

# Environmental Ethics and Land Management

ENVR E-120

<http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~envre120>

## Principles of Ecosystem Management and Global Sustainability

Timothy C. Weiskel

Co-Director, The Climate Talks Project

Session 12

14 December 2006

Harvard University Extension School  
Fall Semester 2006

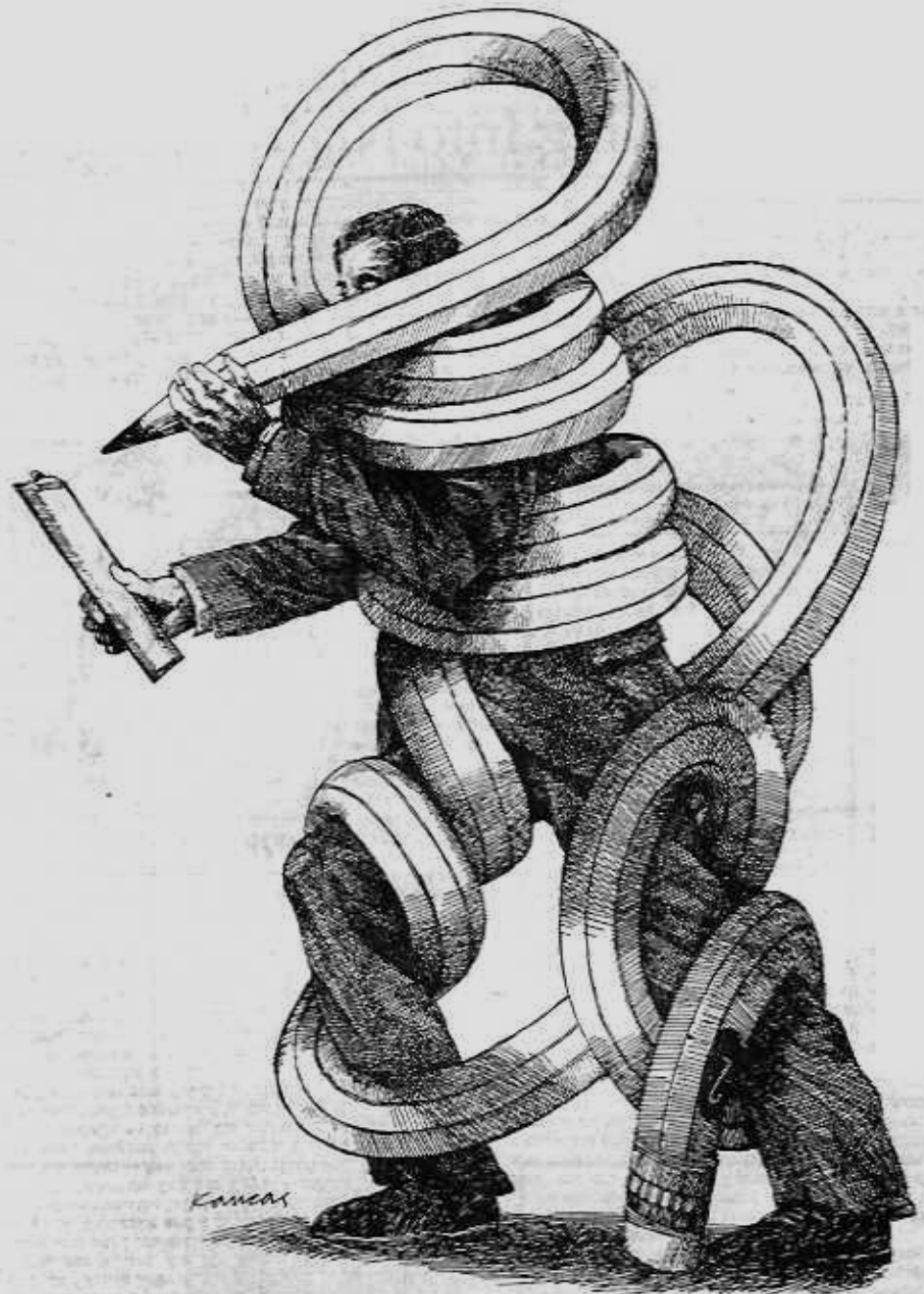




# Writing Issues...

In deciphering your texts there are several issues which loom large...

... and with which you will have to wrestle in your final papers.



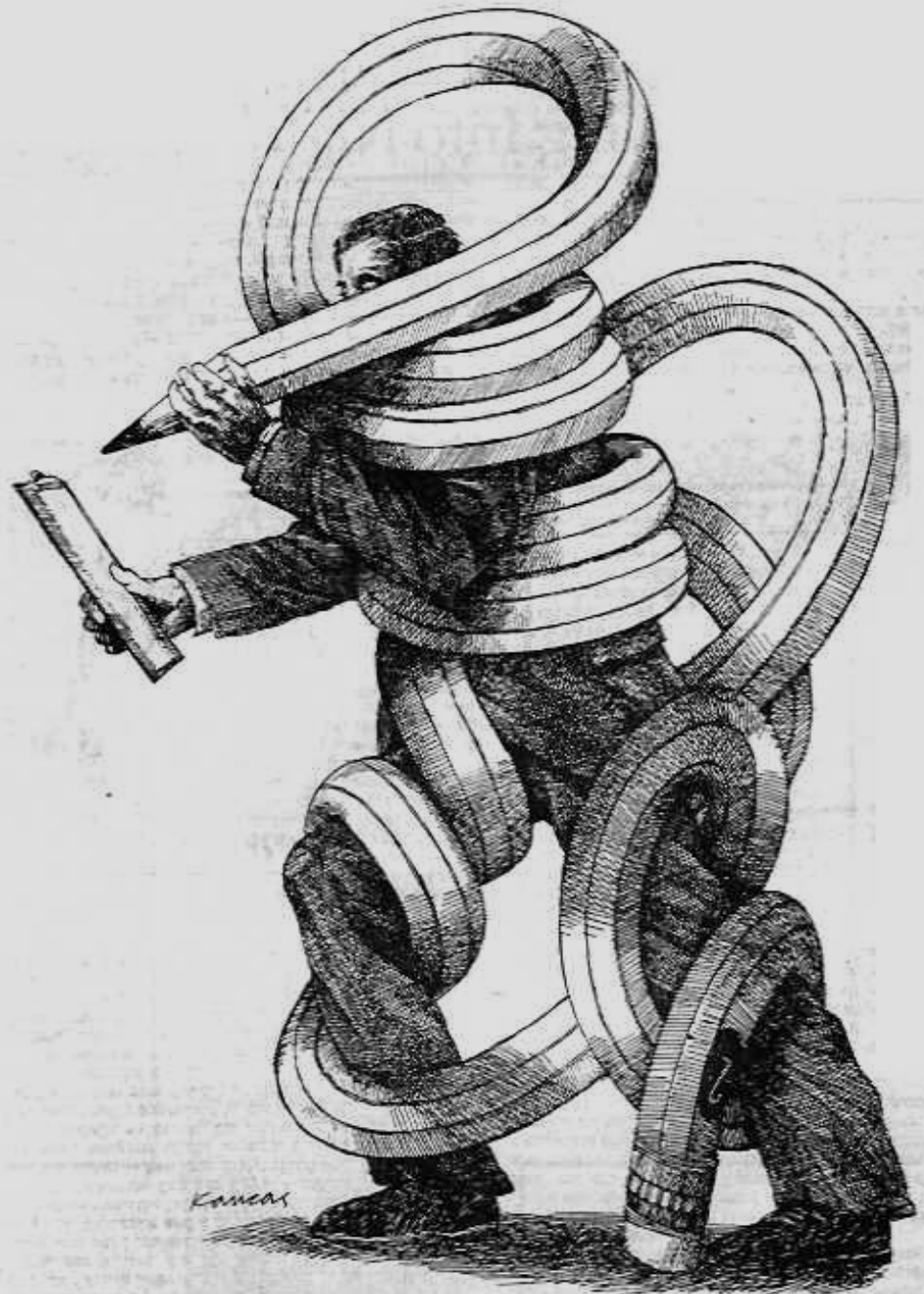
# Writing Issues...

Sentences!

Paragraphs!

Use of evidence - citing  
*and* identifying  
references...

Build argument toward  
a conclusion -- don't  
simply repeat -- don't  
meander or wander....



# Writing Issues...

Remember the difference between a:

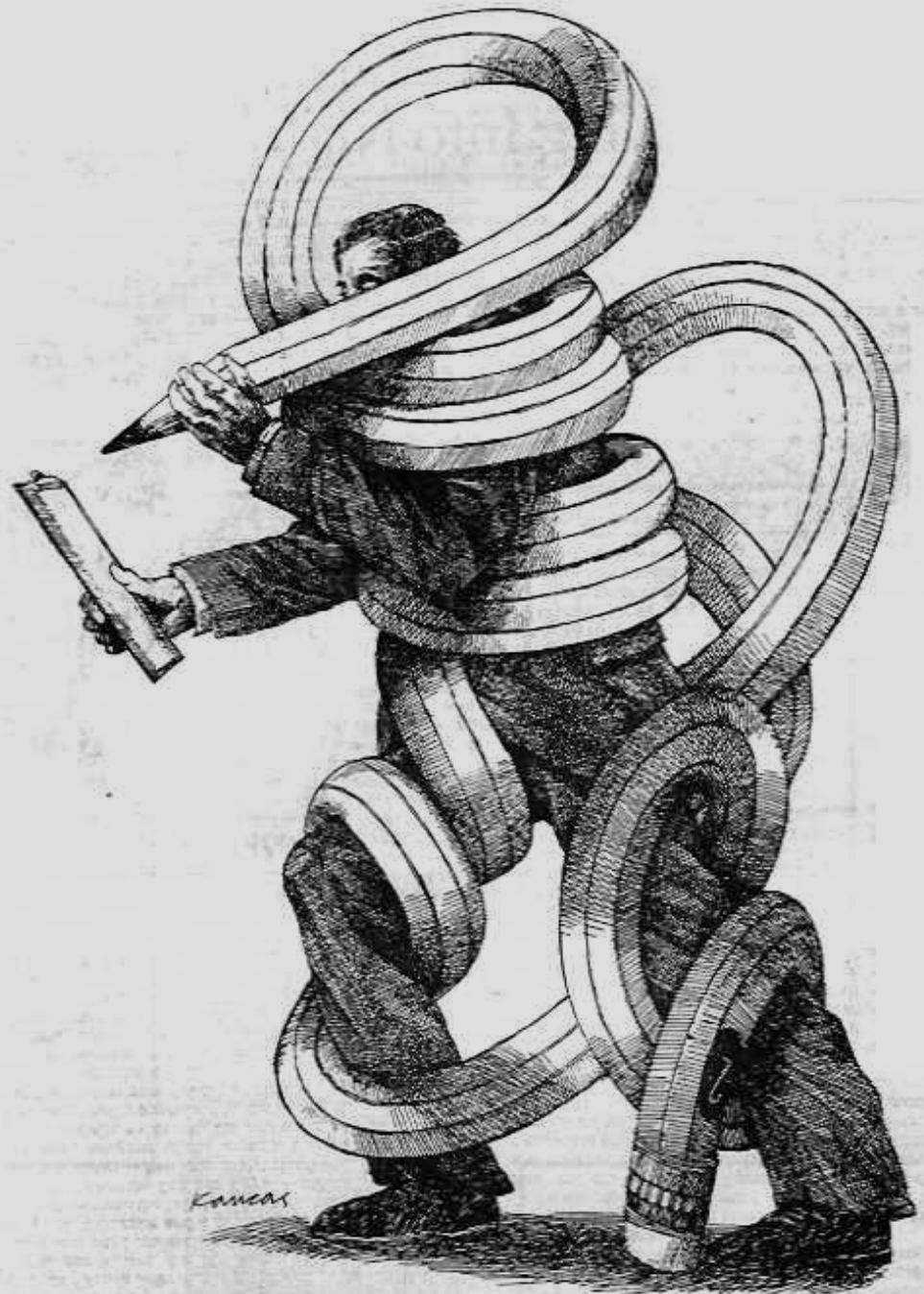
problem

the parties

and

the principles

You are to analyze the different *ethical principles* used by various *parties* that address particular *problems*.

