

Global Environmentalism II

10.1.20

- Relationships with nature.
 - all contextual
 - product of time and space.

Q. What did Founders of Sociology say about Man-Nature relationships?

A. Weber:

→ Durkheim: misses social/economic impacts on nature and vice versa.

Marx and Engels: "Nature" is historically produced
labour in transforming, alienating nature.

Why did anti-immigrant issues
rise only in Assam?

Specificity of geography
in the NE and specificity
of hill economies.

Modern Sociology?

Giddens: first sociologist to go beyond "industrialism without capitalism" debate and

Says **Capitalism + Industrialism** → env. catastrophes.

Ulrich Beck: - comes up with idea of **Risk Society**.

- influenced by Bhopal disaster and Chernobyl disaster

new risks that are fundamentally new need new institutionalised responses.
requires shift in "organised irresponsibility"

Now looking at the Politics of it - Environmental Movements.

Giddens
Habermas

All social theorists talk about the need to DEMOCRATIZE state-citizen relationships.

- Limitations of representative Democracy.
- theories of pressure groups that aim to influence public perception.
- Habermas: problem with civil society groups → lobbying can be successful, all aspects of discourse are not considered.

idea of "public sphere" for rational discourse, [eg of Indira Gandhi policy: listening to influential policymakers that were close to her
by this national policy, entire villages could get removed entirely for the parks.]

- Beck: no policy is without politics

- response to "rampant organised irresponsibility"
- ecological democracy.

Roots of Rise in Global environmentalism

Factors allowing the rise of Western Environmentalism

- **Lynn White** → **places the roots of issue in Christianity.**

"God created men in his image" → used to prove inherent superiority of human species over other species. Other species have no soul.

(most religions have this).

Main argument: since Bible makes this distinction clear,
Anthropocentric view of the world.

- **John Muir** → **roots at commercialism.**

"America's issue is excessive focus on individual free enterprise". Increasing commercialism is bad.

- Why was it so easy to romanticize nature?

this does not come from tropical regions.

| indian villages near forested areas do not have any such romantic view of env.

temperate climate allows for romanticism.

Ramachandra Guha:

Three strands of Western Environmentalism.

- **Agrarianism** Gandhi, Jefferson.

Relationship between village and town, organic symbiotic relationships.
TRIBAL bad, INDUSTRIAL bad. **as they are extreme ends.**

the idea that consumption, mass production is a problem.

Focus ON

STAGE II

- **Wilderness / Primitivism.**

Focus ON

STAGE I

- ideal civilization is pre-agrarian

- eliminate 90% of the human civilization if necessary.

- very low levels of technology.

- the plough is an agent of evil, decimates mother earth.

Ishmael

Conversation, gentle and man.

First middle: Agriculture (settles)

- Scientific Industrialism

- needs to be regulated.
- does not trust the market to self-regulate.
- Taming done by
 - institutions of state.
 - legislations.
 - "leave it to the experts"

Focus ON

STAGE 1/1

These three trends borrow from 3 philosophical foundations.

- golden mean of Stewardship Agrarian
- human submission to nature Wilderness
- conquest of nature, scientifically. Scientific

There are dominant models in different areas.

((slides are good here))

