I. Social Ecology

A. each is concerned with the **principle of social justice**

1. Focus on social arrangement and political and economic institutions

2. **The fundamental question**s that are asked of institutions is are they hierarchical and if so who benefits and who is harmed.

3. **The claim is** that if a society is comprised of institutions of domination it is more likely to be a society that dominates nature.

The **problem of social justice** is ambiguous at the philosophical leve, but with the contxt we have been speaking we can say it involves the ideas of equal respect, equal consideration of the suffering of others, love and sympathy for humans and no-human beings. **to what degree do institutions live up to this.**

II. John Rawl's "theory of justice"

A. What is the hypothetical situation that would create

the conditions for determing social justice for all

B. This would be the "veil of ignorance" where none

would know their position in the social world

C. given the veil of ignorance Rawl's argues that they

would agree on principles of equality, democratic

D. each individual is to have equal rights to the most

extensive system of liberties

E. social benefits and burdens should be distributed equally

unless an unequal distribution would benefit the least

advantaged members of society

F. and only if those benefits are attached to those positions to

which everyone has equal opportunity

Obviously, our system fails according to these principle.

III. Social Ecology and Murray Bookchin

A. Social arrangements of domination and subordination lead to domination of nature.

B. **hierarchies** are by essence structures which are asymmetrical power relationships, one group holds power over another

C. The logic of hierarchy is the **"logic of domination"**-- superiority, inferiority, dominance and oppression

D. All hierarchies are authoritarian, and are organized to perpetuate themselves and benefit those at the top

D. Beyond Marxism, **not necessarily class** other forms of domination.

E. Hierarchy can be maintained by **coercion**, simple power, or more insidiously it is maintained by **ideological institutions**, specifically **education and the mass media**

F. in fact Bookchin thinks that the most dangerous forms of domination/power is perpetuated by people who have **internalized** the dualism of inequality. See them **as justified**. The wealthy worked for what he got.

G. Societies that are highly hiearchical have a relationship of domination to nature

H. Hierarchies create both the **psychology and the material conditions for the domination** of nature -- he has a social psychology, unfriendly technology.

1. social psychology of dominance achieved by success which involves control over nature.

2. Reification of technologies which are power over nature

I. He has however a dialectical conception of the relationship of the individual and society, the possibitlity of the individual acting

1. identity is mainly determined by society, social roles, history, circumstances, languages, practices etc. in this sense the individual is a microcosm of the social world of which he is a member, society has a life beyond the sum of the individuasl which make it up

2. if members of a society just internalize social reality, then they **reify** society, they just become functions of it,

3. however he argues that the person can undertake **"self-determing activity"** through achieving potential to become a **conscious thinking being**

4. how is this conscious self-determining actiity possible?

**non-coercive free society, no hierarchies**

J. what would be the model of the just community? similar to deep ecology, "libertarian anarchy"

1. decentralized, participatory democracy

2. cooperation rather than competion,

3.it would **approximate small ecosystem**s, diversified, balanced, and harmonious

K. Relates to the practices of sustainable agriculture

criticism:

human life is of a different order, defined by reason, idea of reason is naturalistic, can now guide evolution, "Captain Ahab"