

Tekst 1

Land reform

Sir, you report angry Scottish landowners drawing parallels with President Mugabe's "land grab" in Zimbabwe (Scotland votes for land reform, January 30).

The 16th-century Elizabethan settlement in England and Wales ensured the exclusion of the Catholic Church for 270 years. All *nouveau riche* Tudor landowners got their land at the expense of religious orders and were petrified at the idea of having to give it back. The Northern Ireland problem has a similar foundation.

People should not benefit from owning land they are not prepared to farm themselves. This type of land reform should become a global priority.

Few of those who own the land in England and Wales farm it or have any right to it. They own the land under laws more arcane than the unwritten constitution of the UK. The constitution remains unwritten because if anyone tried to put it in writing, it would be a laughing stock.

Colin Kirk

Mortagne-au-Perche, France

Guardian Weekly

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- 1p 1 Which of the following does Colin Kirk plead for in his letter?
- A Landownership should be subject to international rather than national law.
 - B Land taken from religious orders should be restored to them.
 - C Scottish legislation on land reform should also apply in the rest of the UK.
 - D The right to own land should be linked to the obligation to cultivate it.