

**NEW DIRECTIONS
IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Political Science
Today**

**New Directions and
Important Cognate
Fields**



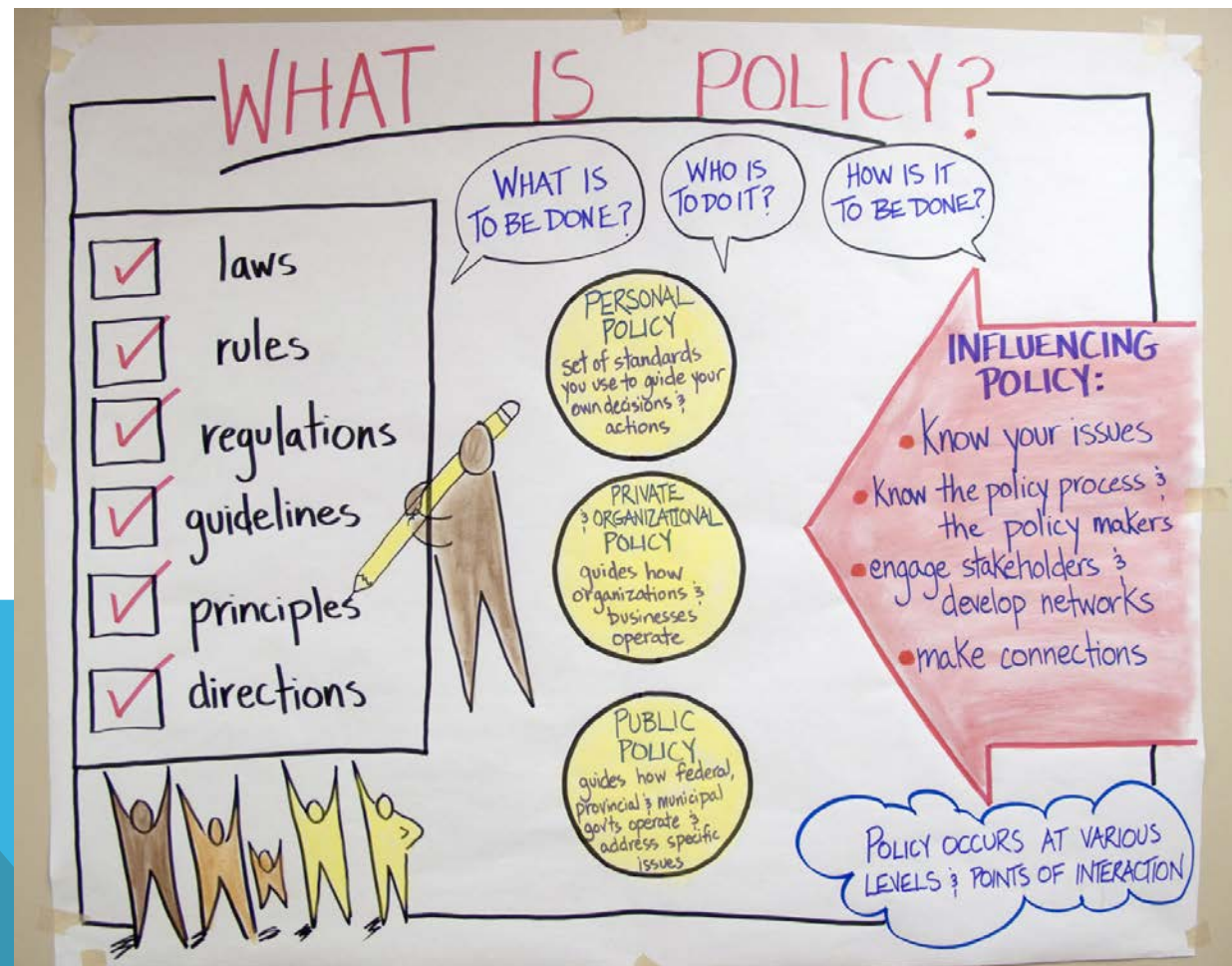
NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

I. New Directions in Political Science



NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

1. *Policy Studies* – the analysis of the policy process (procedural), or the ramifications of specific policy areas (substantive). The discipline has several subfields:



NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

a. Environmental Policy

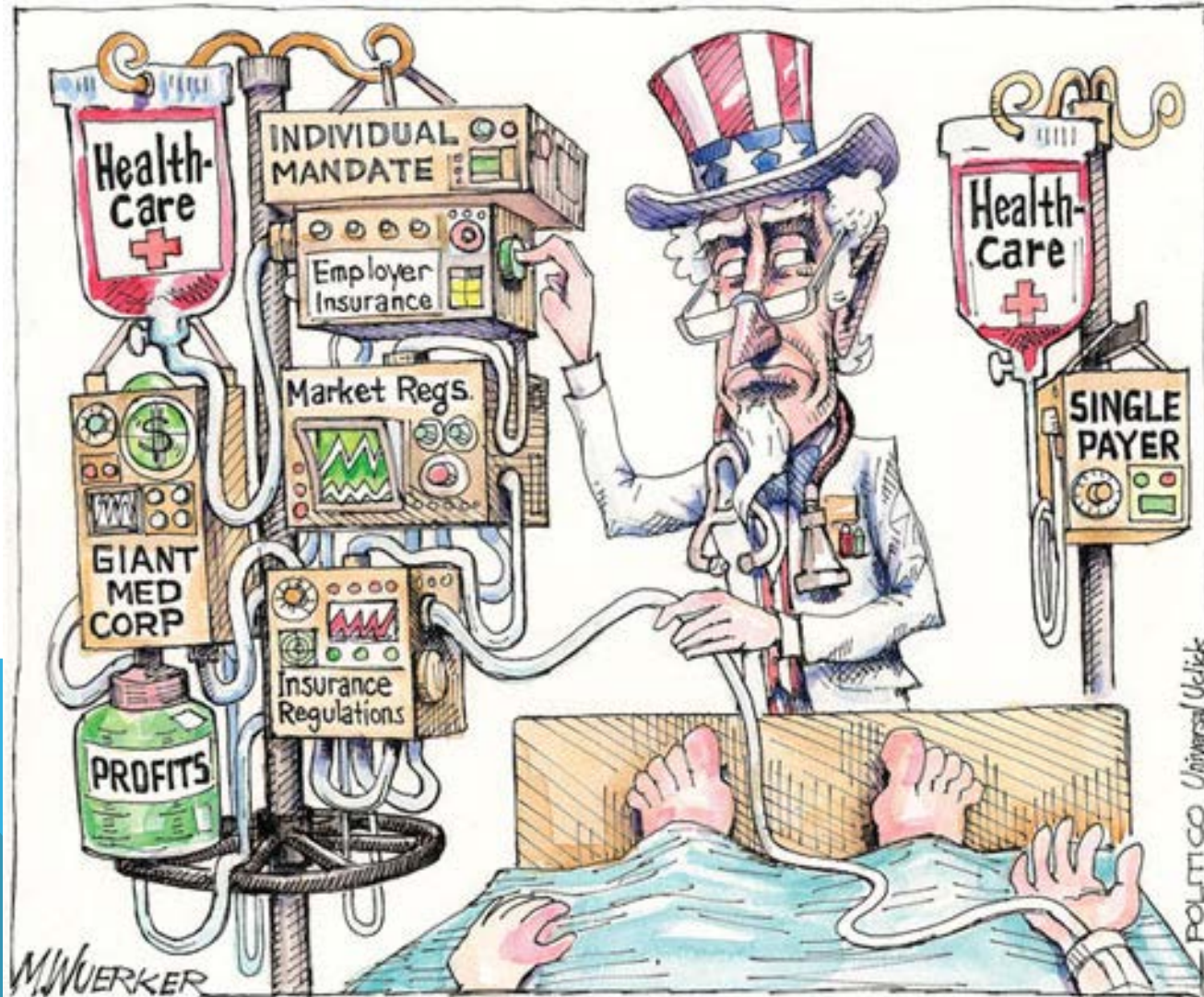
Environmental Policy

Environmental policy refers to the commitment of an organization to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues.

These issues generally include air and water pollution, solid waste management, biodiversity, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species

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b. Health Policy



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c. Poverty Policy



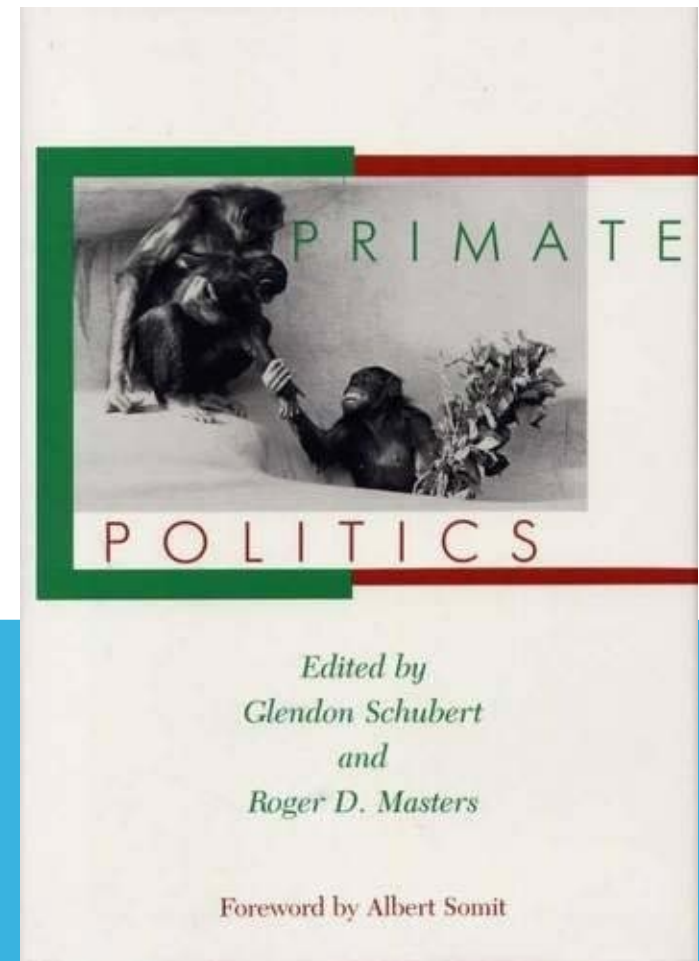
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d. Housing Policy



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2. *Biopolitics* – formulated on the notion that all human activity is ultimately biologically based. One well-known analyst, **Roger Masters**, suggests that political science is the point where the social and natural sciences meet.



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3. *The Feminist Perspective* – has affected political science through the women's movement. There are basically three interpretive stances:

Feminism Noun \ fem-i-nism

**A BELIEF IN THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND
ECONOMIC EQUALITY OF THE SEXES**

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a. *Liberal Feminists* – seek the abolishment of gender discrimination such as legal, social, cultural.

Liberal Feminism



- **All people are created equal and should not be denied equality of opportunity because of gender**
- **Liberal Feminists focus their efforts on social change through the construction of legislation and regulation of employment practices**

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b. *Marxist Feminists* – argue women’s progress must be tied to economic change (from capitalism to socialism).

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c. *Radical Feminists* –
advocate the
elimination of
all distinctions
based on
gender.



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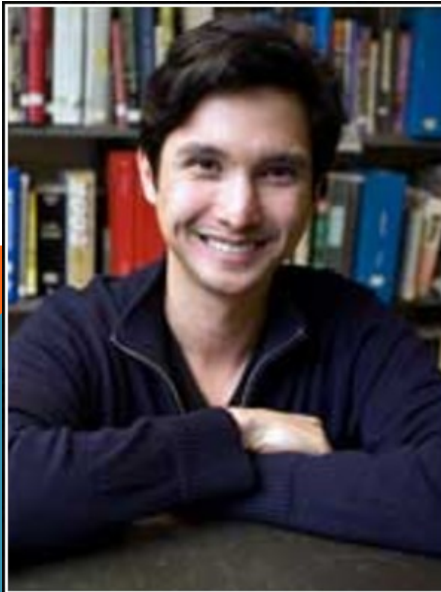
4. *International and Comparative Politics* –
being driven by the many political changes
going on in
the world.

- Comparative Politics versus International Relations



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5. *The Postmodern Alternative* – rejects the assumptions of rational order and analytical objectivity that formed the basis for much of social science. Postmodernists attack the idea that there is any correct method for discovering or finding objective truth or values that will be seen as good by everyone.



Postmodernism was a reaction to modernism. Where modernism was about objectivity, postmodernism was about subjectivity. Where modernism sought a singular truth, postmodernism sought the multiplicity of truths.