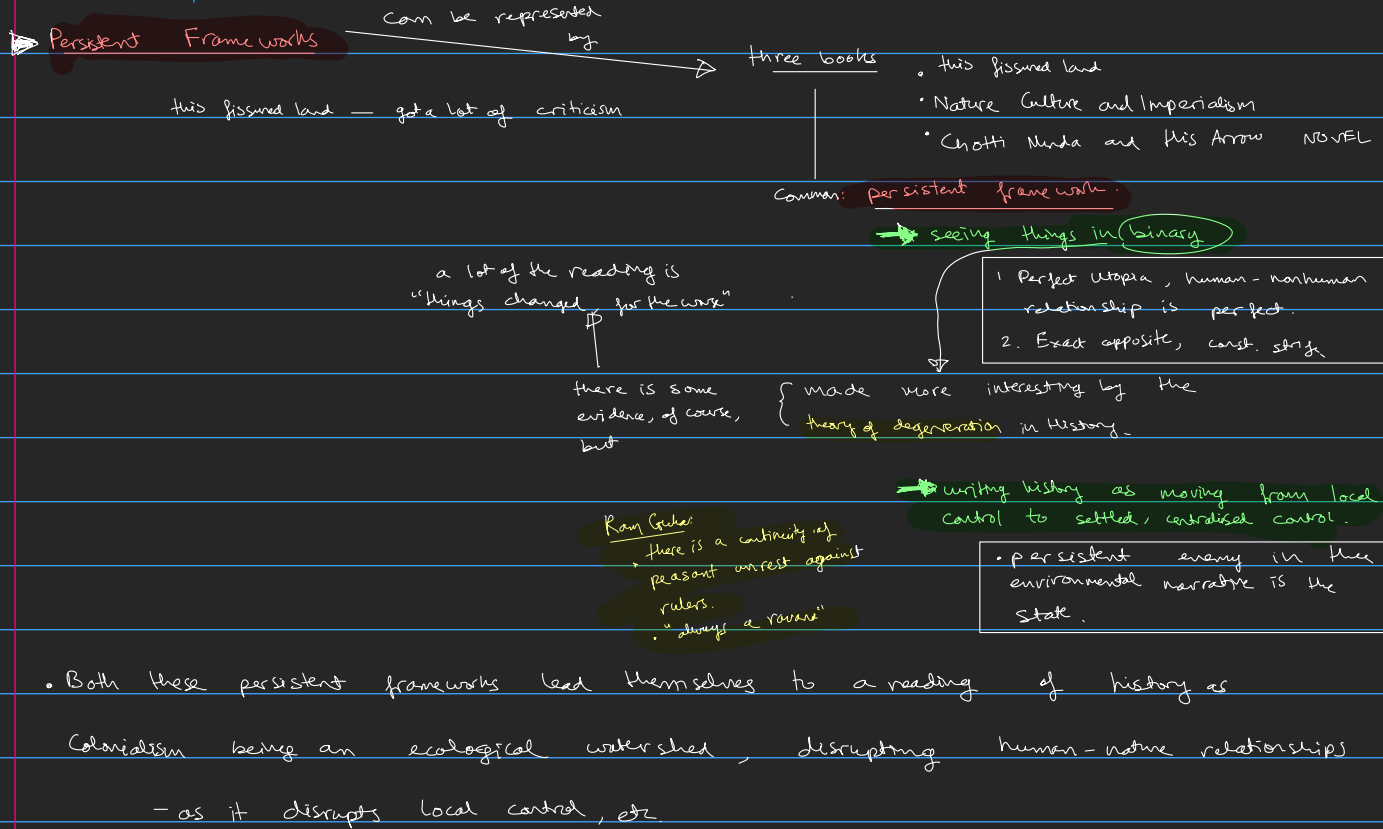
Landmarks in Global Environmentalism

- 1962 Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" — talks of usage pesticides have caused species to die out.
- 1972 Club of Rome's "Limits to Growth" — Did a modelling of the world
- 1972 UN conf on env in Stockholm — Indira Gandhi goes and says "in India, poverty is the biggest problem"
Brazil says "smoke is the sign of progress"
Thatcher — pollution is a third world problem.
- 1973 Schumacher's "Small is Beautiful" — Buddhist economics, "the middle path"
- 1977 Hirsch "The Social Limits to Growth"
- 1983 formed: Brundtland Commission.
- 1987 Brundtland Commission's book.

Indian Environmentalism must move beyond pretty trees and tigers.

Indian Themes in Environmentalism-1

17.1.20



Looking at the first book (this fissured land)

- writing a history of resource use in this area
- time span: massive (ancient India → modern times)
- not working with usual categories (bases of communism, capitalism, etc.)

→ tried to come up with patterns etc.

PART I

4 patterns of resource use in India

- hunting-gathering and shifting cultivation
- nomadic resource use patterns
- settled agriculture
- Industrialism

(not necessarily one after the other)

(all 4 exist currently in India)

- each mode brings with it an **ideology**, way to explain things.
- Comes with a certain kind of **technological** use.
- Comes with its own **economics**.
(they were criticized for being economic determinists)

Issue with writing ecological history:
figuring out tensions between types of resource use.

example of conflict

The **Kislika Case** as conflict between settled agriculturalists and nomadic pastoralists.
• over time, became a conflict of religion

Book: existing battles between resource usage becomes something else as per shifting political climate

PART II

Shift of large society from hunter-g to settlement society caused massive ecological crisis in the 4th century (hasn't been read as such so far)

— ((rise of Jainism and Buddhism)) in India happens at a specific **ecological environmental crisis**

↓
which leads to alternative ways of looking at this.

