

The Ideology of Environmental Domination

Lecture Part 4

SOC165

Spring 2010

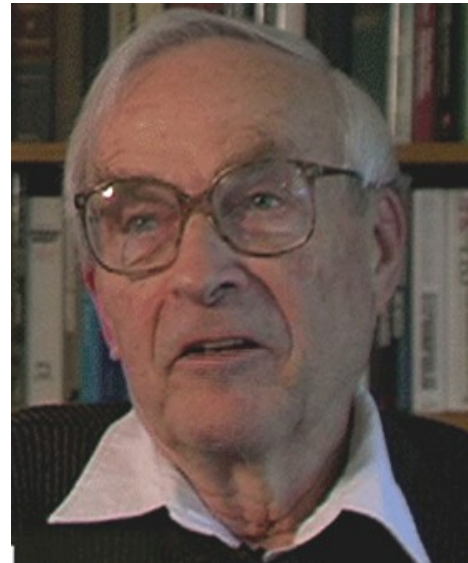


In Part 4

HEP-NEP and Environmental Sociology



Riley Dunlap



William Catton



HEP

- HEP: “Human exemptionalism paradigm”
- Ideology that the physical environment is irrelevant to the study of society
- Describes mainstream Sociological worldview



HEP

- Dunlap & Catton: Society has been characterized by a **Dominant Social Paradigm**
- So has the field of Sociology



HEP vs. NEP

- HEP should be replaced by “a fundamentally ecological worldview,” a New Ecological Paradigm (NEP)
- Dunlap & Catton: Humans are an exceptional species, but not exempt from biophysical influences
- Proposing a revolution in Sociology?



HEP-NEP and Sociology

- Call for reform with Sociology to accept biophysical world as subject of social study & explanatory variable
- Replace the anthropocentric and dominating view of HEP
- Integrate environmental concern into Sociology



Dunlap & Catton

- Interactions between society and nature are:
 - Cognitive: how we think about nature
 - Behavioral: how we act in relation to nature
 - Physiological: the actual physical effects of our relationship with nature
- Nature is both a dependent and independent variable



Summary

In this lecture we discussed ...

- How the Judeo-Christian tradition, individualism, and patriarchy can be seen as creating a world view that legitimates – even encourages – environmental exploitation

In the next lecture, we...

- Discuss the ideology of environmental concern



Citations Used in This Lecture

Dunlap, R. and W. Catton. 1979. "Environmental Sociology." *Annual Review of Sociology* 5:243-273.

Dunlap, R. and W. Catton. 1994. "Struggling with Human Exemptionalism: The Rise, Decline and Revitalization of Environmental Sociology." *The American Sociologist* Spring, 5-30.