

INTL 101 – WEEK 6.

A05 & A06.

02/15/2019

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Announcements

- Office Hours. Fridays: 1 – 3 pm. RBC 3131 (GPS Complex).
- Your Midterms grades will be posted on TritonEd this evening. Exams will be handed to you on Wednesday.
- Response paper due on Wednesday, February 20th:
 1. Guha, *Environmentalism*: 98-124
 2. Joan Martínez Alier: “Environmental Justice and Economic growth: An Alliance between Two Movements *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 23, 1 (2012): 51-73

Response Paper tips

- Answer the prompt!
- Identify the argument.
- Make comparisons between the readings.
- Cite.

02/15/2019

- Key concepts review
- QUIZ! (Based on Guha. Chapters 1 to 4).

Key Concepts Review

- 1. The Organic Conception of Earth and the Rise of the Conquest Mentality.
- 2. Francis Bacon, René Descartes and the Scientific Method.
- 3. Scientific Progress.
- 4. Island Edens and the Desiccation Theory.
- 5. Conservation and Preservation in The United States: John Muir and Gifford Pinchot.
- 6. Quest for Sanitary Cities (Motives and Causes).
- 7. Age of Affluence/Ecological Innocence.
- 8. The Environmental Movement.

1. The Organic Conception of Earth and the Conquest Mentality

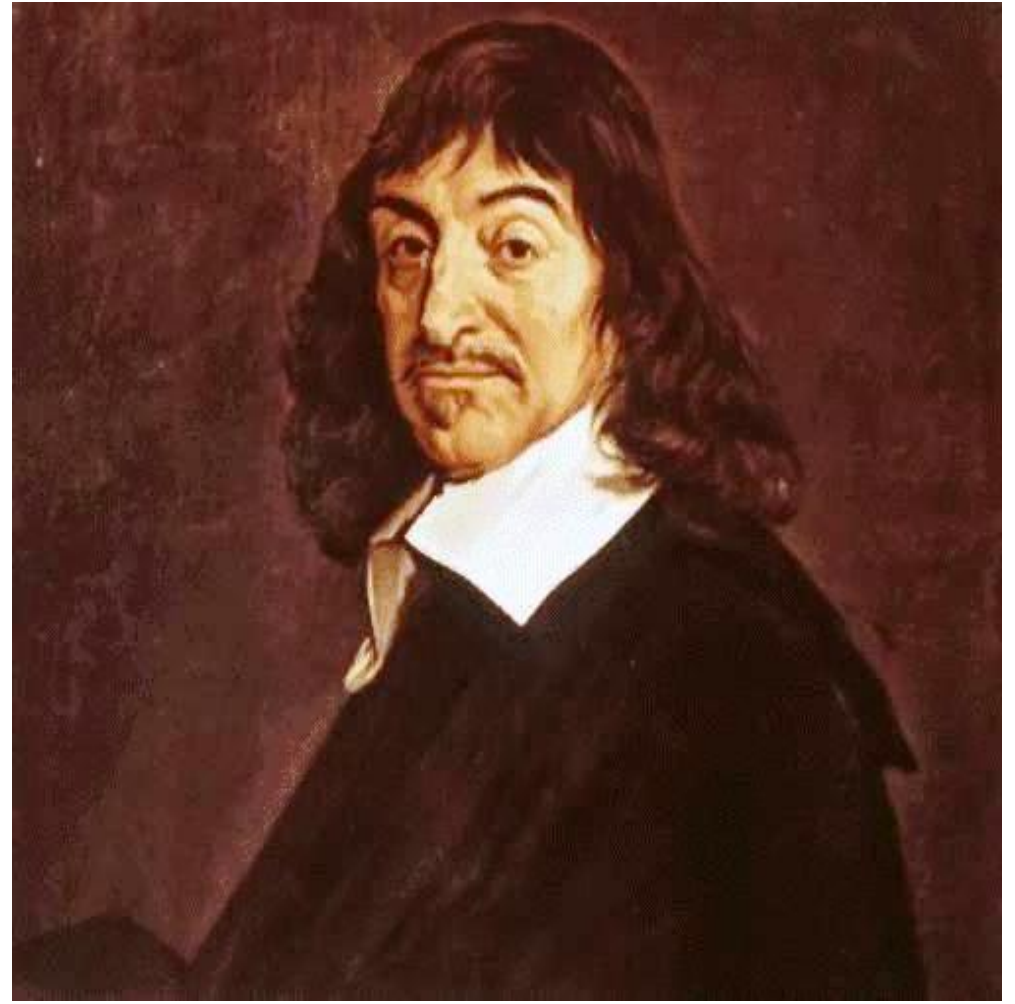
Organic Conception of Earth:

- Before the Industrial/Scientific Revolution there was a organic conception of nature.
- Belief that humans and nature were connected, and that we have to live in harmony with our environment.
- Gendered vision of the Earth. Idea of Mother Earth that has to be nurtured and protected.
- The scientific revolution and the rise of the conquest mentality changes this view of nature and the Earth.

