II. Judeo-Christian traditions

A. Dominant religious tradition share same text, the OT, and

the Hebrew Scriptures

B. This tradition is highly anthropocentric

C. Bible - Creation story

1. God said, "Let us make man in our own image . . . let

them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of

heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts, and all the

reptiles that crawl upon the earth

2. Later, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and

conquer it . . . I give you all the seed=bearing plants

and all the trees with seed bearing fruit

3. man also had the power of naming and "each was

to bear the name the man would give it."

D. Bible: the image of wilderness vs the Promised Land

1. Adam and eve banished from Eden into a wilderness

2. "Accursed be the soil" "It shall yield you brambles,

and thistles, and you shall eat wild plants"

3. Moses and Israelites wander in wilderness before they find the Promised Land

E. Bible: Later in the New Testament

1. Jesus spends 40 days in wilderness where it is the place of the devil and temptation

2. Paul continually emphasizes the spiritualvs. the body (nature)

F. Church fathers

G. Institutionalized Christianity

1. Destroyed environment of Europe

a. deforested and overgrazed

i. England deforested by eleventh

ii. Europe deforested by 16th

iii. Spain overgrazed by 15th

b. polluted rivers and streams and siltation

c. loss of arable soil

d. overhunting and overfishing

i. depeleted much of Med and Baltic

ii. exterminated right whales by nineteenth

iii. hunting for sport

e. animal torture sports thrived in church controlled

Europe

i. bearbaiting

ii. cockfighting

iii. bull fighting

f. live vivesection

g. killed cats because they were the devil

h. Churches "defense" of animals

i. St. Augustine: animals are beyond the scheme of salvation

ii. Aquinas who thought the world was God's creation, thought that meant everything was for man "Differences Between Rational and Other Creatures"

a. creation is hierarchy

b. mankind qualitatively unique, reason and intellect in image of God

c. animals are like slaves, they can be

used for the sake of the creatures with an intellect "Therefore every other creature is naturally under slavery, the intellectual nature alone is free."

d. Hereby is refuted the error of those who said it is sinful for a man to kill dumb animals . . . Hence it is no wrong for man to make use of them, either by killing or in any other way whatever."

i. ignorance and fear

i. no artwork or paintings or poems that

showed appreciation

ii. mountains are hideous

iii. monsters and hell creatures

" the earth is filled with restless dread"

H. Protestant Christianity - Protestant Ethic and the Spirit

of Capitalism

1. supported early capitalism and the disenchantment of the world

2. material world exists only as a place of accumulation,

3. success in world meant, perhaps, God's grace in afterworld. Calvinism

C. Puritans, colonists, and pioneers carry on this war against nature.

1. Puritans saw a "hideous and desolate wilderness"

a. wild, immoral, the devil's own "servants of Satan", 'demons from hell",

b. religious practices 'confusion among the damned"

c. hellish fiends and brutish men

2. Saw themselves as the new "chosen people" and that

they were being tested by God

3. As the new chosen people they needed to change this

wildnerness into Garden of Eden - new Jerusalem

4. reclaim the "wild" for God, John Winthrop in 1629

Why remain in England and "suffer a whole Continent

. . . to lie in waste without improvement

5. what does this mean environmentally

i. greatest deforestation in human history

half a million acres

ii. extermination of those whose environmental

practices had created this "paradise"

iii. extermination of most fur bearing herbivores

by 1640, deer and moose

iv. extermination of most game birds

v. filled in marshes and wetlands

"All in all, the presence of just a few hundred thousand of the European branch of the human species, within just a century after its landing did more to alter the environment of NA than many millions of the American branch had done in fifteen centuries or more."

D. Manifest destiny and the war against the environment

1. God has ordained the white man to conquer the

Continent: war on nature

2. defined as war against savages in diaries, letters, "enemy"

"conquered", 'vanguished", "subdued," by the "pioneer

army"

3. by 1830 same attitude, natural world, needs to be

cultivated, it's God's will - Senatory Lewis Cass

4. Same year Gov of Mich, wilderness is waste, proper

relationship to it is exploitation, quoted Genesis

5. 1950s and advocates of giant damn on Colorado

River "conquering wilderness" and "subduing the earth"

6. as late as 1965 article in Saturday Evening Post

talked of civilization being defined in terms of war

with dark forces of nature

7. most large carnivors wolves, bears, mountain lions

had bounties put on them and were nearly extinct in

lower 48 states

Luther Standing Bear: "We do not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and the winding streams with tangle growth as "wild." Only to the white man was nature a "wilderness" and only to him was the land "infested" with "wild' animals and 'savage" people. To us it was tame . . . . not until the hairy man from the East came and with brutal frenzy heaped injustices upon us and the families we loved was it "wild" for us.

8. Kill everything in sight

a. multiple species of whales in bays and lagoons and staggering assortment of sport fish and

marine mammals - sea otters

b. beavers in creeks and streams

c. antelope, deer, badgers, bighorn sheep

d. spotted and red lynx, mountain lions, and jaguar

e. gray wolves and "the best grizzly bear range on earth"

f. golden and bald eagles, condor, flocks of migrating birds (83 separate species) that blacken the sky

g. "one of the greatest natural habitats for wildlife and game birds in the world

h. 22 million acres of finest virgin grassland left in

the world

9. The comprehensive looting and destruction of this

extraordinary biological endowment was the basis for

the development –Primitive Accumulation

a. 1803-1813 killed 50,000 sea otters for fur

b. same period trapped most beaver, mink, and

river otter to extinction

c. cattle destroyed the grasslands

i. quintiple erosion rates

ii. scarred the land with arroyos

d. 1812 killed 30,000 wild horses

e. antelope and wolf pushed out of environment

f. grizzly bear hunts

i. grizzly meat a delicacy

ii. one posse alone killed 22 bears

g. between 1865 and 1890 50%- 90% of

i. one million ducks

ii. quail, doves, rabbits, deer

h. native bird: "lassoed and dragged and

strangled when full of food and clumsy, or

shot just for sport

i. big game hunters spent up to $3500 in 1920s to shoot mountain lions, imported tigers, leopards, and jaguars from zoos that were chained to poles

j. 1914-15 federalized extermination of wolves,

coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, raptors

i. predators were cruel, they murdered

innocent deer and songbirds, wanton killers

ii. "large predatory mammals destructive to

livestock and game no longer have a place

in our advancing civilization"

k. war on cougars Oct 1907 $20 bounty

l. one decade

i. 674 cougars, 3,000 coyotes, 120 bobcats

ii. consequences, deer population 3,000 to

100,000 between 1906 and 1924

iii. Nov 1926 one hundred million mice overran

the town of Taft, reason killed all the predators coyotes, skunks, red tail hawks

III . Science and Technology -- other countries used technology but for most values (religions) would prohibit the type of violent behavior and exploitive behavior that our culture had directed at nature (Buddhism, Taoism).

A. Early science totally disregarded animal suffering on

huge scale - Descartes

1. two substances - mind and matter

2. humans both mind and matter therefore a

soul

3. animals automata or machines, just matter in

motion

B. Scientific world view

1. God's eye view of the world, not seen through

superstitions

2. humans qualitatively different than other living

and non-living, by being self-conscious and reasoning

3. Special and unique standing for humans

a. through reason can shape their world

b. moral standing which gives them rights

3. natural world is matter in motion follows the laws

of nature

a. no inherent value

b. no rights

c. disenchanted

4. through science man

a. understand the laws of nature

b. use the laws of nature to

i. create technologies of power

ii. to shape his world - predictions and control

5. animals live below the threshold of self-consciousness

and reason, no rights no moral standing

6. other societies are "primitive"