

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.

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.

why did anti-immigrant issues rise only in Assam?

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

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.

- 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.

Focus ON

STAGE I

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))

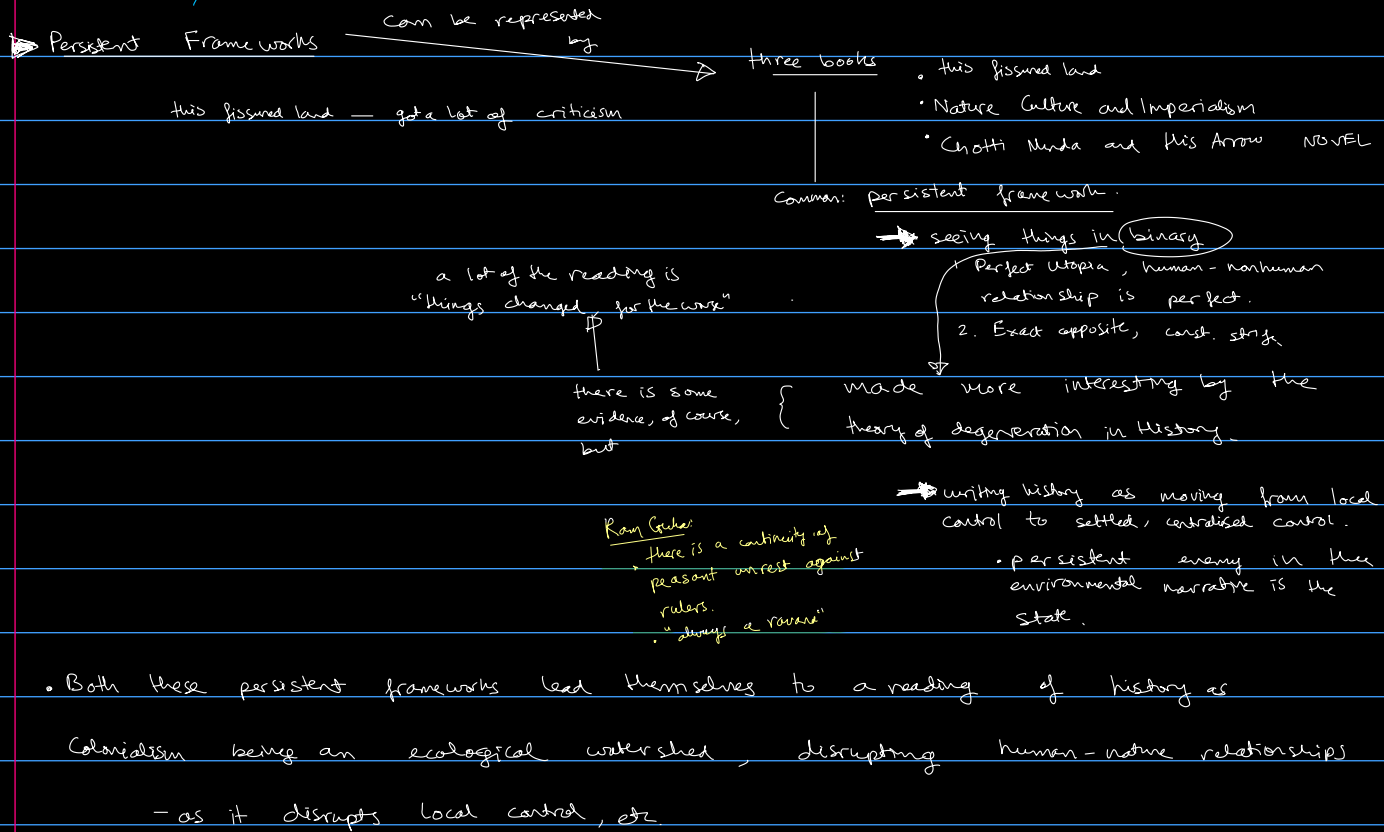
Landmarks in Global Environmentalism

- 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 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 — tried to come up with patterns etc.
- time span: massive (ancient India → modern times)
- not working with usual categories (bases of communism, capitalism, 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 to 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.

The Asiatic 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.

↓
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

— cherry picking case studies.

eg: missing Dams.

— Linear history that does not look at certain evidence.



Nature Culture & Imperialism

— follows framework (see title)



Choti Munda and His Arrow

— referring to 1908, Munda.

— British introduce Ernest Darnley



Problems in the ^{Standard Environmental Narrative} 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 business 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.