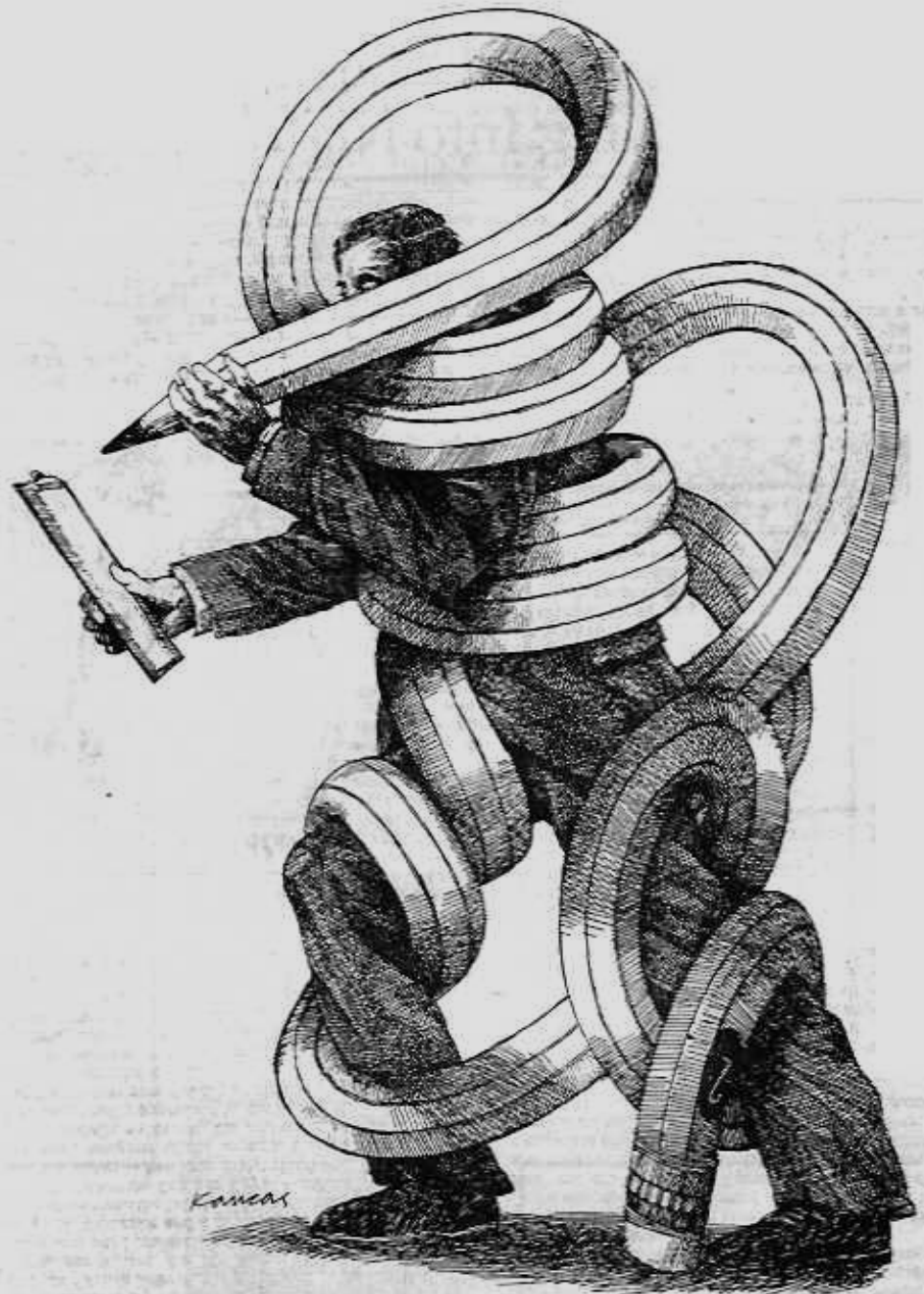


# Writing Issues...

Avoid cliches.

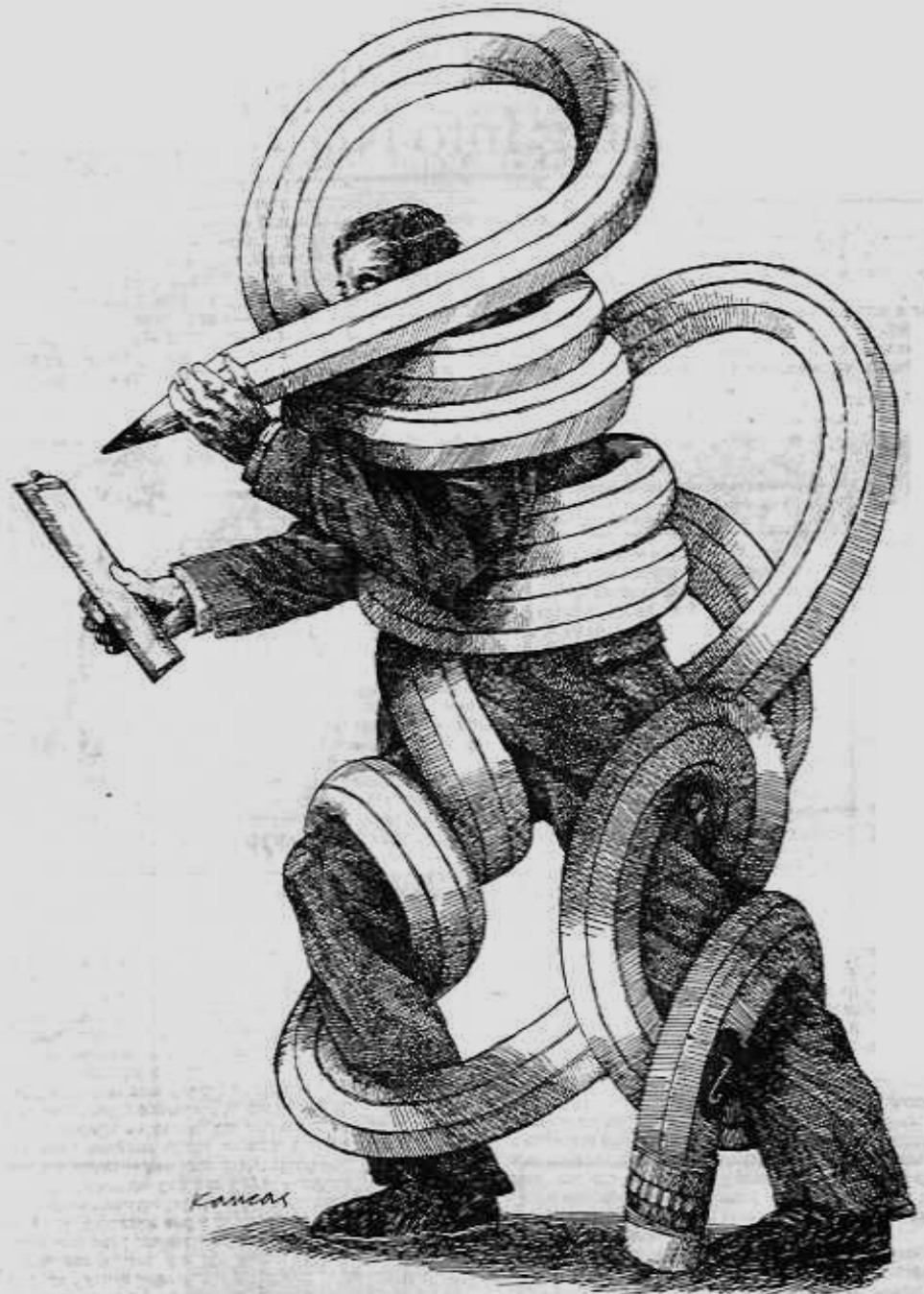
Avoid cliched arguments, e.g. “real world” vs. “ideal world,” etc.

[You should be able to note and discuss the relative reality of so called “real” worlds.]



# Writing Issues...

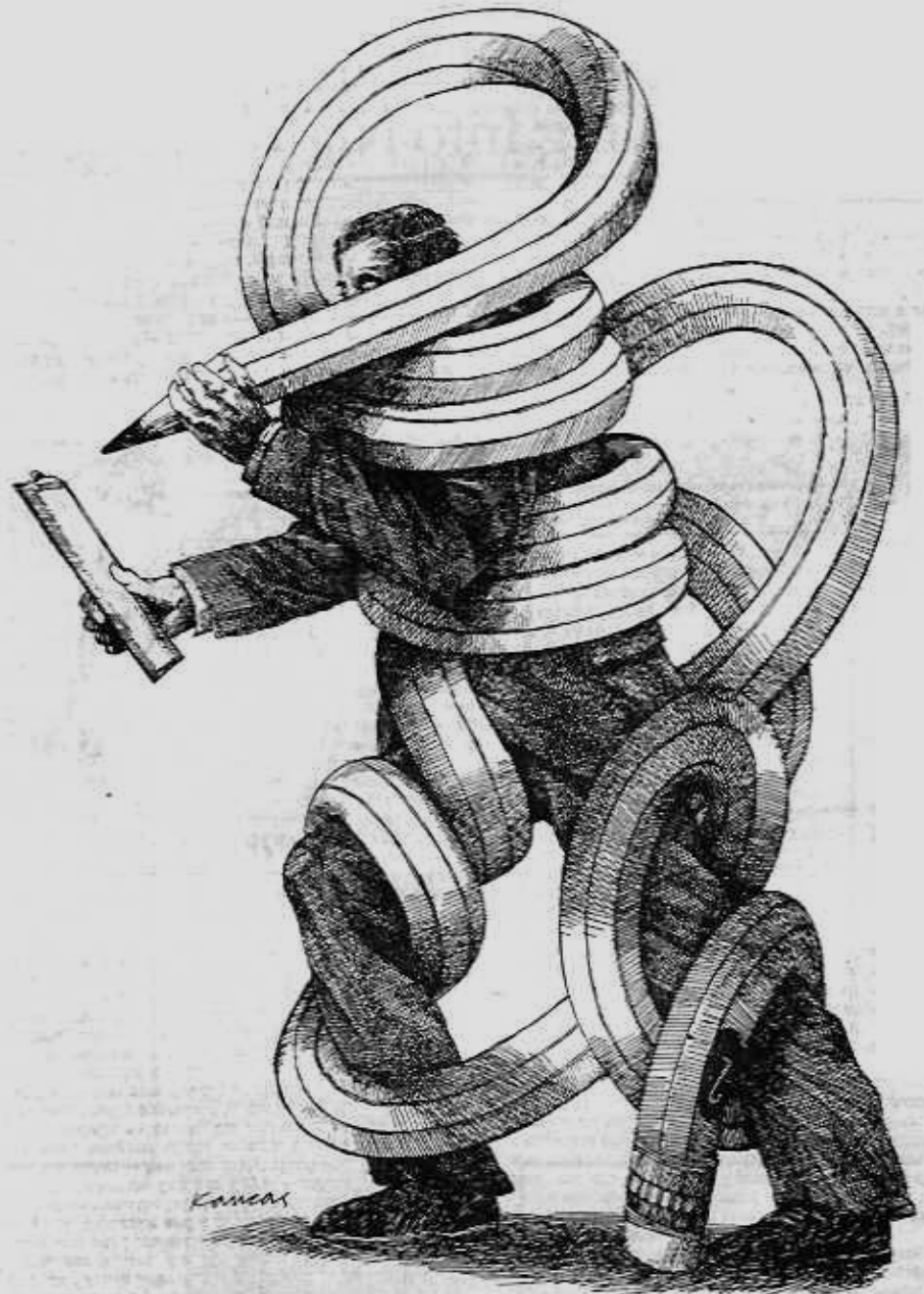
Keep in mind that you are writing to an uninformed BUT intelligent audience. They need to know both *what you have learned (conclusions)* and *why you reach the conclusions (evidence)* you have come to from your research.