— Miguel Syjuco —

AZ QUOTES

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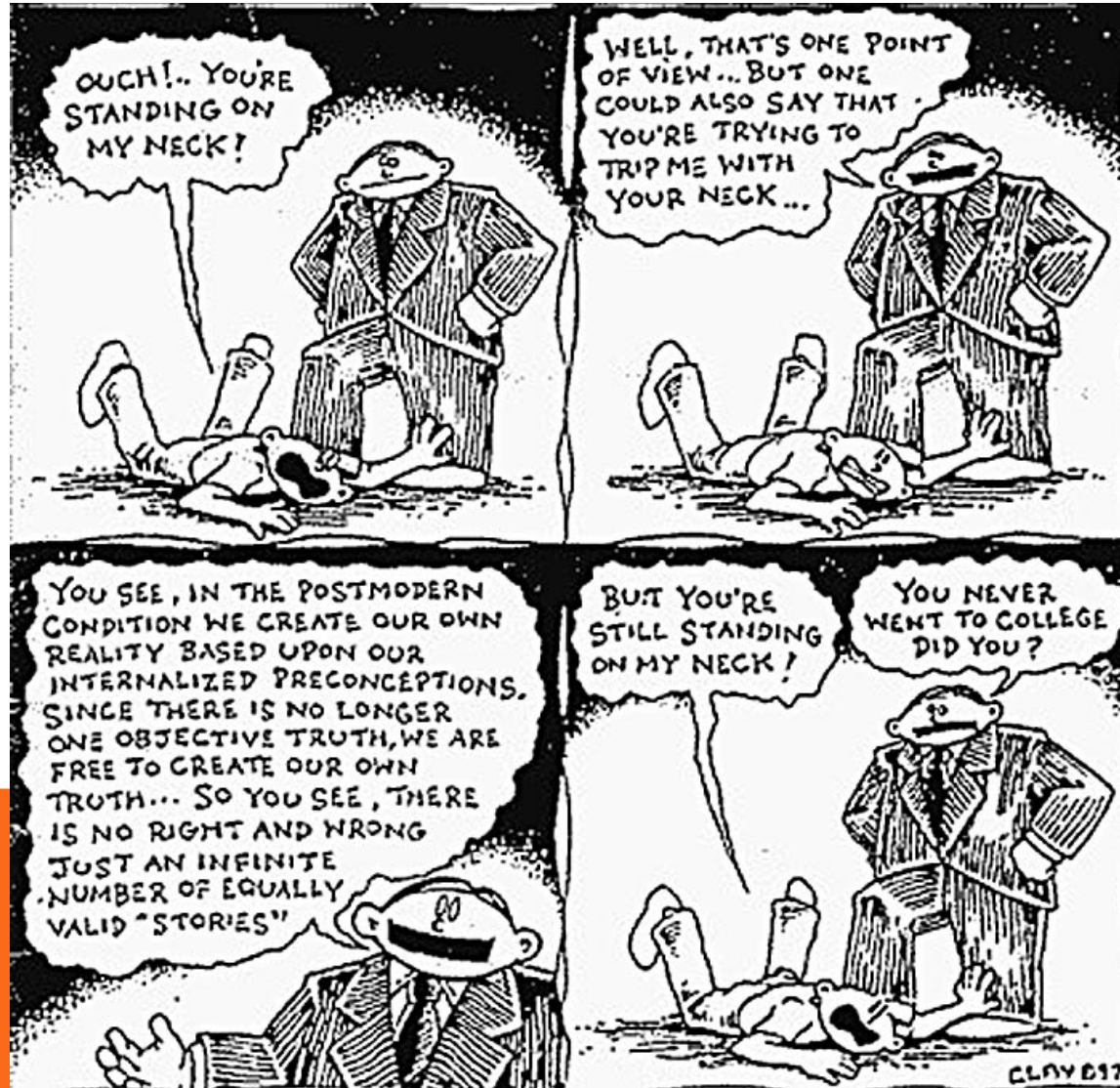
- a. *Skeptical Post Moderns* – challenge any starting point for analysis and any claims to value primacy.

POSTMODERNISM

All truth is relative.*

*(Except this statement.)

NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



b. *Affirmative Post Moderns* – more numerous and more optimistic but still want to avoid general conclusions about anything in the social sciences.

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Defining Modernism and Postmodernism

Defining	Premodernism	Modernism	Postmodernism
<i>What is real?</i> (Metaphysics)	Realism: Super-naturalism	Realism: Naturalism	Antirealism
<i>How do I know?</i> (Epistemology)	Mysticism and/or faith	Objectivism: experience & reason	Social subjectivism
<i>What/who am I?</i> (Human Nature)	Original Sin Subject to God's will Dualism	<i>Tabula rasa</i> ; nature/nurture/choice combo Autonomy Integration	Social determinism Group conflict Reductionism
<i>How should I live?</i> (Ethics)	Collectivism: altruism	Individualism	Collectivism: egalitarianism
<i>How should we live?</i> (Politics and Economics)	Feudalism	Liberal capitalism	Socialism
When & Where	Medieval	Enlightenment; current sciences, business, technical fields	Current humanities and related professions

Source: Stephen R. C. Hicks, 2004/2011. *Explaining Postmodernism: Skepticism and Socialism from Rousseau to Foucault*.

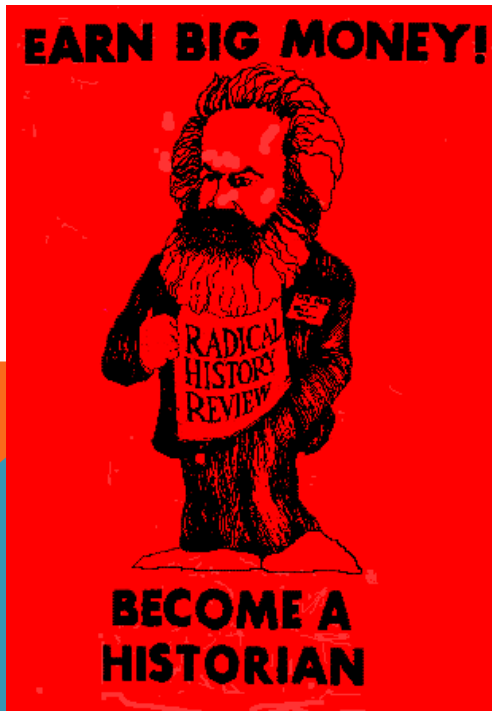
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**III. Important
Cognate
Fields**