Interesting point



typical history → rises as a response to Brahmanical tyranny.
Gandhi, Gandhi → " " " " " environmental crisis brought around by settled agriculture.

Rise of village level environmental conservation systems.

PART III

about colonial rule in India

○ "British came, and British destroy"

Black and white perspective. follows the traditional frameworks

- slow and steady destruction of local conservation networks.

PROBLEMS with the book.

- cherry picking case studies.
eg: missing Dams.
- Linear history that does not look at certain evidence.



Edited collection of Articles
Nature Culture & Imperialism

- follows framework (see title)



Novel, originally in Bengali.
Choti Munda and His Arrow

- referring to 1908, Munda.
- British introduce Ernest Dams



Standard Environmental Narrative.
Problems in the Rigid Framework

- serious methodological problems with this study of history

(*) Archana Basak: - Rejects SEN.

- SEN requires a reading of tribes as technologically backward, without trade networks, etc.
- Baigas and Gonds became attracted to them cultivation due to factors:
1. Resistance to centralisation and state

(*) Tigers: - Humans always had boundaries between field and forest.

- What British did was probably not a fundamental reworking of human-nature relationships.

(*) Weak Evidence to suggest SEN is.

Global model of conservation: keep the humans out of control

FIRST THEME

Agrarian Change / Forest Transformation

- CSE's first Citizen's Report.
- British categorize forests.
 - strict rules on mode of control.
- for locals, suddenly forests become inaccessible.
- While the SEN framework is contested, there is evidence of Colonial Rule affecting stuff.

• Concept of Wasteland.

- Viewing of Nature as a resource → notions that become more concrete with the coming of colonial rule

Agarian Change / Forest Transformation

- Pattern of criminalising marginal lifestyles

— Nature is a resource to be product-ized

— not using these is a criminal act.

} Change in perspective on environment.

history written by victors.

1908 legislation

Chota Nagpur tenancy act. → State recognizing their way of living.

Battle between Agriculturists and Nomads is something that exists to this day.

Gujar- Mine tensions.

↳ tensions around resource use patterns

Agriculture:

- Large canal irrigation as the primary irrigation system. In British India.

- earlier, there were many types of systems, suited to ecosystem

— Hilly: water wheels.

— South: Tank irrigations

indigenous ways of dealing with irrigation

- British wanted to grow area under irrigation (especially rice)

— need a system not relying on rain

— Canals setup as a permanent irrigation source.

(ILT Roorkee setup for civil work to man PWD)

: could not coexist very nicely with existing mechanisms of water management
best eg: Kosi

Impact of Canal Irrigation on various Aspects of Life in India

▷ Imperial State as a major source of socioeconomic changes.

— massive increase in net cultivated area.

— " " " agricultural output

— " " " trade

— " " " revenue returns

} given, most commonly noted.

Other changes

1. Slow ecological changes

2. displacement of pastoral production system

- overcropping
 - salination at a massive scale → water sitting on soil changed its composition over time
 - Destruction of older systems
 - ↳ more of a systematic neglect
 - Creation of swamps via percolation
- long term, salination made agriculture hard.

Slide 6, I think

- Canals were constructed without consideration for ecological specificity

- no natural drainage system checks.

ideological way of looking at water shifts.

Siltation is a reason big dams work suboptimally.

Change in Social Structures

- Existing dominant castes allotted more land for agricultural growth and tax collection → increase in influence.

- contraction of grazing grounds

- Destruction of nomadic lifestyles. } both due to
 - reduced land
 - climate change.

Chenab region story, by Indu Khatri: Land Usage in Punjab.

Relationship with Animals

- Reiteration: always been sort of informal human - nonhuman boundary.
 - never was a romantic loving relationship.

- Village economies that relies on agriculture, relationship with (say) elephants.

- On tiger conservation.

- Sub-economy of poaching
 - the ^{direct} poachers are the ones most experienced with the forests.
 - One reason is purely economic.

Concept of "river flow management"

Check Slides — Before Colonial Rule, no long State-sponsored project to eliminate carnivores.