# A word on the Course Evaluations

Remember,

*You have the “power  
of suggestion” – the  
ultimate power in  
academic settings!*





*Consider Earth from outside its atmosphere. Watch it in silence and in wonder. Then, think for a moment about how we might answer the question:*  
*"How should its participant-inhabitants behave?"*



*Is any received tradition of ethics adequate to answer this question?*



*If so, which one(s) will work to establish stable and enduring systems of self-imposed, self-restraint required for human survival in a complex ecosystem?*

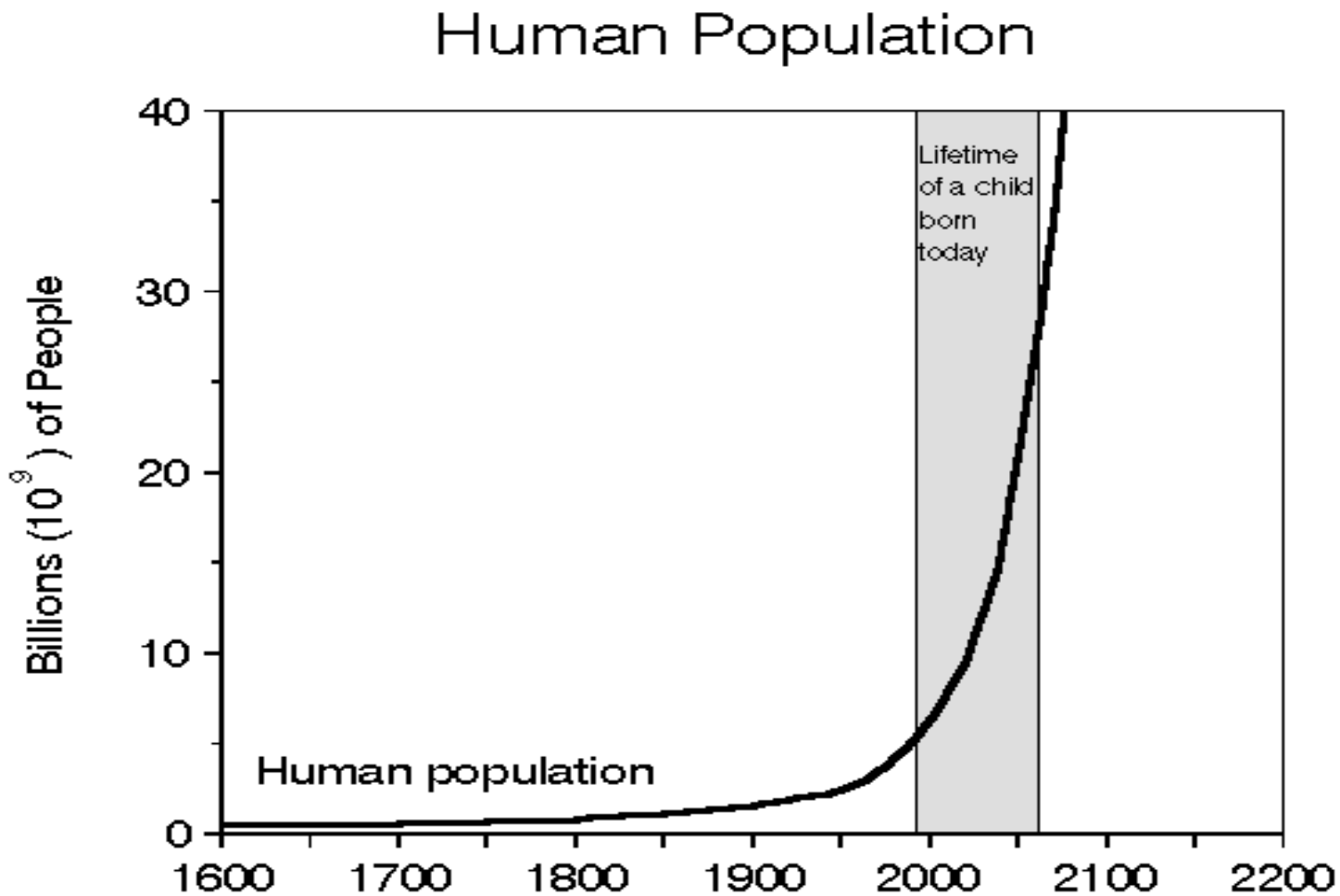


*If no received tradition of ethics is currently adequate to inspire self-imposed, self-restraint,  
how should (we as) humans proceed if they (we) expect to survive?*



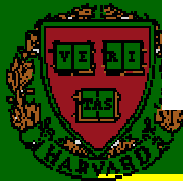
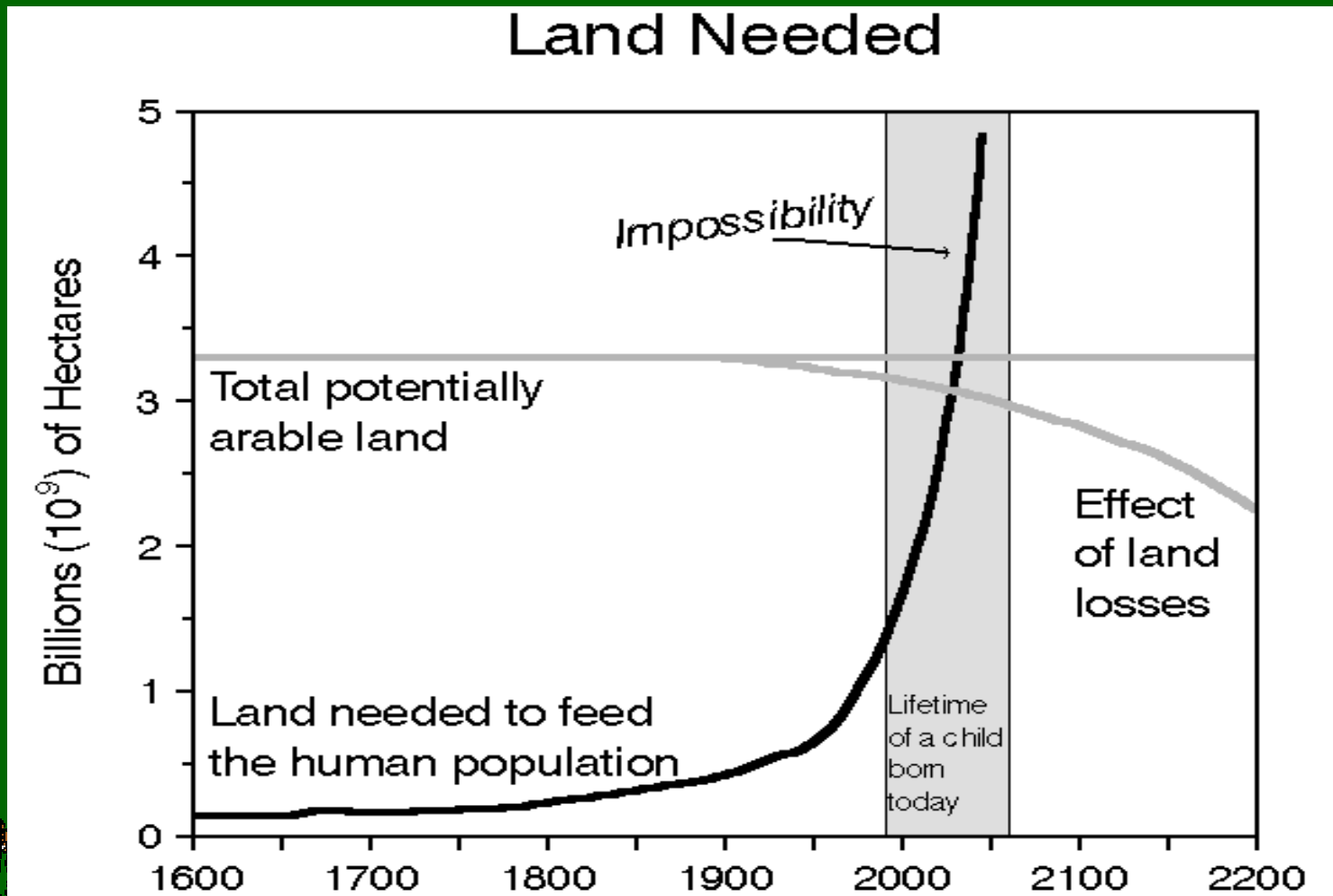
# But How Much is Enough in an Ecosystem ..?

(the nature and pace of changes immediately ahead -1)



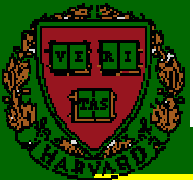
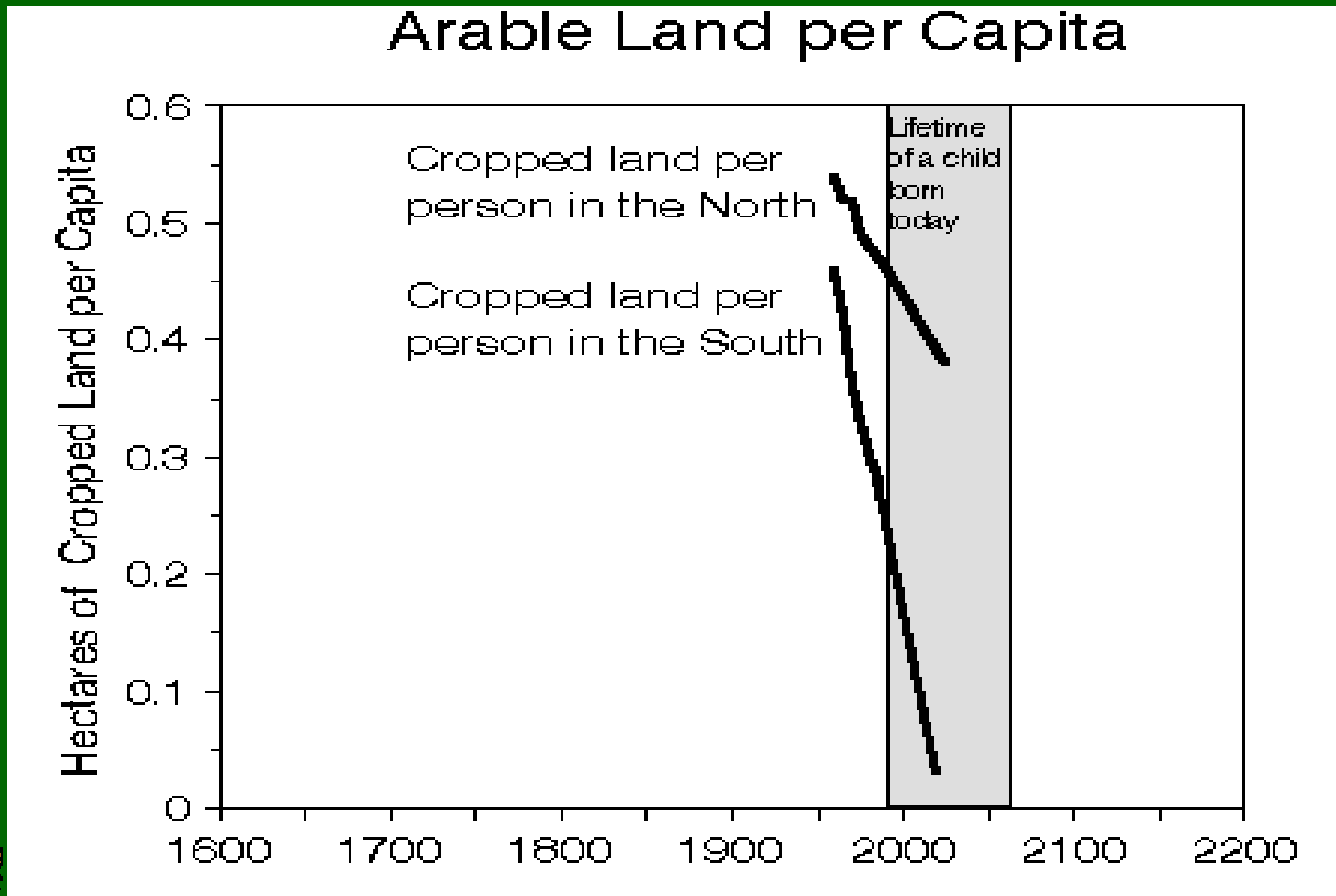
# But How Much is Enough in an Ecosystem ....?