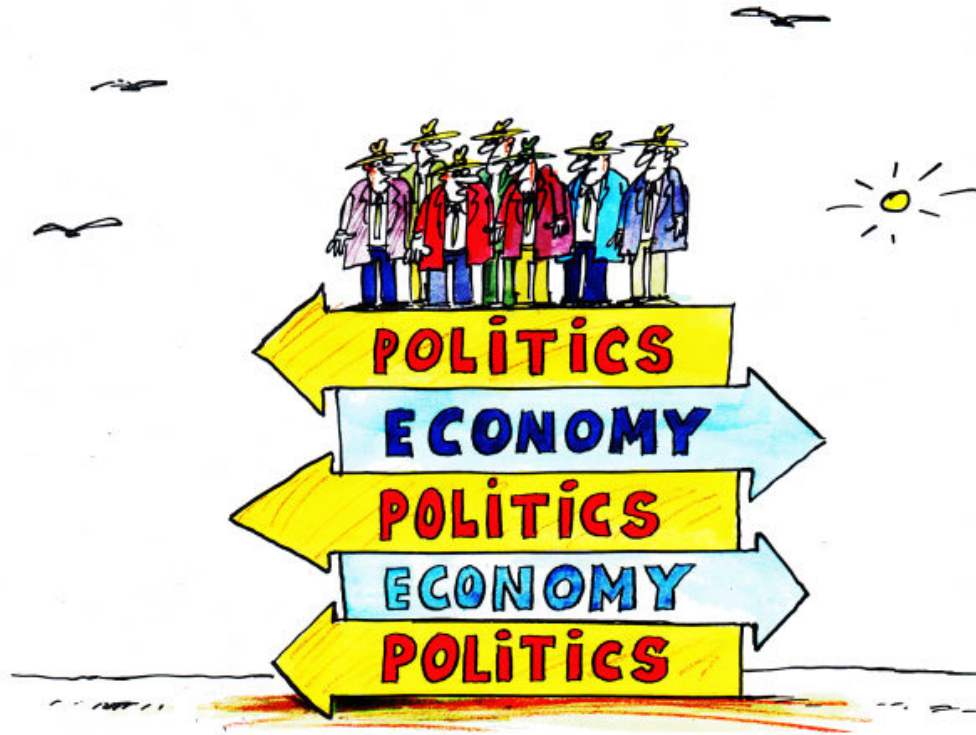
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1. *History* – especially the history of political theory.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
STUDY
HISTORY**

NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



2. *Economics* – the traditionally close relationship between these two disciplines have made understanding economics essential to understanding politics.

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3. *Philosophy* –
the great
thinkers in the
Western
tradition have
been first and
foremost
philosophers.



Existential Comics
@existentialcoms

"Why does philosophy matter?"
"I don't know, why does science
matter?"
"Well because scie-"
"Annnnnnnnd you are doing
philosophy."

8/4/15, 7:42 PM

549 RETWEETS 636 FAVORITES

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Subject matter of Sociology

- Sociology is
 - the study of society
 - the science of social life
 - the study of social relationships
 - the study of human behaviour in groups
 - the study of forms of social relationships
 - the study of social action
 - the study of social groups and social systems

4. *Sociology* – which covers the range of human relationships.

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5. ***Anthropology*** – closely related to sociology; uses a methodology known as “ethnographic study,” in which a researcher lives within the community being studied and tries to understand the community’s values and behavior from the perspective of its members.



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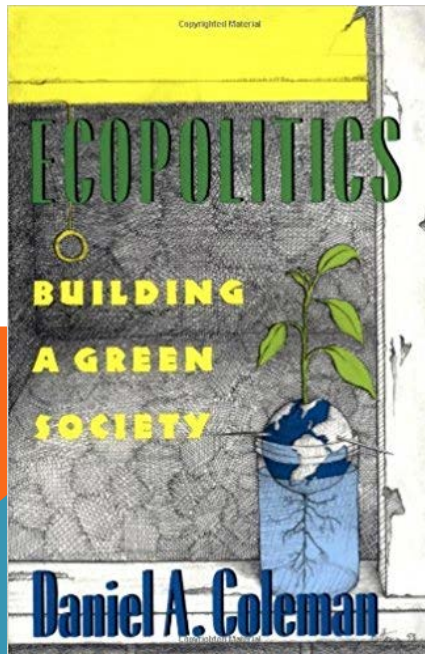
Ecopolitics



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Ecopolitics Defined:

An approach to politics that has developed in the last 3 decades in response to the global environmental crisis and popular environmental concerns. Has led to the formation of “Green” parties.



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I. The 3 Major Ecopolitical Themes



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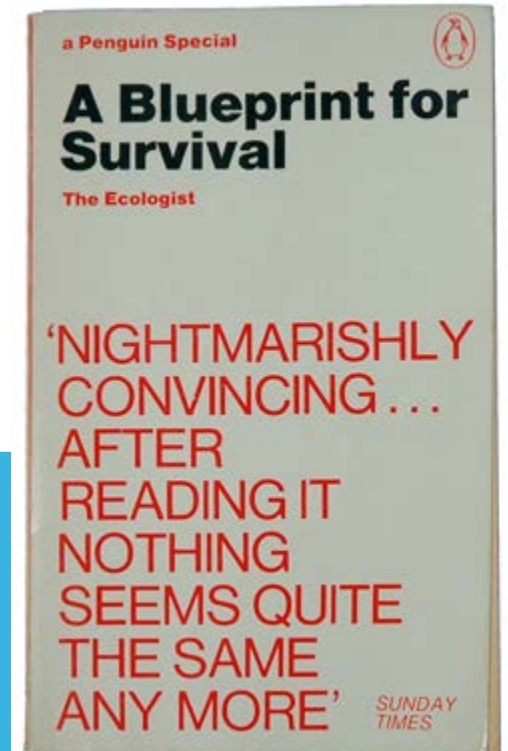
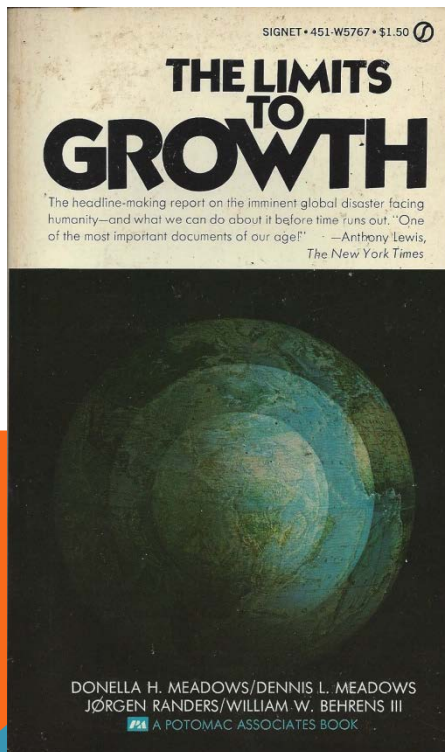
1. *A Crisis of Participation* – the growth of public concern being centered around participatory and distributional issues (“who decides who gets what”).