Scientific Revolution and the Rise of the Conquest Mentality

- After the Industrial/Scientific Revolution.
- Scientific knowledge of nature's workings □ give us power and dominion over it.
- Conquest Mentality: Earth at the service of man. We are superior to other living things. Utilitarian view of nature.
- Occurring at same time commercial capitalism spreading around world via Euro colonialism.

2. Francis Bacon, René Descartes and the Scientific Method



Francis Bacon and René Descartes

- **Francis Bacon:** Father of modern science.

The New Atlantis (1627): Utopian work based on the fictitious island of Bensalem, ruled by scientists that dominate nature.

- **René Descartes:** Rationalist philosopher. Defined the scientific method: “*Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting One's Reason and of Seeking Truth in the Sciences (1637)*”. Men understand nature through observation and experimentation.

3. Scientific Progress

Scientific Progress:

- Idea that scientific expertise would lead to universal human welfare.
- Anti-political. No need for politics, politicians could simply let scientific experts and technicians solve social problems. (The technological fix).
- Technocracy: Rule of the experts/scientist. Bacon's "New Atlantis".

4. Island Edens and the Desiccation Theory

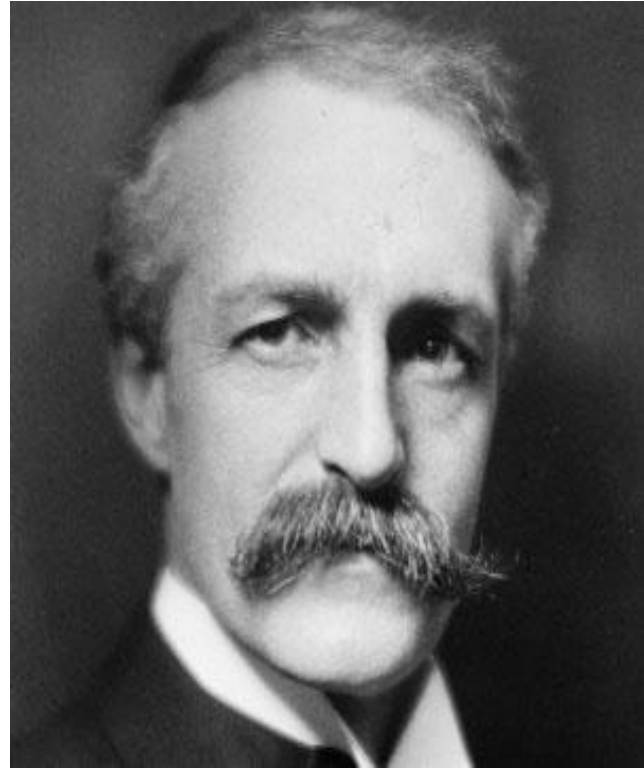
Island Edens

- 17th and 18th centuries. Organic view of nature.
- Spanish, Dutch, French and British colonial officials concerned by the deforestation of tropical island (Caribbean, South America, Asia).
- Biblical frame: Stems from Christianity. The islands were lost Edens that they had to preserve.

The Desiccation Theory

- 18th-19th centuries. Alexander von Humboldt.
- Deforestation leads to water loss and soil erosion.
- Water as the necessary element for the well being of climates and the environment.
- Humboldt saw nature as a world of interconnections. Nature and humans were tied together. Interdependence.

5. Conservation and Preservation in The United States: John Muir and Gifford Pinchot.



John Muir

- Leading proponent of preservation.
- 1892 founded the Sierra Club.
- Muir believed that nature was inspiring, and that had its own rights that had to be protected. Nature as the manifestation of a unifying God.
- Criticized the pioneer (conquest) mentality: pioneers destroyed nature with their technology and settlements.

Gifford Pinchot

- Proponent of Scientific Conservationism.
- Conserving nature for future needs.
- Gospel of efficiency: Rational use of the environment for public use. Sustained growth and production.
- Believed that the government should be first agent in conserving the environment (national parks, forestry departments).
- Utilitarian.

Hetch-Hetchy Valley Controversy

- What happened at Yosemite?

