.greenbooks.co.uk

#### SALES REPRESENTATION

Signature Books Representation UK  
20 Castlegate, York, YO1 9RP  
Tel: 0845 862 1730  
Fax: 0161 683 5270  
sales@signaturebooksuk.com  
www.signaturebooksuk.com

#### UK TRADE DISTRIBUTION

Central Books, 99 Wallis Road,  
London, E9 5LN  
Tel: 0845 458 9911  
Fax: 0845 458 9912  
info@centralbooks.com  
www.centralbooks.com