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2. *A Crisis of Survival*

a. Gained prominence in the early 1970s following the publication of *The Limits to Growth* and *A Blueprint for Survival*.



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b. Hardin's influential essay *The Tragedy of the Commons* (1968).

The Tragedy of the Commons

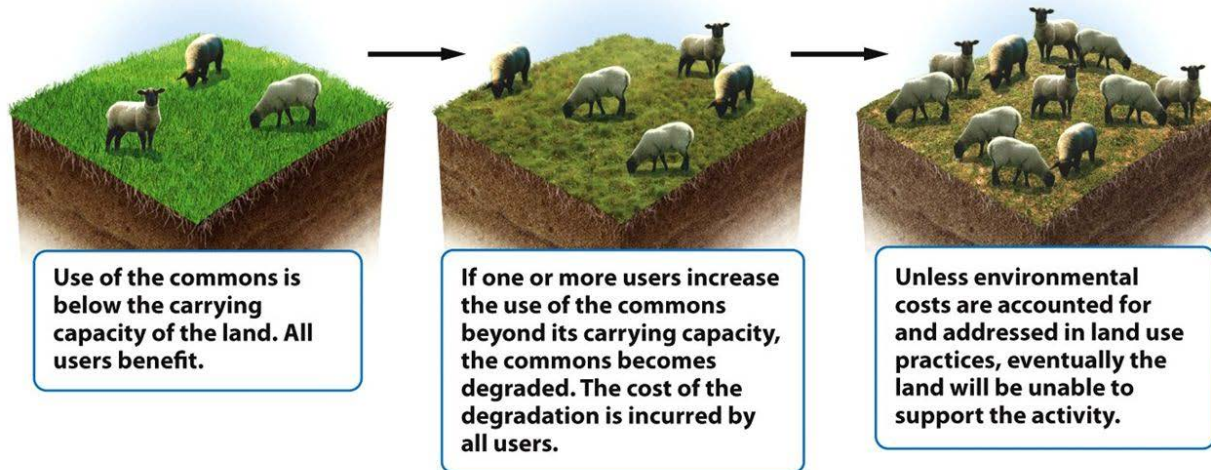
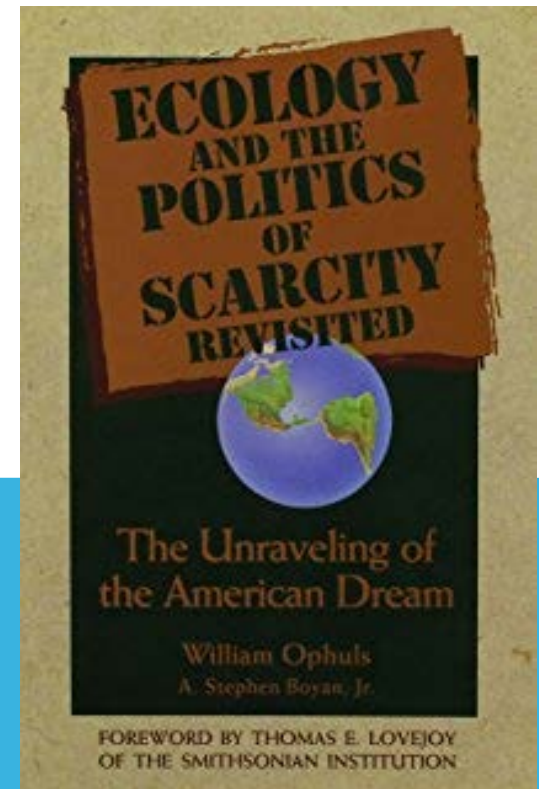
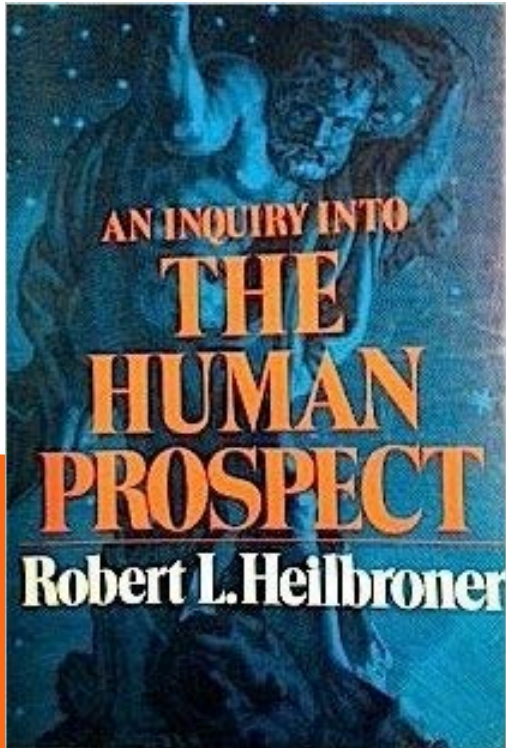


Figure 10.2
Environmental Science
© 2012 W. H. Freeman and Company

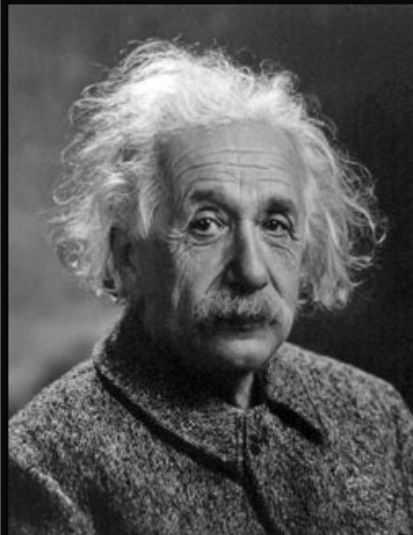
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- c. Authoritarian solutions by Heilbroner (*An Inquiry Into the Human Prospect*) and Ophuls (Leviathan or oblivion! From *Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity*).