1. Hunting is not this

Multi-headed problem: — saving cultivated land from cattle
— saving cattle from carnivores } multiple legislations to deal with this

implement western conservation policies in India, (National Park Model)

— inspired by romantic views of nature.

Shifted from

One Extreme

to

Another extreme

↓
boundaries constantly breached (defy).
→ requires extensive policing.

"Joining the Dots", CSE report

Entire Communities eliminated/removed for this.

Other reason why model has collapsed. story from Africa

Elephants: strong community.
intelligent
non-violent

'An Elephant Gradual'

elephants now raping and killing rhinos
other elephant.

Changing animal Behaviour an external pressure changing direction of conservation.

NARRATIVE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES

- New examination of Religions from an ecological perspective.

• attempts to reinterpret the original text.

• Deep interconnections in nature

1. pick up specific quotes

• Claims that we cannot see all of this.

2. read between the lines.

↓
suggest that ecology was at the foundation of the religion.

NOT A FOCUS IN THIS COURSE.

multidisciplinary

[[Read castes as ecological niches]]

- partitioning of resource usage among castes

traditional view of

Caste as:

- measure of social purity, rather than occupational.
- endogamic
- mutual repulsion
- hypersymbolism

Godgill and Malhotra:

- see caste as having a natural (ecological) basis.
- castes evolved to reduce competitive exclusion
- " " " improve resource partitioning.
- caste is a social system by which ecological wisdom is transmitted over time.

Ecological

examination of

Godgill's examination of
hindu caste.

PROBLEM WITH THIS EXPLANATION

- analogy with animal species.

- methodological flaw: generalising a single region to the entire country.
- shifting caste occupations are not explained by the argument (should lead to ecological collapse, don't)
- at times, castes will reframe themselves. Some sort of permeability within units.
- Does not explain territorial/environmental mobility.

Are we potentially seeking ecological reasons to things that don't have any?

[[Sacred Groves, Kerala]]

Kavu: worshipped as it is the garden of a deity, to keep the deity happy.

Rich Freeman: found evidence of varying rules across KAVUS.

• How are these rules emerging?

- "the deity desires"

- cannot see env. cons. as single reason.

↓ human beings are constructing needs for the deity.

[caste has a role in this].

Needs are defined by culture

parallel to Royal Garden.

Depictions of Jesus.

- used to show that people construct gods in their image.

from here,

Similarity.

Examining narrative of a "loving relationship with nature"

- praying before entry to the forest: "please ensure I stay alive"

((check slides, pretty comprehensive))

Development and Environmentalism

Going over first class slides

- 1700s, Bishnoi
- Chipko
- Sardar Sarovar dams

Slight Aside

- Public Hearings for development projects
 - Representatives of the company sell the project to the public
 - Usually, conflict arises between Resources and Resource Usage

- Elephants getting burned
 - Road construction
 - can destroy migratory routes
 - can change ecological balance

Water

- commonly in South Asia: Water as a common resource.

- impact of development on water resources

- "Water Conflicts in India"

- constant theme of rural-urban conflict
 - resource use benefits the cities, not so much villages near the resource use plant.

◦ Types of conflicts

- << Slides >>

- usage conflicts ... Industrial usage vs rest.

Agriculture vs personal

...

- equity, access, etc. Assume everyone's use case is the same. How will it be used and distributed?

India: Caste, Gender, class

- Asia Bibi case | Christianity vs Islam actually caste

Same Resource Use

- Throwing Kerosene into a well to ensure Dalits can't access it.

- Water quality:
- Sand mining: Changes course of river
- Micro-level:
- Dams
- boundary water conflicts:

- Privatization

- Sometimes about resource use (Karnataka)
- Sometimes about pollution (Delhi vs the rest)

Models

- infrastructure only
- distribution

- now something can be derived on the basis of money
- commodification

ECONOMIC

PHILOSOPHICAL

Back to development

◦ Some consequences are intended

- Some/Many " " " unintended
 - eg: Connecting island to mainland with a bridge.
 - bridge completely alters ecosystem

◦ General examples of environment fluxes:

- eg: Cats introduced to an island eliminate entirely a smaller species
- eg: Wolf in Yellowstone ⇒ river revived.

