

Greenpeace and Political Globalism

by Paul Wapner

Basic Information

- Activities of environmental groups are based on nonstate-oriented politics
- Nonstate-oriented politics – people endeavour to direct collective affairs independent of formal government
- Transnational environmental groups disseminate worldwide concern for the environment (“ecological sensibility”)

Basic Information 2

- The efforts to extend an ecological sensibility have world political significance
- The ecological sensibility is response to environmental harm



Greenpeace

- In 1972, it had only one office in Vancouver, nowadays, it has offices in over thirty countries
- It had over 6 million members worldwide in July 1994 (1,000 full-time staff members)
- It owns eight ships, a helicopter and a hot-air balloon



4 Campaigns



- Greenpeace divides global environment problems into four issue areas (campaigns):
 - Toxic substances
 - Energy and atmosphere
 - Nuclear issues
 - Ocean and terrestrial ecology

Greenpeace's Organizational Structure

- Greenpeace Council
 - Council consists of representatives from all countries
 - It decides on organizational policy
- Executive Board
 - It is elected by the Greenpeace Council
 - It ratifies council resolutions and assumes the responsibility when the council is not in session
- Regional Trustees
 - It serves for final confirmation for Greenpeace's operation

Organizational Structure of Campaigns

- International coordinators
 - They are heading of every campaign
- Project directors
 - They think out particular subissues
- Regional and national campaigners
 - They devise specific activities and adapt them for geographical and political contexts
- Assistants and volunteers

Greenpeace's Politics

- Greenpeace uses the practice of “bearing witness” (a type of political action which links moral sensitivities with political responsibility)
 - Direct, nonviolent action and advertising through the media



Greenpeace's Politics 2

- Greenpeace catch attention of media by visually spectacular actions and dangerous risks
- Nowadays Greenpeace has its own media facilities and records its actions by video cameras etc.



Conclusion



- Dissemination of ecological sensibility is the most important – because it motivates people to nature protection
- Greenpeace practices “bearing witness“ and so uses direct, nonviolent action and advertising through the media
- Greenpeace also lobbies government officials, organizes protests, carries out scientific research etc.