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3. *A Crisis of Culture and Character* – critique of the “survivalist school” which extended the ecopolitical debate beyond the realm of physical limits to growth to the point of questioning the very notion of material progress and “scientific” rationality.



I believe in one thing—that only a life lived for others is a life worth living.

(Albert Einstein)

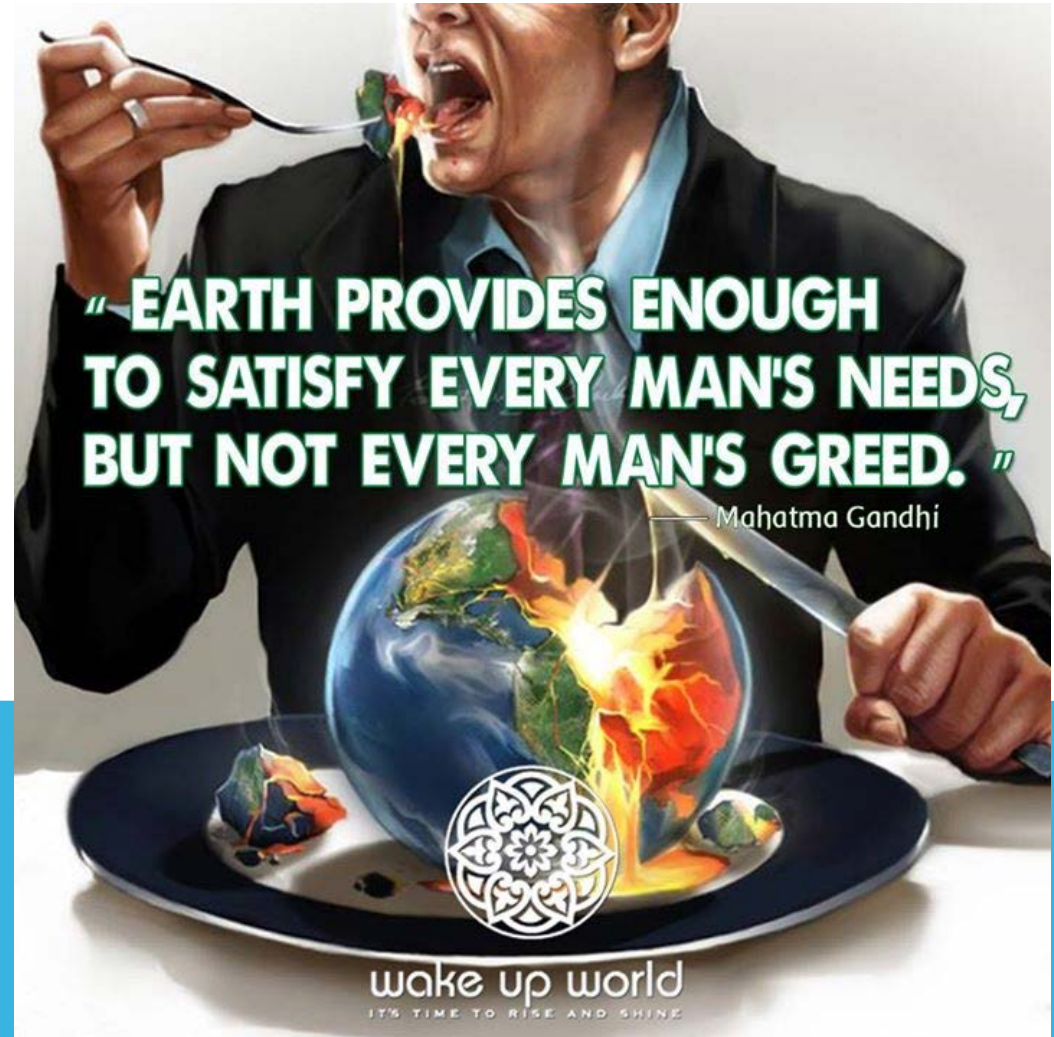
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**II. The Newest
Ecophilosophical
“Cleavage” Within
Ecopolitical
Thought**



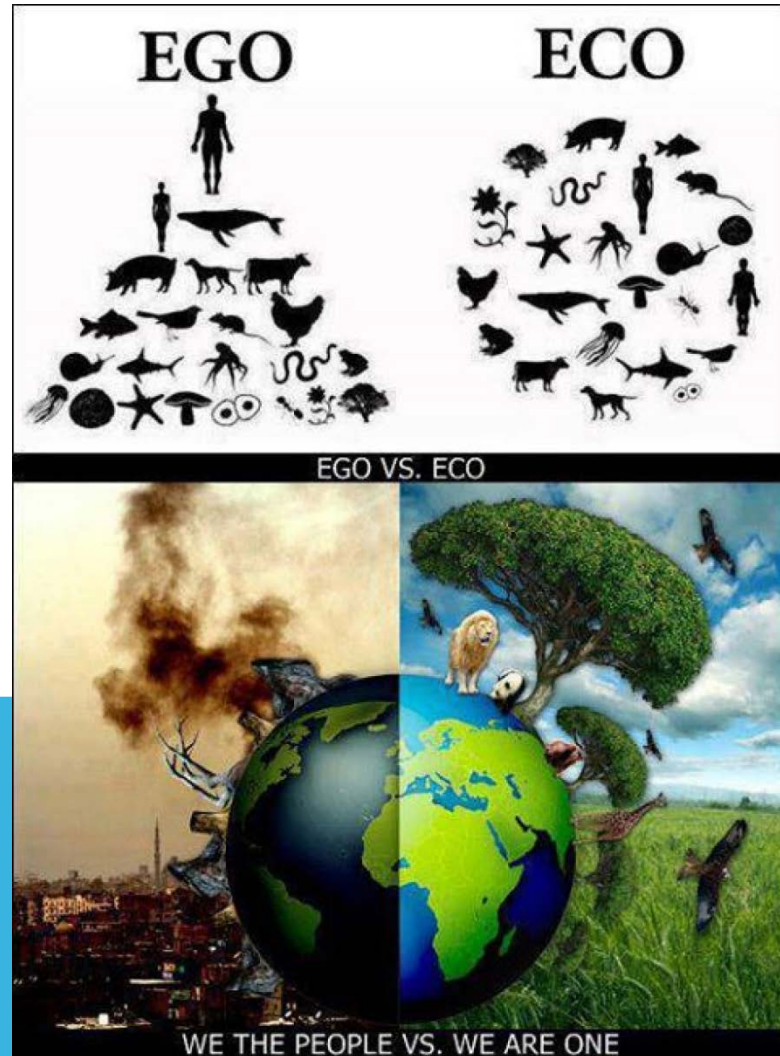
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1. *Anthropocentric Perspective* – characterized by its concern to articulate an ecopolitical theory that offers opportunities for *human* emancipation and fulfillment in an ecologically sustainable society.