Official Inequity

- Water allocation per capita in Delhi

◦ Impact on poor, landless. See SA, Johannesburg Case

◦ Rajiv Water Limited: Extreme case

Concept of "water/locks"

↓
comes from social custom, not state sponsoring.

Other aspects of Development

• Urban pollution

- Case of Delhi

Developed: greater percentage of population in cities.

Questions Raised by the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- questioning development
- Considering democracy and decision making
- Equity

Common Property Resources

- Community assets

- cushion: Act as emergency risk-sharing mechanism.

- Key to local economy in dry ecosystems.

- CPRs are declining. Why?

- human intervention had an impact on ecology

- o CPRs → private land
 - o Distance to markets ↑
 - o Increase in land costs

- Public Welfare leads to less focus on CPRs

- 30-40% work was community-based

⇒ focus on community projects drops

- reduced mandate of the community

- Increased inequality

- o Green Revolution: overall increase in inequality

o what are CPRs

o what has development done to traditional

CPRs.

Check Slides

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Check Slides :- Gender, Poverty, and Environment: Impact on Women

✓ Example of the Buffalo Scheme

Summary Dev has often caused

- decrease in access to resources
- increase in inequality

Example on (a conception of) Equality

04.02.2020

Ubuntu: I am because we are

not all concepts of equality are such.

Justice / Rights / Equality are interdependent

Today, we look at conceptions of Justice

the law is not Justice

→ not this subversion of Justice

- What should Justice mean?
- Can we have diff. concepts of Justice.

Read
John Rawls
theories

Rawls? theory of Justice: Justice has to be based on fairness

• Critiques

- putting liberty over all else, including principle 2a (affirmative action something)
(putting a structural obstacle to removing inequality)
- feminist attack: • he's concerned with public policy / life (ignoring private sphere)

attacks

- In this process the private sphere (inside families, a primary concern for many feminists, as it concerns their life) is ignored

family has always been governed by public policy, so laws of individual liberty, etc. should apply within the family

Social reproduction theory: the reproduction of labour happens in the private sphere
[legitimate labour contributing to the economy outside of public acknowledgement]

End State / Social Justice theories:

- Justice should be at a broad societal level

(in social life)

o if you constitute $x\%$ of the population, you should also represent $x\%$ in public life

two arguments

A: the unrepresented are not good enough

CA: are you implying that they inherently do not have the property

Problems

- how do you decide needs?
/ what is merit and what is not?
/ eg: cricket vs hockey salary

Dushyant: Hissedori leads to Hisse/Hisse
[identity politics]

- Equal distribution will not meet needs, either exceeding or falling short

Rights discourse is subjective of.

Rights

- basic foundation for any modern political setup
- : eg. Declaration of Rights (1776)

India:

earlier, property
• literate
1947+: • Universal

} almost all countries had this

property
race

Multiple Rights Movements

- pushing the boundaries of Rights
- └ Women's
- LGBTQ
- ...

1976, ADJ? vs Shukla (Habeas Corpus)

- (OG) Chakrabarty in the Panel

Judgment: State does not have to produce ...

Backdrop: emergency,
random detentions

- (new) Chakrabarty overrules this judgement

Point: Constitution did not change,

Interpretation did ⇒ Rights conception will change.

Rights

Right to do something

Right to have something done to you

What grounds have claims to rights?

- legal
- but ≠ not all rights have a legal basis
- moral reprehensible
- ethical grounds
- human grounds

Negative Right of

Right to non-Interference

Used often in Environmental Politics

Economic rights:

Political rights: expansion of OG Civil Rights

Civil Rights Movement (MLK): essentially, Right to Equal Economic Opportunity

Derivative Rights are merely extensions of original discourse

Why the Rights discourse start getting problematic

- Cultural Membership Rights,

- in public sphere, almost immediately translates to demand for political autonomy.
eg: Article 370, 369, 371, etc.

• have right to practice their culture

• " " defend invasion to culture

eg: Nagaland, women in public life.

• Right to cultural practice

• Right to equality for women

A conflict

Atraveer contrarg: considering culture as monolithic boxes

another, Marxist arg: aren't all cultures based around consolidation of power

Now, (Rasthika)

Now, most States go out of their way to protect minority rights

- PESA
- Scheduled Areas

Democracies always have the danger of falling into majoritarianism

- so, active democracies need active minority spaces
- otherwise, democracy will not protect the minority