(the nature and pace of changes immediately ahead -2)

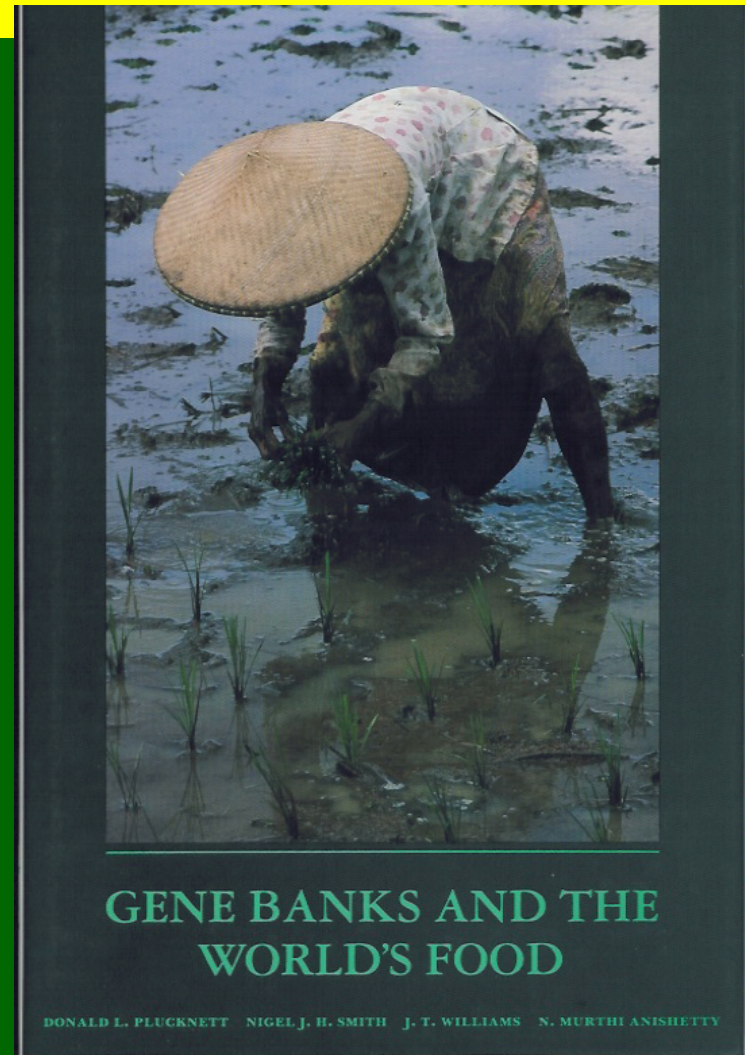


# But How Much is Enough in an Ecosystem....?

(the nature and pace of changes immediately ahead -3)



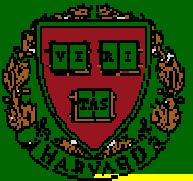
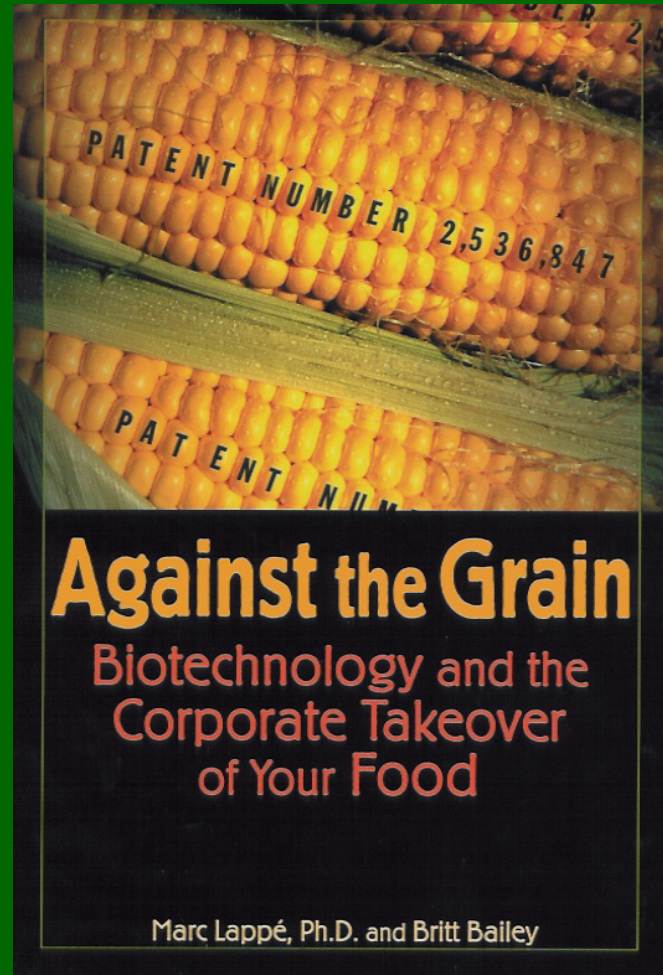
Genetic materials of the world's major cultigens are being collected and stored in "gene banks" -- both private and public.

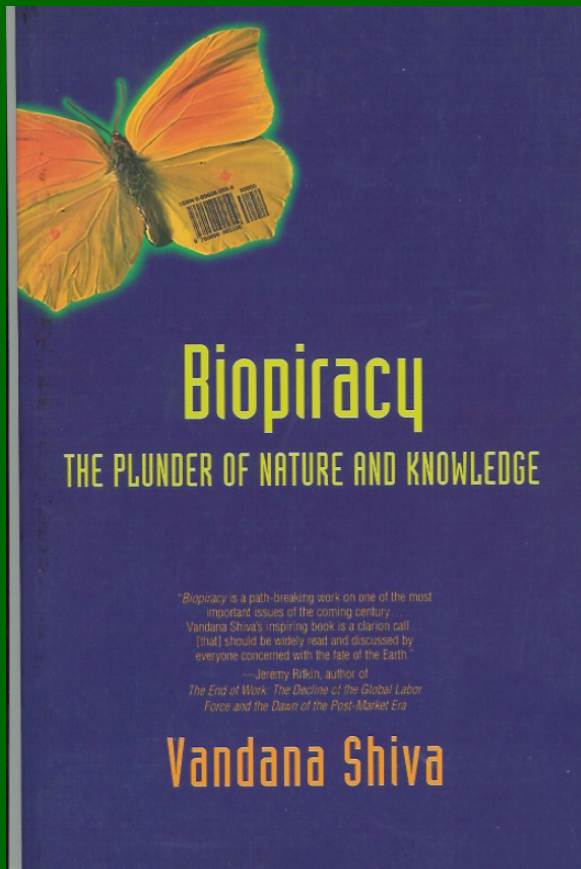




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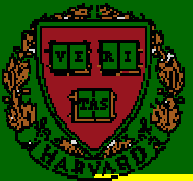
Agribusiness corporations and many governments argue that this is necessary to assure the world's future food supplies.



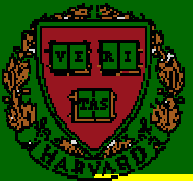
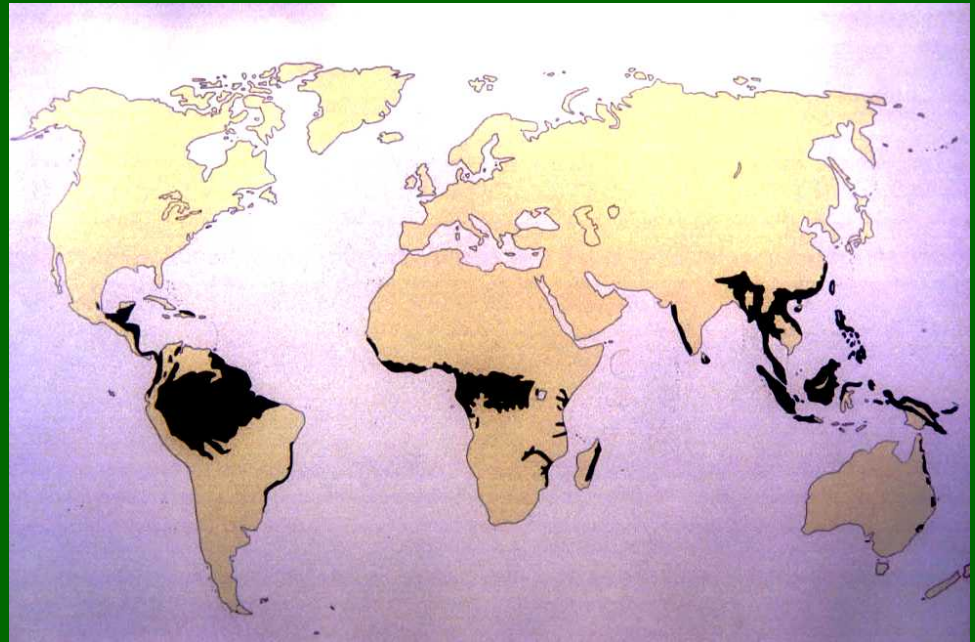


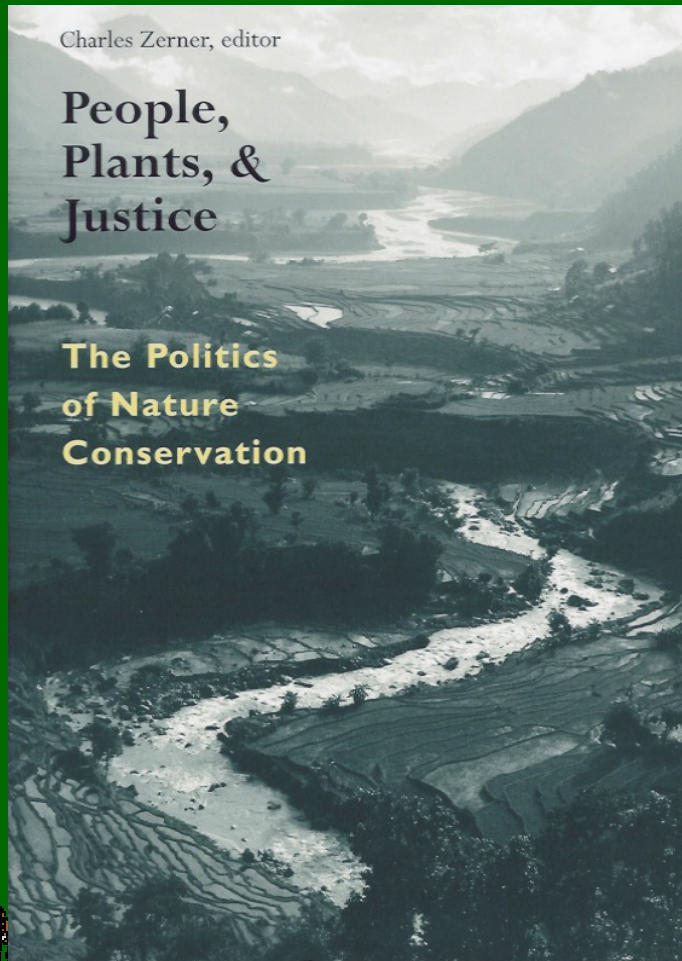
Others from the Third World regard the "privatization" of global plant genetic material as a form of "biopiracy" and fear that this form of private control over public resources is both socially unjust and ecologically destructive.

Tim Weiskel - 18



Local land management decisions around the world in the agricultural sector are increasingly made in reference to these larger global market considerations.