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2. *Ecocentric Perspective* – goals are much the same with the exception that the notion of emancipation is broader so that it recognizes the moral standing of the nonhuman world.



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Ecocentrism

Nature Centered



- ✦ **Nature:** environmental conservation is central to decision-making
- ✦ **Society:** humans are part of nature
- ✦ Individual responsibility and accountability
- ✦ All life has inherent value
- ✦ We should not cause extinction of other species
- ✦ We should protect habitats and ecosystems
- ✦ Humans are not more important than other species
- ✦ Resources are limited
- ✦ We need the Earth more than it needs us

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**III. Major “Streams”
of
Environmentalism**



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1. *Resource Conservation* – elimination of waste; efficient use of resources; development for the many, not merely the profit of the few. Least controversial stream of modern environmentalism.

The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.



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2. *Human Welfare Ecology* – creation of a cleaner, safer, and more pleasing human environment; primarily concerned with the *general degradation of the physical and social environment.*

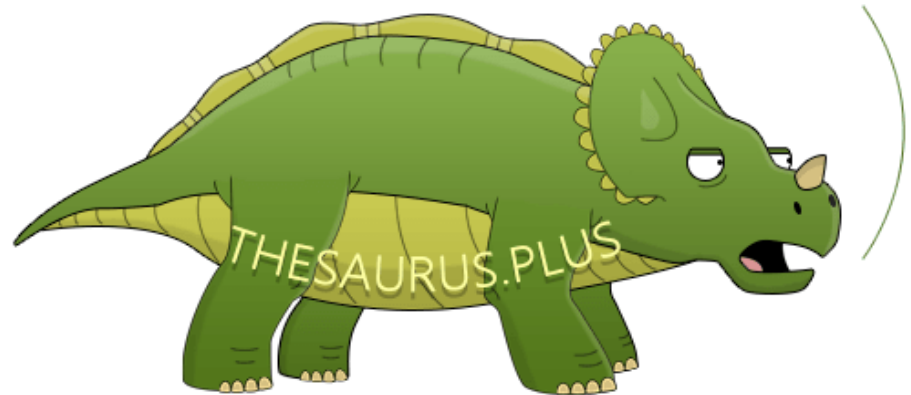
Biodiversity and Human Welfare

- ❑ Many species that are threatened could potentially provide crops, fibers, and medicines for human use, making biodiversity a crucial natural resource.
- ❑ The loss of these species would mean the loss of any possible medicinal benefits they might offer.
- ❑ The loss of species also means the loss of genes. Each species has certain unique genes, and biodiversity represents the sum of all the genomes of all organisms on Earth.
- ❑ Because many millions of species may become extinct before we even know about them, we stand to lose irretrievably the valuable genetic potential held in their unique libraries of genes.
- ❑ **Ecosystem services** encompass all the processes through which natural ecosystems and the species they contain help sustain human life on Earth.

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3. *Preservationism* – described as a reverence in the sense of the aesthetic and spiritual appreciation of wilderness (whereas Resource Conservationists are concerned to conserve nature *for* development, preservationists want to preserve nature *from* development). We should value nature not only for its instrumental value to *us* but also for its *own* sake.

synonyms for preservationist:
conservationist, environmentalist, ecologist, green,
naturalist, zoologist, biologist, botanist,
tree hugger, greenie



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4. *Animal Liberation* – based largely on the work of **Peter Singer**, it suggests a moral principle of equal consideration of the interests of all sentient beings regardless of what kind of species they are.

As long as men
massacre animals, they
will kill each other.
Indeed, he who sows
the seeds of murder
and pain cannot reap
the joy of love.

-Pythagoras

c. 570-c. 495 BC



alv

animal liberation victoria
<http://www.alv.org.au/>

PETER SINGER
ANIMAL
LIBERATION

THE DEFINITIVE CLASSIC
OF THE ANIMAL MOVEMENT

UPDATED EDITION

HARPER PERENNIAL MODERN CLASSICS

P.S.
I promise
to encourage
& hope...

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5. *Ecocentrism* – a more encompassing approach than the above 4 in that it:

2 Key Definitions

C. ECOCENTRISM

- * In comparing center of value in relation to its utility in environmental conservation, unity between humans and nature are described by having **human related closely to ecosystem.**
- * human is held **responsible toward ecosystem as a whole** and their activities are guaranteed as much as ecosystem's stability not to be endangered.
- * In short, this is a worldview that narrows to ecosystem components compared to anthropocentric and biocentric



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a. ...recognizes the full range of human interests in the nonhuman world (i.e. goes beyond RC and HWE perspectives).

Ecocentrism: ecosystem centered ethics

Precursors:

- ◆ Baruch Spinoza
- ◆ Henry David Thoreau
- ◆ John Muir

- Aldo Leopold's watershed *Land Ethic*, 1949

"All ethics rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts."

- ◆ Leopold argued that ethics involves self-imposed limitations on freedom of action and is derived from the above recognition

NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

b.recognizes the interests of the nonhuman community;

CONCEPTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Environmental law is based on two main conceptions of environmental ethics – anthropocentrism and ecocentrism.

