

# 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's 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.

Most famous work on  
Sociology  
shortly thinking  
about human-nature  
relationships  
But no theoretical  
analysis

Does not give a  
full Marxist theory,  
but gives some ideas.

## 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 don't 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

- ideal civilization is pre-agrarian

STAGE I

- 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, grills and men.

First middle: Agriculture (soil)

## - 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 figers.