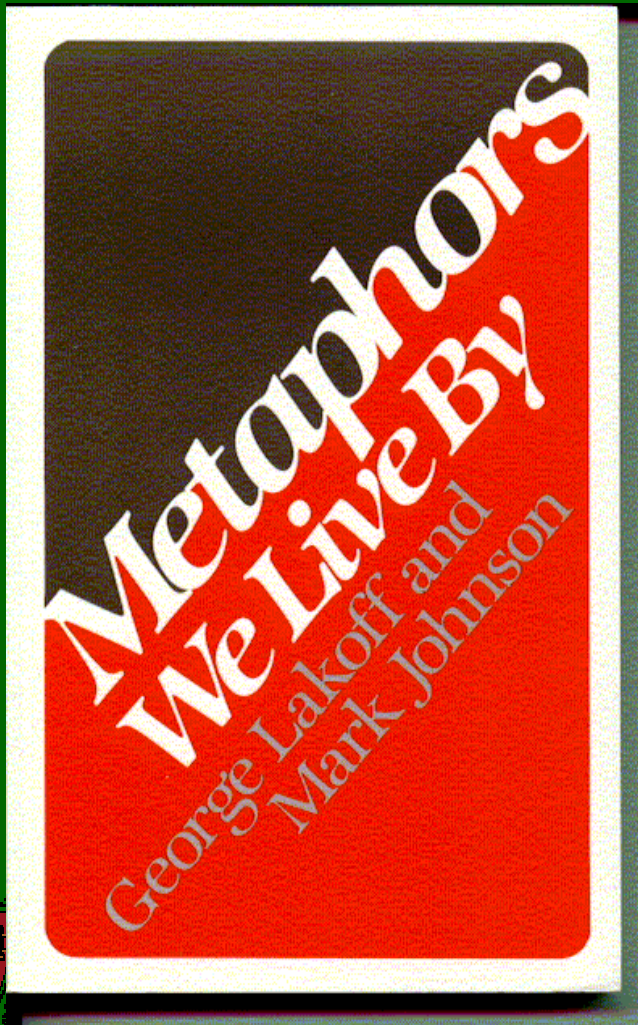


All decisions in this realm have embedded ethical implications.

Yet, we are still working on age-old (antiquated) moral precepts derived, for the most part, from the late-bronze-early iron-age in the Palestinian hill country.



Our long term survival will depend upon  
our moral imagination and *beliefs*



- In effect our collective ‘choice’ about the future will come down to a question of the way we live “unconsciously.”
- The *metaphors we live by* will determine our fate.
- What are our metaphors? What are our beliefs? *Can they change in the time frame we have left?*
- Some people have been thinking about this for a while.



In 1949, Aldo Leopold wrote an essay entitled "*The Land Ethic*" which appeared as the last chapter in his famous work, *A Sand County Almanac*. In this essay he expressed the thought that ethical systems evolve as human communities extend their sense of responsibility. As he put it:

"The extension of ethics, ...is actually a process in ecological evolution. Its sequences may be described in ecological as well as in philosophical terms....



“The first ethics dealt with the relations between individuals....Later accretions dealt with the relation between the individual and society....

“There is as yet no ethic dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it.

“Land...is still property. The land-relation is still strictly economic, entailing privileges but not obligations.



“The extension of ethics to this third element in human environment is, if I read the evidence correctly an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity. It is the third step in a sequence. The first two have already been taken. Individual thinkers since the days of Ezekiel and Isaiah have asserted that the despoliation of the land is not only inexpedient but wrong. Society, however, has not yet affirmed their belief. I regard the present conservation movement as the embryo of such an affirmation.”





Fifty seven after these words were written, we would do well to reflect upon them with an eye to discerning whether or not we have made significant progress in developing "*the land ethic*" of which Leopold wrote so passionately. Is it still true in 2006, as Leopold asserted in 1949, that: "*There is as yet no ethic dealing with man's relation to land....*"?





You are in: Africa

News Front Page

Tuesday, 20 August, 2002, 02:00 GMT 03:00 UK



# World 'ignoring' African food crisis

- Africa**
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia
- UK
- Business
- Entertainment
- Science/Nature
- Technology
- Health

Talking Point

Country Profiles  
In Depth

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Some 7,000 children are in immediate danger (Pic: IFRC)

The head of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) says the world is ignoring the food crisis in southern Africa.

Carol Bellamy, Unicef's executive director, appealed for \$30m in aid for the region when she visited Malawi, where three million people face starvation.

"Without help from the international community, things will get out of hand," she said at a feeding centre in the shanty town of Ndirande on the



**WATCH/LISTEN** REAL MEDIA

**ON THIS STORY**

- ▶ The BBC's James Cowling "The situation in Malawi... is particularly devastating"



**Regional hunger**

**Key stories**

- ▶ What went wrong?
- ▶ Aid worker's diary

**Affected countries**

- ▶ Zimbabwe's hunger
- ▶ Double Swazi jeopardy
- ▶ Zambia's famine road
- ▶ Angolan famine fears
- ▶ Ailing Mozambique
- ▶ Malawi's struggle
- ▶ Lesotho needs food

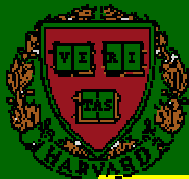
**Ways to help**

- ▶ Agencies' appeals

**CLICKABLE MAP**

- ▶ Famine trail

**TALKING POINT**



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For the time being, these assumptions are likely to predominate...

*Implicit theories*

*Financial "Investor's" Worldview*

**Community**

The moral community is made up of those who share in capital to undertake investments in industrial capacity and trading ventures

**System**

The system consists of investors engaged in differential strategies of investment throughout the world. The world as a whole is available as a theater for profitable investment. Financial resources knit the system as a whole together.

**Authority**

Authority is vested in trans-national and multinational alliances and agreements that work to facilitate the unimpeded movement of capital

**Change**

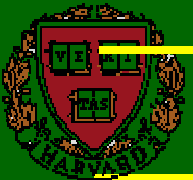
Change occurs through the identification and investment in new ideas.. Change is good and has become essential for competitive survival of rival financial groups. Growth is both good and necessary.

**Agency**

The investor is the agent of change in the system. The state should act to facilitate and “free up” the potential for the global movement of financial resources.

**Time**

The focus is upon the next “quarter” or a shortened time horizon determined by a calculation of the annual average rate of profit. Rapid “turnover” of capital is necessary for maximum profit generation. “Time is money.”



You are in: [Sci/Tech](#)

Tuesday, 14 May, 2002, 19:14 GMT 20:14 UK

[Front Page](#)[World](#)[UK](#)[UK Politics](#)[Business](#)[Sci/Tech](#)[Health](#)[Education](#)[Entertainment](#)[Talking Point](#)[In Depth](#)[AudioVideo](#)

## Africa 'needs GM crops to survive'



For some farmers, GM crops mean new hope despite the uncertainties

**By Alex Kirby**

BBC News Online environment correspondent

Many African scientists believe genetically modified (GM) crops offer the only hope of avoiding mass starvation on the continent.

The claim is made in a TV programme. It says that in dozens of African countries, "biotechnology has sparked a mood of optimism".

The programme recognises the long-term fears of anti-GM campaigners, but says Africa's dilemma is acute.

And it says many people in Africa think biotechnology can offer better health and

**See also:**

- ▶ 22 Apr 02 | Europe  
GM talks seek to protect environment
- ▶ 17 Apr 02 | Sci/Tech  
UN moves to curb bio-piracy
- ▶ 02 Apr 02 | South Asia  
GM crops win new friends

**Internet links:**

- ▶ [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- ▶ [African Biotechnology](#)
- ▶ [ITDG](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

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Africa is said to *need GM crops* because that most closely fits our worldview of what agriculture should be in the "modern" world...



*Machinery will be sold to the needy African countries to modify existing ecosystems on a large scale.*



