

# SOCI 360

## SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CHANGE

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### Typology of Environmental Movements

Type	Identity	Adversary	Goal
Conservation of Nature (Group of Ten, USA)	Nature lovers	Uncontrolled development	Wilderness
Defense of own space (Not in my back yard)	Local community	Polluters	Quality of life/health
Counter-culture, deep ecology (Earth first!, Ecofeminism)	The green self	Industrialism, technocracy and patriarchalism	Ecotopia
Save the planet (Greenpeace)	Internationalist eco-warriors	Unfettered global development	Sustainability
Green politics (Die Grünen)	Concerned citizens	Political establishment	Counter-power



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### Post-Materialist Movements 3. The Environmental Movements

- a. **Types of environmental movements:**
  - i. Conservation Movements (pro-wilderness)
  - ii. NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) Movements (anti-development)
  - iii. Deep Ecology / Ecofeminism (radical)
  - iv. "Save the Planet": Greenpeace (action-oriented)
  - v. The Greens (political)



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## Post-Materialist Movements

### 3. The Environmental Movements

#### b. Themes of the environmental movement:

- i. An ambiguous, deep connection to science and technology
- ii. Environmentalism is a science-based movement
- iii. Struggles over space and time  
Space of Flows: global and local  
Space of Time: clock time, timeless time, glacial time
- iv. Grassroots democracy is implicit



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## Group of Ten

- ▶ Comprised of organizations such as:
  - The Sierra Club
  - The Audubon Society
  - The Wilderness Society
  - The National Parks and Conservation Association
  - The National Wildlife Federation
  - The Natural Resources Defense Council
  - Izaak Walton League
  - Defenders of Wildlife
  - Environmental Defense Fund
  - The Environmental Policy Institute



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## Fighting Strategies

- ▶ To combat the adversaries (uncontrolled developers), groups such as the Sierra Club, which boasts a 600,000 member roster, congregate in local chapters to fight back.
- ▶ The Environmental Defense Fund tends to focus on lobbying, analyzing and diffusing information.
- ▶ There are both radically fueled groups and more conservative groups as well as groups that network together
  - In 1996, Dave Forman, from Earth First!, was on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club



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## Not In My Back Yard!

- ▶ Fights back against toxic dumping in the United States
- ▶ Began in 1978 during the Love Canal incident in Niagara Falls, New York
- ▶ Lois Gibbs created the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste
  - Her son fell victim to the toxic dumping
  - Suffered from epilepsy, asthma, urinary track infection and a low white blood cell count
- ▶ It was found that the toxic dumping caused birth defects in children and miscarriages



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## Not In My Back Yard!

- ▶ In 1984, there were 600 groups fighting toxic dumping in the United States
- ▶ By 1988, the number had increased to 4,687



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## Earth First!

- ▶ Earth First! is a radical group led by David Forman, an ex-marine
- ▶ Engaged in civil disobedience and "ecotage" against dam constructing, logging, and other aggressions towards nature
  - This comes with prosecution and even jail time
- ▶ The word "monkeywrenching" became a synonym for "eco-sabotage" after Abbey's book, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* was published



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## Earth First!

### ▶ Deep Ecology:

- All life on Earth, human or non-human, has value
- Humans have no right to reduce the richness and diversity except to satisfy vital needs
- Present human interference with the non-human world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening
- Policies must be changed
- The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating life quality
- Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation to directly or indirectly try to implement the necessary changes



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## Ecofeminism

- ▶ The belief that women are victims of the same patriarchal violence that is inflicted upon nature
- ▶ “Ecofeminism seeks to understand the interconnected roots of all domination, and ways to resist to change” – Judith Plant
- ▶ Ecofeminism, along with deep ecology and other aspects of radical environmentalism, looks to construct “ecotopia”



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## Greenpeace

- ▶ World’s largest environmental organization
  - Media oriented, non-violent direct actions
- ▶ Founded in 1971 in Vancouver, Canada
  - Headquartered in Amsterdam
- ▶ As of 1994, Greenpeace had over 6 million members and over \$100 million in annual revenues



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## Greenpeace

- ▶ Ideology comes from three distinct origins:
  - Warriors of Rainbow Native American story
  - Quaker-inspired attitude of bearing witness
  - Business-like attitude to "get things done," set by Greenpeace leader David McTaggart
- ▶ Major campaigns:
  - Toxic substances
  - Energy and atmosphere
  - Nuclear issues
  - Ocean/terrestrial ecology



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## Die Grünen

- ▶ German Green Party
- ▶ Green Politics is technically not a social movement, but more of a strategy
- ▶ Enters the realm of electoral politics in the name of environmentalism
- ▶ Concerned with:
  - Peace
  - Nuclear Power
  - Environment
  - State of the World
  - Individual Freedom
  - Grassroots Democracy



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