

## Current Events

### When the Priority of Short-Term Economic Growth Goes Wrong: The Dust Bowl

Reactions against the dominant priority of using the environment to build short-term wealth

1. The Environment has beauty that should be preserved
2. The Environment easily can be wasted and must be conserved
3. Human impact on the environment harm human health & safety
4. Environmental dangers can affect vulnerable people who need justice

### Four Standpoints with Higher Priorities for the Environment than Short-Term Economic Growth

1. **Preserving** Nature (emerged in the mid to late 19th century)

Priority: Preserve the beauty of nature.

Inspiration: **John Muir**

The Next Generation of Preservation?

Deep Ecology (Spokesperson: Arne Naess)

## 2. Conserving Nature (early 20th century)

Priority: make the most **efficient** use of natural resources & Use the environment "for the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time".

Inspirations: **Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt**

The Next Generation of Conservation?

### **Sustainable Development**

#### **1987: The Bruntland Commission**

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."

#### The Triple Bottom Line

- the term "Sustainable Development" now involves
- The three "interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars" of economic development, social development, and environmental protection

## 3. Environmentalism

Priority: Protecting people and the protecting the environment from harm

Inspirations:

**Aldo Leopold**, *Sand County Almanac* (1949)

**The Land Ethic:** "Community" should include soils, waters, plants, and animals, "or collectively: the land."

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (1962)

DDT is a poison that threatens nature and humans alike

**Barry Commoner: 4 Laws of Ecology**

- a. Everything is connected to everything else  
- *what affects one organism affects all*
- b. Everything must go somewhere  
- *Earth is an enclosed unit - things never go away because there is no "away"*
- c. Nature knows best  
- *Humans have been poor judges of the way their activities affect*
- d. there is no such thing as a free lunch

#### **4. Environmental Justice**

Priorities: environmental risks & costs are unfairly distributed (late 20th century)  
(Rosenbaum pages 147-156)

Inspirations: **Robert Bullard**

Pope Francis

The United Nations: "A Life With Dignity for All"