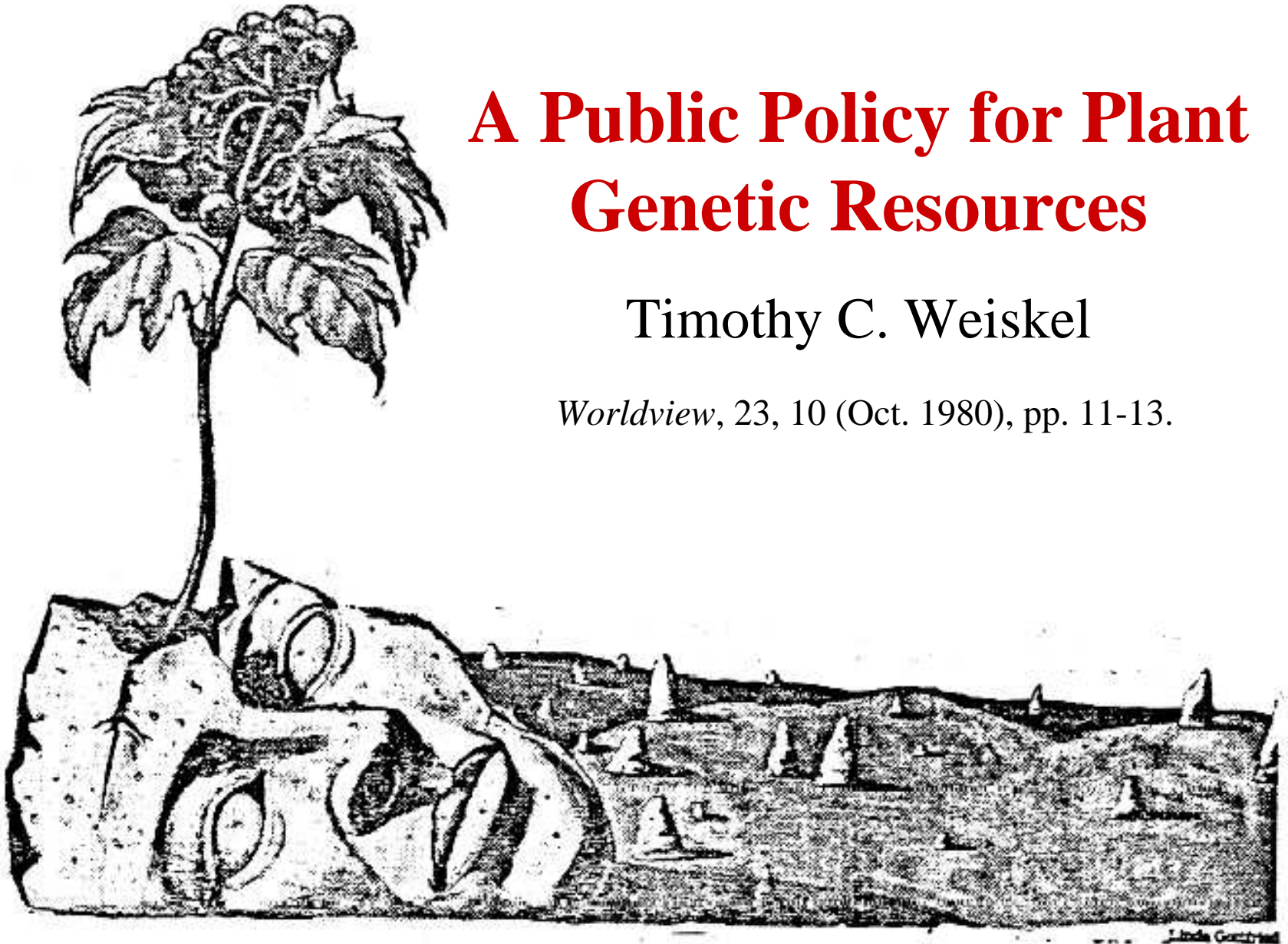


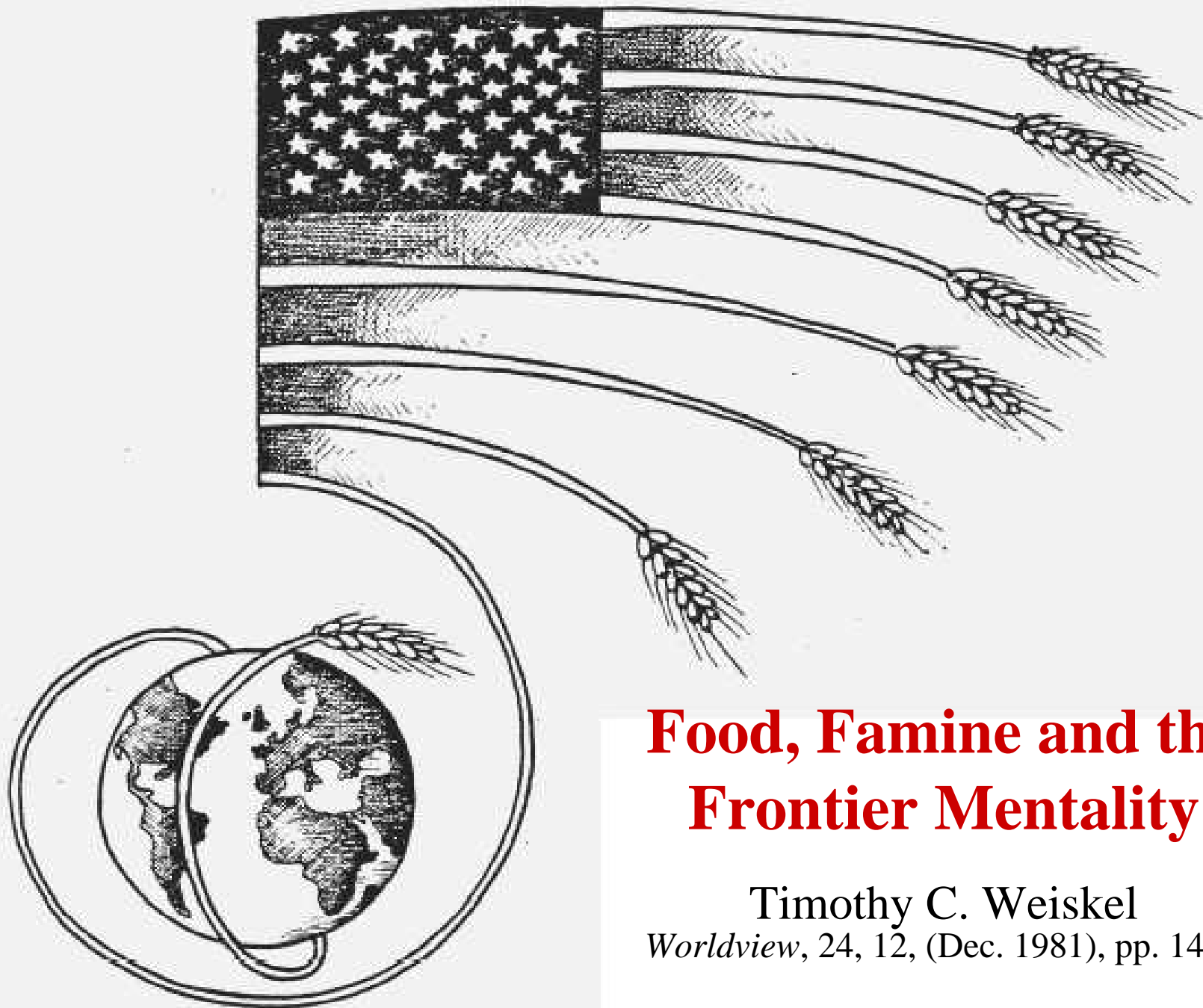
*Fragile soils will probably be abused with inappropriate plowing techniques in some cases accelerating soil erosion and the permanent destruction of*

# A Public Policy for Plant Genetic Resources

Timothy C. Weiskel

*Worldview*, 23, 10 (Oct. 1980), pp. 11-13.





## **Food, Famine and the Frontier Mentality**

Timothy C. Weiskel

*Worldview*, 24, 12, (Dec. 1981), pp. 14-16.



Meanwhile, in Europe and Canada, a major debate is underway. Farmers, consumers and scientists challenge the advisability and ecological sustainability of GM technology.

**BBC NEWS** WORLD EDITION

You are in: **Business**  
Wednesday, 16 October, 2002, 13:25 GMT 14:25 UK

**GM food debate rages on**



Worries over GM food have sparked protests in Europe

by **Martin Webber**  
BBC World Service business news editor

**EU environment ministers are meeting in Luxembourg to discuss the regulations on the labelling of genetically modified food. The BBC's Martin Webber takes a closer look at the debate surrounding genetically modified food on both sides of the Atlantic.**

The United States appears to have backed away from a fight with Europe over genetically modified crops - for the time being at least.

The new less aggressive approach from Washington comes in spite of the fact US biotech giants are unlikely to be allowed to sell new GM seeds to farmers in Europe any time soon.

**WATCH/LISTEN** REAL MEDIA

**ON THIS STORY**

- World Business Review from April 2001  
"It means the complete control of the farmer"
- World Business Review from February 2002  
"European consumers are worried"

**See also:**

- 06 Sep 02 | UK  
'Growing fears' over food safety
- 24 Jul 02 | Scotland  
Action pledged by GM protesters
- 08 Jul 02 | UK  
GM crop trial sites announced
- 03 Jul 02 | Science/Nature  
How likely is GM crop contamination?

**Internet links:**

- Genewatch
- CropGen
- Monsanto

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**News Front Page**



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WELCOME



AN INTRODUCTION



PROFILES



NEWS



FOCUS ON AFRICA



FOCUS ON ASIA

## About GM Watch

**GM WATCH** developed out of the Norfolk Genetic Information Network (NGIN - pronounced 'engine') - a news and research service founded in Norfolk, UK in the spring of 1998 to report on the growing concerns about genetic engineering, also known as genetic modification.

**GM WATCH** has developed a particular focus on the use of hype, propaganda and spin to promote this technology, and on exposing the role played by corporate-friendly scientists, industry front groups, PR companies, lobbyists, and political groups.

## READ WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT GM WATCH

**GM WATCH** successes have included the exposure of:

- covert PR campaigns ([Corporate Ghosts](#))
- manufactured support for GM ([The Fake Parade](#))
- deceptive PR involving lobby groups ([lobbywatch.org](#))
- the role of extreme political networks ([Invasion of the Entryists](#))
- attempts to manipulate the views of children ([Biospinology?](#))
- bogus accounts of scientific research ([False Reports](#))





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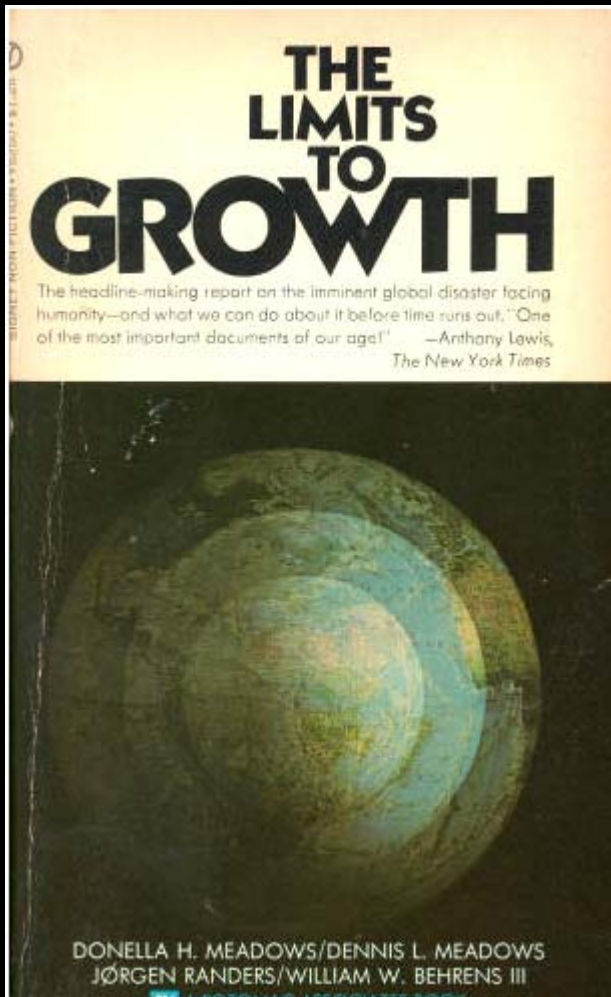
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# But is Supply-Side Thinking Enough?



Scientists started asking:  
“Aren’t there inevitably going  
to have to be:

*“Limits to Growth?”*

*(Published, 1972, in time for  
the Stockholm Conference of  
Ministers of the Environment)*

# Population Growth Throughout History

It took more than 10,000 generations for our population to reach 2 billion. Then it began to rocket upward to 9 billion in the course of a single lifetime: ours. We have a moral obligation to take this dramatic change into account in terms of the relationship between our species and the planet.

Scientists begin to ask about possible "limits to growth."

2050: 9.1 billion

2006: 6.5 billion

1945: 2.3 billion

1776: 1 billion

250 million

Billions of people

First modern humans

160,000 BC

7,000 BC

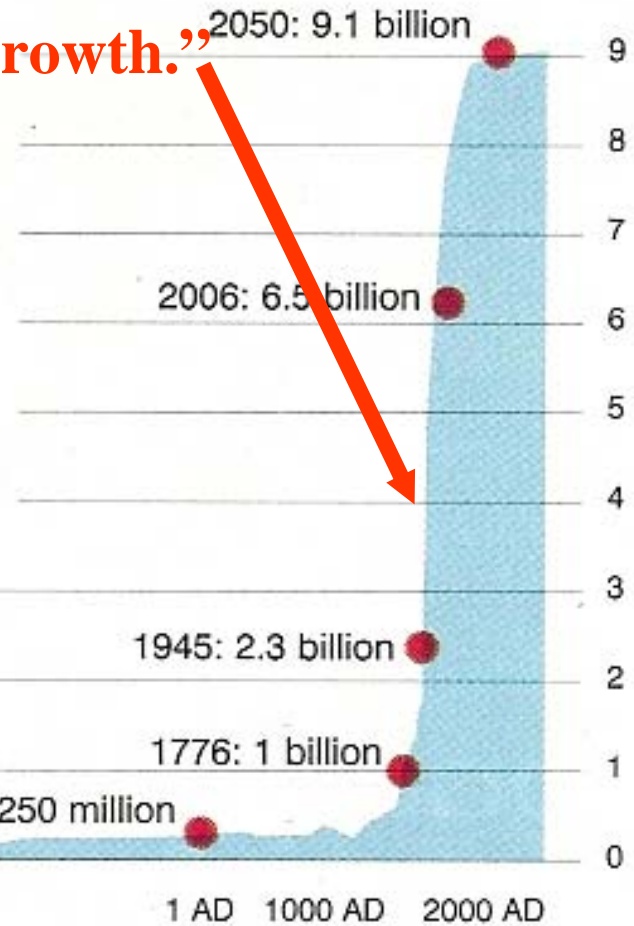
4,000 BC

1 AD

1000 AD

2000 AD

SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS

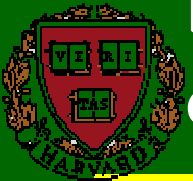


# Stockholm Conference of 1972

International concern about the environment has been expressed for more than thirty years.

In 1972 the first World Conference on the Environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden, chaired by Maurice Strong.

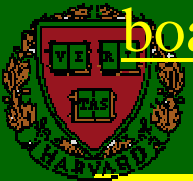
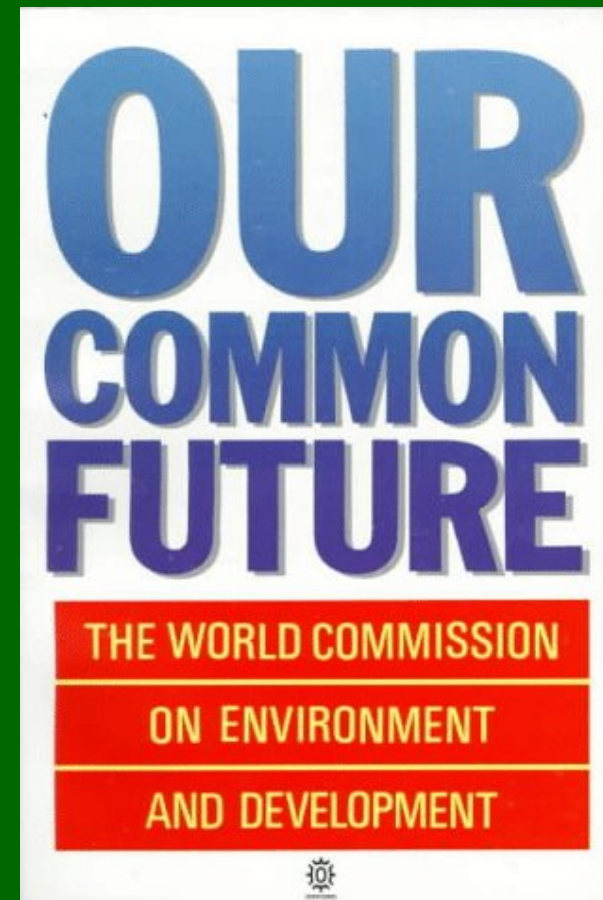
It brought together Ministers of the Environment from many of the world's countries, and concluded by emphasizing that there was a large difference between the industrialized countries and the developing world.