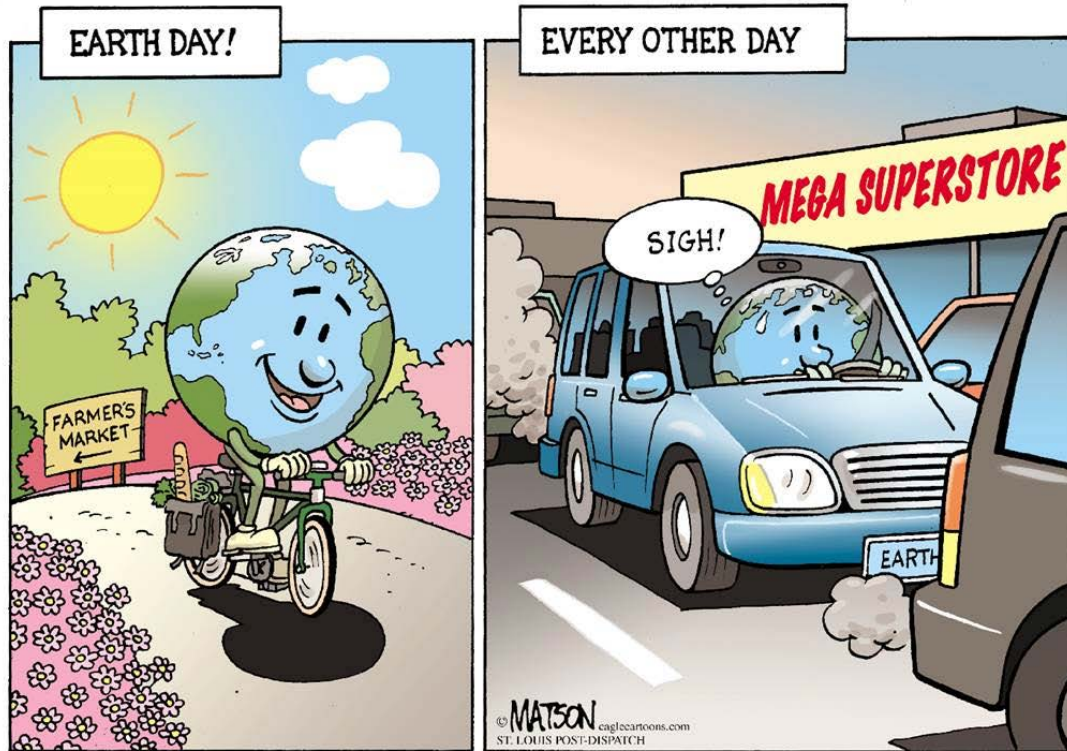
Anthropocentric approach: the environment should be protected in the interests of human welfare – today's environmental protection conserves environmental resources for future consumption.



Ecocentric approach: the environment (nature) has an intrinsic value in itself; therefore, the human responsibility is to protect it without regard to the benefits humans could obtain from it, and to provide for the possibility to exist not only for humans but also for other living beings.

Contemporary environmental law is primarily anthropocentric !

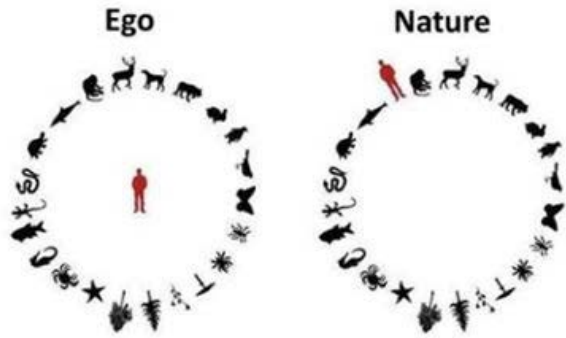
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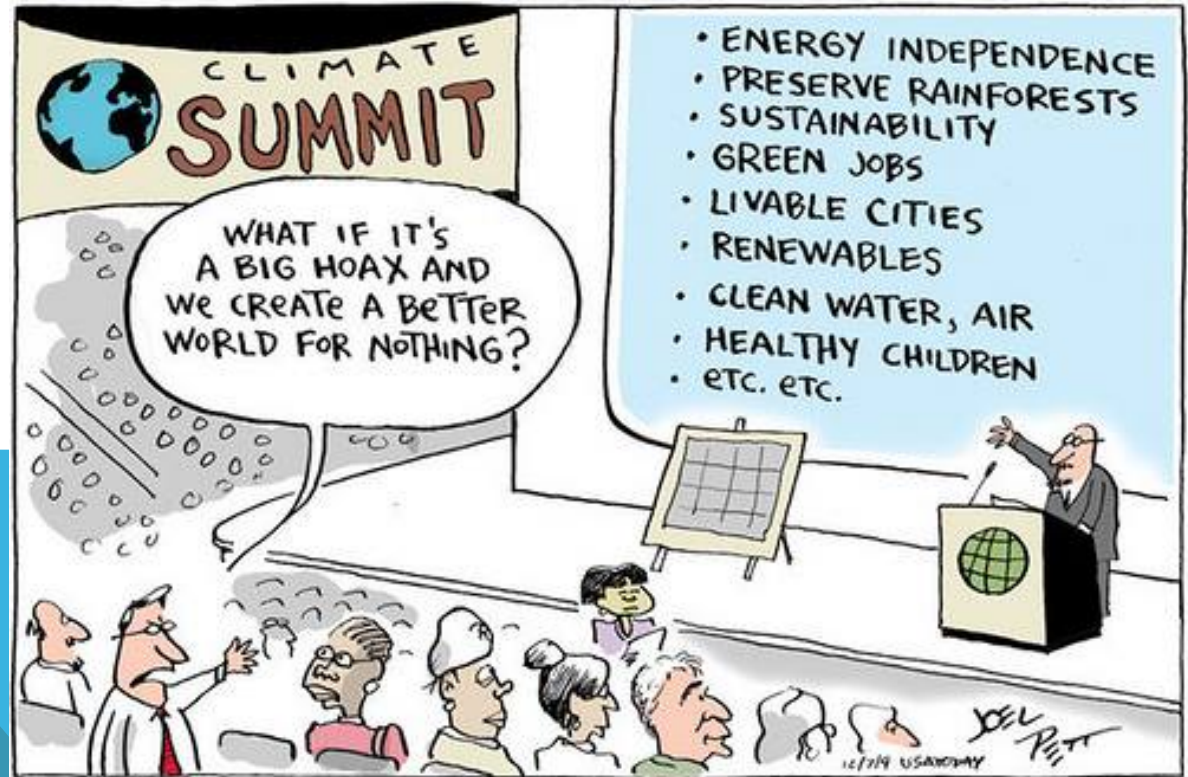
c. ...recognizes
the interests of
future
generations of
humans and
nonhumans;

NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

d. ...adopts a holistic rather than atomistic perspective insofar as it values populations, species, ecosystems, and the ecosphere *as well* as individual organisms. The notion of *internal relatedness*.



"A lot of people have this ego need that makes them want to believe that Earth is the centre of the universe and humans are the most important species, the supreme expression of creation." - Ann Druyan



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