6. Quest for Sanitary Cities (Motives and Causes)

Motives and causes of the quest for the sanitary city, 1860-1920

1. Deterioration of living conditions in growing cities due to industrialization.
2. Miasma fears, then bacteria (bacteriological revolution).
3. A group of professional urban experts and reformers who wanted to improve the living environments for workers.
 - a. Capitalism required healthy work force.
 - b. Workers (from a growing middle class) were beginning to protest living conditions in cities.
4. Urban infrastructure was improved (better water condition , sewerage, paved streets, garbage pick-up, better housing).

7. Age of Affluence/Ecological Innocence and its Consequences

Age of Affluence/Ecological Innocence

- After World War II scenario: Rapid economic growth and industrialization.
- General belief in the promise of modernity to create a good prosperous life based on science and technology.
- Shared worldwide. Widespread industrialization everywhere.
- Communist countries also relied on technology and progress to create paradises on Earth.

Consequences of the Age of Affluence:

- New industries and automobiles contributed to an increase in air pollution worldwide.
- Development of heavier pesticides that remained in the food. Case of DDT.
- Fear of nuclear fallout and radiation. The danger of chemical weapons.
- Protests by the middle class: Environmental Movement.

8. The Environmental Movement

The Environmental Movement:

- Environmentalism: States that protecting nature is crucial for a satisfying human life.
- **Ecology (50s-60s):** The natural world is interconnected. Humans are part of a ecosystem. Harming the environment has nefarious consequences for humans.
- Humans must obey the limits of nature and establish a balance.

The Environmental Movement (II):

- **Environmentalism (60s-70s):** Emerged in the US. Protest against pollution and environmental degradation.
- Technological innovation and economic growth is not progressive if destroys nature.
- Nature cannot be simply subjugated.
- Rachel Carlson (1962): Silent Spring. Criticizes the uses of pesticides in industrial agriculture. Critique of invasive technologies.

QUIZ!

Quiz:

Instructions: You will be answering four true/false question based on Guha's book (from chapter 1 and 4). You will have 6 minutes in total to complete the quiz.

Note that the quizz will be based on correctness, and it will serve to assess your participation grade.

In order to save space and time write the question number and its answer (in the form of a letter). For example:

1. T
2. F

DON'T FORGET TO WRITE YOUR NAMES AND ID NUMBER ON THE PAPER!!

- 1. British romantics in the United Kingdom (Wordsworth, Ruskin, Clare) praised the Industrial Revolution for the great economic benefits that it generated, and considered that rural areas were in need of industrial and technological development.
- 2. Gandhi considered that industrial societies are selfish, destructive of nature, and competitive. He rejected urbanization and industrialization, supporting a vision of a rural India.
- 3. The ideology of Scientific Conservationism advocates for the idea of sustained yield based on the belief that scientists could estimate the annual increment of renewable natural resources like wood and water, fish and wildlife.
- 4. Scientific Conservationism (Scientific Forestry) helped to preserve natural environments in the European colonies of Asia and Africa, thus improving the livelihoods of the native population.

ANSWERS REVIEW

Question 1: British romantics in the United Kingdom (Wordsworth, Ruskin, Clare) praised the Industrial Revolution for the great economic benefits that it generated, and considered that rural areas were in need of industrial and technological development.

Question 1:

- Answer: False!
- British romantics criticized industrialization and urbanization. Praised life in rural areas.
- **Wordsworth:** The common people are not longer breathing fresh air, or treading the green earth.
- **Ruskin:** Modern man had desacralized nature, viewing it only as a source of raw materials to be exploited, thus emptying of the mystery, the wonder, indeed the divinity with which pre-modern man saw the natural world.

Question 2: Gandhi considered that industrial societies are selfish, destructive of nature, and competitive. He rejected urbanization and industrialization, supporting a vision of a rural India.

Question 2

- Answer: True!
- The Gandhian model followed the English model in several respects: in its focus on manual labor, in its elevation of the village as the supreme form of human society, in its corresponding rejection of industrial culture as violent, competitive, and destructive of nature, and thus unsustainable in the long run.

3. The ideology of Scientific Conservationism advocates for the idea of sustained yield based on the belief that scientists could estimate the annual increment of renewable natural resources like wood and water, fish and wildlife.

Question 3.

- Answer: True!

4. Scientific Conservationism (Scientific Forestry) helped to preserve natural environments in the European colonies of Asia and Africa, thus improving the livelihoods of natives population.

Question 4

- Answer: False!
- In European colonies, the Forestry Department (based on scientific conservationism) became a reviled arm of the colonial state. Tribal organizations resisted the operation of the department through arson and attacks on official and on government property.
- Colonial authorities banned natives from entering the protected spaces. Banned hunting, poaching, etc.
- Tropical forests had more diversity than European forests and were more difficult to regenerate due to the monsoon, that washed away soil exposed by logging.