# “Sustainable” Development

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) established with leadership of Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1980s -- issued report urging a global “summit,” *Our Common Future* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987) \*

UNCED - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 - First “Earth Summit” and first global meeting on environment since 1972. President George H.W. Bush warmly endorsed the FCCC and Congress approved it. Further, Bush boasted that the U.S. would take the lead.

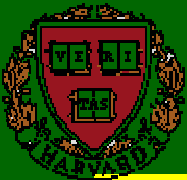


# “Sustainable” Development

After UNCED Rio meetings “sustainable development” became the new phrase to bless all international aid and investment activities.

The phrase built itself into the titles of various groups hoping to gain legitimacy by using it, especially those organizations within the UN system like the:

[Commission on Sustainable Development](#)

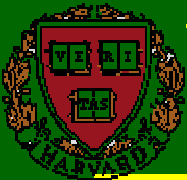




# NGOs focus on “Sustainability”

In addition to the UN official circles, non-governmental organizations -- many with international affiliations began to emphasize sustainability and coordinate information about strategies to meet the sustainability goals of the Rio document known as “Agenda 21.”

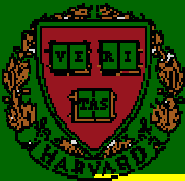
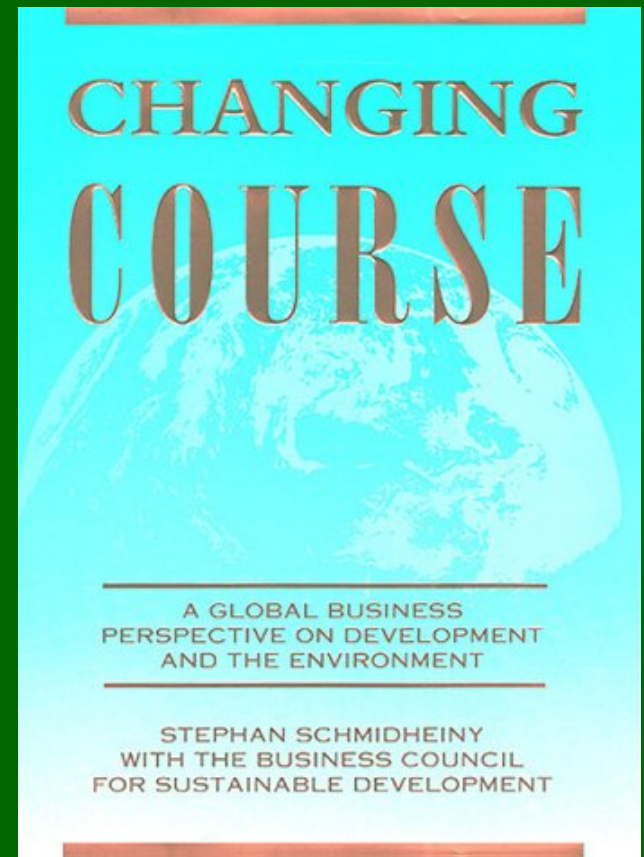
Primary among these was the Canadian organization International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)



# Businesses & “Sustainability”

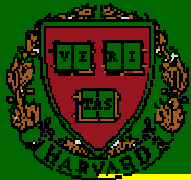
Even the international business community has come out in favor of the principle of sustainability and built it in to their new definitions of what they are about.

With the publication of a major study, called *Changing Course* the World Business Council for Sustainable Development was launched.



# So, what has been accomplished?

On the “development front” the official story is “mixed”... In reality “development” has been a disaster during the 1990s – the most sustained period of American economic growth in history.



BBC NEWS

Categories: TV, RADIO, COMMUNICATE, WHERE I LIVE, INDEX, SEARCH

You are in: Business

Wednesday, 18 July, 2001, 13:57 GMT 14:57 UK

## World inequality

Income Received by Rich and Poor Countries  
GNP per capita (\$ thousands)

Year	High-income countries	Middle-income countries	Low-income countries
1961	10	2	0.5
64	12	2.5	0.8
67	15	3	1
70	18	3.5	1.2
73	17	3.5	1.2
76	20	3.5	1.2
79	22	3.5	1.2
82	23	3.5	1.2
85	22	3.5	1.2
88	22	3.5	1.2
91	24	3.5	1.2
94	26	3.5	1.2
97	28	4	1

SOURCE: Unicef

Against the backdrop of anti-globalisation protests at the G8 summit in Genoa, BBC News Online examines the facts about the world economy and the gap between rich and poor.

**Overview**

- What was achieved
- World inequality

**The protests**

- No victors
- \$45m clean-up bill
- Clashes in pictures
- Brutality allegations
- Fearsome carabinieri
- Eyewitness to violence

SERVICES: Daily E-mail, News Ticker, News for PDA, Feedback

# On The Environmental Front...?

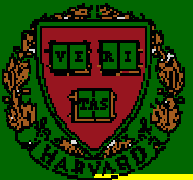


Assessments over the course of the 1990s -- since the UNCED “Earth Summit” -- are not encouraging despite affirmations of all the heads of state in the 1992 meetings.

The recent “year end” assessments by Lester Brown, the founder of the *Worldwatch Institute* make the discouraging trends clear

See: [State of the World 2002](#) and [Vital Signs 2002: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future](#)

Tim Weiskel - 44





# JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002



26 August - 4 September 2002



Welcome to the official United Nations website for the Johannesburg Summit 2002 - the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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## Summit Coverage

26 August - 4 September 2002

### Feature Story



Closing of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

## The Johannesburg Summit Test: What Will Change?

New York, 25 September— When the United Nations General Assembly authorized holding the World Summit on Sustainable Development, it was hardly a secret— or even a point in dispute—



Summit Logo



Virtual Exhibition





News Front Page



You are in: Africa

Tuesday, 3 September, 2002, 23:55 GMT 00:55 UK

# Pressure groups condemn summit

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia
- UK
- Business
- Entertainment
- Science/Nature
- Technology
- Health



AP

Groups such as Greenpeace have staged protests

Talking Point

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Delegates at the world summit in Johannesburg have finalised a draft declaration on sustainable development, but leading pressure groups say the deal will do little for the environment or the world's poor.

Pressure groups, including Greenpeace, Oxfam, Friends of the Earth and the WWF, have condemned the summit as failure and a missed opportunity.

The 10-day World Summit on Sustainable Development saw

“  
**A triumph for greed and self-interest, a tragedy for poor**

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## ON THIS STORY

- 1) **Oxfam's Alex Renton**  
"It's even worse than the pessimists predicted"
- 2) **Christian Aid spokesperson Liz Stuart**  
"We're very disappointed with the outcome"
- 3) **Klaus Toepfer of the UN Environment Program**  
"We've gone a big step in the direction of targets"



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## WORLD DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

▶ Full coverage

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- ▶ Russia backs Kyoto
- ▶ Summit conclusions
- ▶ Summit in quotes
- ▶ Do big summits work?
- ▶ World growth threat

### SPECIAL REPORT

- ▶ Disposable Planet
- ▶ Mozambique's fish
- ▶ World water crisis

Sad ending  
... a major opportunity missed.

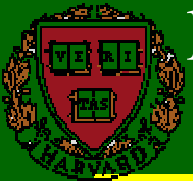


## “Free Trade” and the Farming Issue

Farming issues proved to be explosive at the Summit on Sustainable Development. Colin Powell was shouted down because of his characterization of the farming problems.

### Small Farmers in Mexico Feel Effects of NAFTA

As the terms of NAFTA gradually reduce protective tariffs on agricultural goods sent to Mexico, small farmers south of the border feel the effects. Many say NAFTA is destroying their livelihood.





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Friday, 3 May, 2002, 11:01 GMT 12:01 UK

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**Business**

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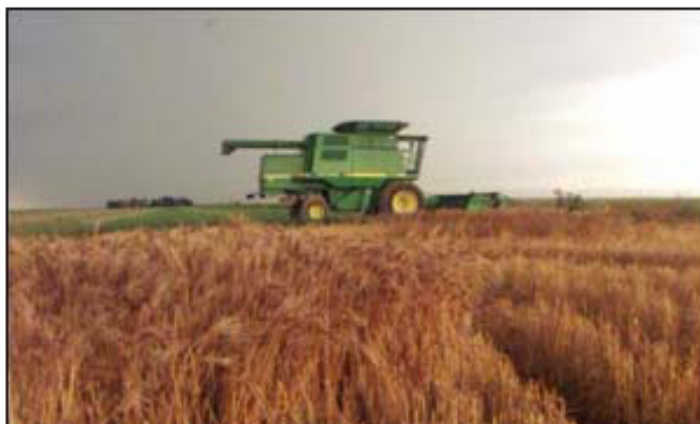
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## US farm aid threatens new trade row



AP

Farm states matter in mid-term elections

United States lawmakers have approved a package of agricultural subsidies which could increase global tensions over trade.

The European Union has said it is considering whether to file a complaint to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) if the bill is signed into law by President George W Bush.

Australia has also protested against the measures, while Canada's agriculture minister described them as a "serious blow to US credibility" in global free trade negotiations.

### WATCH/LISTEN

#### ON THIS STORY

▶ **Larry Mitchell, US Corn Growers Association**

"The profitability's still not there, we're still at least 40% below what our cost of production is"

▶ **Gregor Kreuzhuber, EU farm commissioners spokesman**

"They (the US) are now deciding on more support which will harm especially developing countries"

#### See also:

- ▶ 02 May 02 | Business  
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- ▶ 29 Apr 02 | Business  
US farm bill raises trade tensions
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 Monday, 13 May, 2002, 20:41 GMT 21:41 UK

**Outrage as US farm handout agreed**



US farmers' gain could be trade talks' loss

President George W Bush has signed into law a bill awarding US farmers as much as \$190bn in subsidies over the next decade.

The bill, which boosts spending on US farm subsidies by up to 80%, was described by Mr Bush as promoting a sector "essential to the success of the American economy".

"This bill is generous and provides a safety net for farmers," he said in an early-morning ceremony designed to make it onto newscasts in farming communities.

**WATCH/LISTEN**  
**ON THIS STORY**  
 The BBC's Steve Kingstone  
 "The market in world farming feels a little less free"

**WORLD TRADE WARS**  
**Trade tensions rise**

**Steel wars**

- ▶ EU goes to WTO
- ▶ EU threatens back
- ▶ US imposes tariffs
- ▶ Trade war looms
- ▶ Why it matters
- ▶ Politics of steel
- ▶ Q&A: Steel dispute

**Farming**

- ▶ US farm aid passed
- ▶ Australian farmer views
- ▶ Questions over farm bill

**Other disputes**

- ▶ US faces \$1bn fine
- ▶ EU wins key trade case

**Background**

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The Bush administration, nevertheless feels it can get away with farm subsidies.

Paul O'Neill, on expanding world trade. "...The whole world will be better for it."

The screenshot shows the BBC News World Edition website. At the top, there are navigation links for NEWS, SPORT, WEATHER, WORLD SERVICE, and A-Z INDEX, along with a search bar. The main header reads "BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION". Below this, it says "You are in: Business" and "Tuesday, 26 November, 2002, 18:01 GMT". The main headline is "US calls for tariff-free world". To the left of the headline is a "News Front Page" menu with categories like Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East, South Asia, UK, Business, E-Commerce, Economy, Market Data, Entertainment, Science/Nature, Technology, and Health. Below the headline is a photograph of US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick shaking hands with a woman. To the right of the photo is a "WATCH/LISTEN" section with "ON THIS STORY" and several video links. Below the photo is a text block starting with "US Trade Representative Zoellick pushed for the plan". To the right of the text is a "WORLD TRADE WARS" section with a sub-headline "Trade tensions rise" and a list of items: "World trade talks", "Cheap drug deal stalls", "Plan to scrap tariffs", "Trade deal unravelling", and "New Doha trade deal". At the bottom left, there are "BBC SPORT" and "BBC WEATHER" logos. At the bottom right, there is a quote: "Our proposal would turn every corner" and a "Farming" section with "GM trade war looms" and "US farm aid passed".

BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION

You are in: **Business**  
Tuesday, 26 November, 2002, 18:01 GMT

## US calls for tariff-free world

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Americas  
Asia-Pacific  
Europe  
Middle East  
South Asia  
UK  
**Business**  
E-Commerce  
Economy  
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ON THIS STORY

- ▶ The BBC's Stephen Evans  
"The American plan is to cut tariffs on non-agricultural goods substantially"
- ▶ Rahul Bajaj, Bajaj Group  
"They must be magnanimous and sympathetic to the needs of developing countries"
- ▶ Peter Sutherland, former WTO chief  
"Any initiative to breathe new life into the Doha trade talks is a very good thing."

WORLD TRADE WARS  
Trade tensions rise

**World trade talks**

- ▶ Cheap drug deal stalls
- ▶ Plan to scrap tariffs
- ▶ Trade deal unravelling
- ▶ New Doha trade deal

**Farming**

- ▶ GM trade war looms
- ▶ US farm aid passed

US Trade Representative Zoellick pushed for the plan  
The US government has called for the elimination of all tariffs on manufactured goods under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.  
The plan would lead to the elimination of all tariffs on industrial and consumer goods by 2015 in an attempt to jump-start global trade talks.  
The proposal, unveiled on Tuesday by US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Commerce

“Our proposal would turn every corner”

News Front Page



- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia
- UK

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- Economy
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- Entertainment
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- Technology
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You are in: **Business**  
Monday, 2 December, 2002, 11:24 GMT

# New US-EU trade war looms



Zambia has refused GM crops despite famine

**By Steve Schifferes**

BBC News Online economics reporter



The United States is considering a fresh trade war with Europe over the issue of genetically modified (GM) foods.

The move would increase tension with Europe at a delicate time for the world trade talks, which were launched one year ago.



## Trade tensions rise

### World trade talks

- ▶ Cheap drug deal stalls
- ▶ Plan to scrap tariffs
- ▶ Trade deal unravelling
- ▶ New Doha trade deal

### Farming

- ▶ GM trade war looms
- ▶ US farm aid passed

### Steel wars

- ▶ EU delays riposte
- ▶ US imposes tariffs
- ▶ Why it matters
- ▶ Politics of steel
- ▶ Q&A: Steel dispute

### Other disputes

- ▶ US faces \$1bn fine
- ▶ EU wins key trade case

### Regional trade deals

- ▶ Asian free trade zone
- ▶ Brazil blocks FTAA

This US-EU trade war will have large and far-reaching implications for the viability of Third World agriculture and global sustainability.



# George Bush and the Environment

An ENN In-depth Report



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## 100 days of Bush: disaster zone for the environment?

Can 100 days reverse more than 30 years of environmental regulations in the United States?



That is a question many conservation groups are asking as the Bush administration passed its 100-day mark in office.

[Read the full story...](#)

In what area of the environment will President Bush have the greatest impact?

- Global warming
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Public lands
- Endangered species
- Environmental enforcement

**VOTE!**

### The Bush Report

**Payback time for Bush — at the expense of environment**

**Backgrounders**

### Additional Resources

To find out more about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, click on the links below:  
[The Wilderness Society - National](#)



### Bush Toolkit

Launched by the Center for Responsive Politics, [Opensecrets.org](#) offers a guide to the money that is spent by politicians in U.S. elections. Visitors to the site can track campaign donations, by industry,



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### NRDC Environment Watch: The Bush Record

Get the latest news about the Bush administration's dealings on environmental issues, paired with comments from NRDC's scientists, lawyers and policy experts. For more than 30 years NRDC has been at the heart of the national dialogue on the environment -- turn to us for the real story behind this administration's actions.

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# Texas parks loaded with toxins

Friday, March 23, 2001

The parks in President George W. Bush's hometown of Midland, Texas, bear the greatest burden of toxic pesticides of all public parks in the state.

A study released this month by the [Texas Pesticide Information Network](#) surveyed the 27 largest metropolitan areas in Texas to determine the magnitude, frequency and potential health risks of toxic chemical use in parks.

The Austin-based nonprofit organization found that city parks departments used at least 75,000 pounds of pesticides in Texas public parks in 1998.

Of the cities surveyed, Midland ranked first in pesticide use per acre and percentage of toxic pesticide applications. Roughly 75 percent of the pesticides used in



Courtesy Texas Pesticide Information Network

**Pesticide levels were analyzed in a report, 'Play at Your Own Risk: the Hidden Dangers of Pesticide Use in Texas' City Parks.'**

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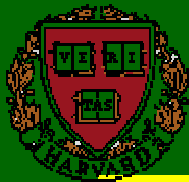
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## Toxic Texas The Environmental Legacy of Governor George W. Bush

Texas Governor George W. Bush wants to bring the agenda he championed as governor to Washington D.C. as the next U.S. president. But so far little has been made public about the actual substance of those policies, particularly concerning the environment.

As an organization made up of public employees who are concerned about Texas' environmental policies, *Texas PEER* feels we're in a unique position to explain Gov. Bush's





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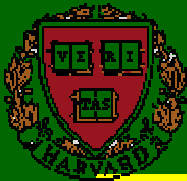
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# The Nation.

## BUSH'S FIRST 100 DAYS LET THEM DRINK ARSENIC



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**EDITORIAL** | May 14, 2001

# The Worst 100 Days

So much for "compassionate conservatism." During his first 100 days, George W. Bush's principal accomplishment, indeed his only one, was to demolish any too-generous illusions about who he is. **The mild and moderate character who ran for President, claiming to want more or less the same things Al Gore wanted, has been replaced by a hard-edged, rather maladroit right-winger.** Bush brushed aside his own rhetorical flourishes toward bipartisan civility and has engaged in a bare-knuckle (and politically tone-deaf) style of governing that most resembles the notorious theft in the Florida recount operation: Take no prisoners, obliterate the facts and rules of reason, forget the dubious legitimacy upon which this presidency is based. A more likable and personally persuasive leader (think Reagan or Clinton) might have pulled it off. When Bush speaks, one's thoughts drift immediately to whether he will successfully read the words off the card.

This President's beginning is not just ugly, it's ominous. That conclusion isn't based only on ideology but on the retrograde mindset of the new Administration. The men in charge--the



# Payback time for Bush — at the expense of environment

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

By Margot Higgins

During the 2000 campaign for U.S. president, George W. Bush raised more money than any other candidate in history.

Donors to the Bush campaign and the Republican National Party contributed \$314 million, 80 percent of which came from corporations or individuals employed by them.

With the exception of labor, Bush gathered more funding than former Vice President Al Gore in every major sector of the U.S. economy, including oil and gas, real estate, energy, agribusiness and the automotive industry.

Now, environmentalists claim, the president is returning the favor at the expense of clean air, clean water and the protection of public land.

One blatant example is a proposal, backed by President Bush, to drill for oil in the pristine coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The oil and gas industry made its largest contribution to a presidential campaign, and more than 75 percent of the money went to the Republican Party, according to conservation groups.

The Bush administration's recent abandonment of a plan to lower the amount of arsenic in U.S. drinking water appears suspect in light of a \$5 million campaign contribution from the



Courtesy White House

**Donors to George W. Bush's presidential campaign and the Republican National Party contributed \$314 million, 80 percent of which came from corporations or individuals employed by them.**

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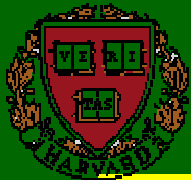
[Boycott Bush.net](#)

[Bush hauls in coal contributions](#)

[Green groups vow boycott of oil firms over Kyoto](#)

Bush received the following contributions during the 1999-2000 Presidential campaign:

Oil & Gas	Real Estate	Automotive
\$1,846,331	\$4,308,309	\$1,254,248
Agribusiness		Energy
\$2,626,612		\$2,857,848





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## **THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE CABINET**

**A LOOK AT PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE—  
FROM INAUGURATION DAY TO EARTH DAY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A review of the Bush Administration record on environmental and public health issues from Inauguration Day to Earth Day reveals an extraordinarily poor performance. The record is strewn with existing environmental and public health protections delayed (if not suspended or repealed altogether), campaign promises broken, and Cabinet appointees whose career records indicate an open hostility to the nation's environment and the laws that protect it—in startling contrast to their now-sworn duties as top-ranking enforcers of environmental laws. Most troubling is the evidence that points to many of the new administration's decisions being driven by industries that stand to gain from the weakening and withdrawing of environmental rules—industries that gave millions in campaign contributions to then-candidate Bush and to the Republican Party.<sup>1</sup>

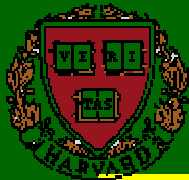
In considering the Bush Administration's environmental record to date, this report will explore examples of the "Good, the Bad, and the Cabinet." The "good" is comprised of the Clinton-era rules that were released by the Bush Administration after an initial delay. The "bad" includes the new Administration's sweeping and illegal order to delay all recently finalized regulations, along with key environmental and public health protections that are still being delayed and those that have been suspended, weakened, or repealed. It also lists the promises made by then-candidate Bush on the campaign trail that were cast aside once he took office. Finally, the "cabinet" highlights two individuals who are arguably the President's most controversial cabinet appointments on environmental issues—Attorney General John Ashcroft and Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

In the days preceding Earth Day, the Bush Administration allowed a few environmental and public health rules to take effect in an apparent bid to improve its ailing environmental image. These newly released regulations—along with other rules that have been repealed, suspended, or weakened since President Bush took office—are, in fact, initiatives from the previous administration that already carried the force of law before their effective dates were delayed. This regulatory delay was one of the very first actions of the President upon taking office.

Now the new administration would like to claim the clemency it has granted to some Clinton-era regulations as symbols of its even-handedness and leadership in the environmental arena, even though they had no legal right to delay the effective dates of those final rules in the first place. In any case, when considering the new Administration's

---

<sup>1</sup> All contribution records listed in this report were obtained from the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan, non-profit research group based in Washington, D.C. that tracks money in politics, and its effect on elections and public policy. While the Democratic Party also received campaign contributions from all the sources listed in this report, our focus is on contributions to the Republican President and the Republican Party because it is this party that is currently in control of both the Executive and Legislative Branches in the federal government.



May 12, 2001

## Bush Picks Industry Insiders to Fill Environmental Posts

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

**W**ASHINGTON, May 9 — President Bush has filled several senior environment-related jobs in his administration with pro-business advocates who have worked on behalf of various industries in battles with the federal government, largely during the Clinton years.

Mr. Bush has announced his intent to nominate a mining industry lobbyist as the No. 2 person at the Interior Department. He has chosen a lobbyist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to be the department's chief lawyer.

His choice for No. 2 at the Environmental Protection Agency was a lobbyist for Monsanto, the chemical company now devoted to agribusiness. He wants as chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality a lawyer who represented General Electric in its fight with the E.P.A. over toxic waste sites.

Many of these candidates share a pro-property rights philosophy as well as a libertarian leaning, and conservatives find this just the right approach. Supporters also say that the individuals selected are deeply familiar with the issues that will come before them, and that they will know how to balance environmental protection and economic interests.

"We're real happy with the team that Bush is putting in," said Mike Hardiman, legislative director of the American Conservative Union.



Pollutants and animal habitat are minor issues, compared with the thrust of the administration's *resource* and *energy* policies.



www.nytimes.com

**The New York Times**  
ON THE WEB

May 1, 2001

## Cheney Promotes Increasing Supply as Energy Policy

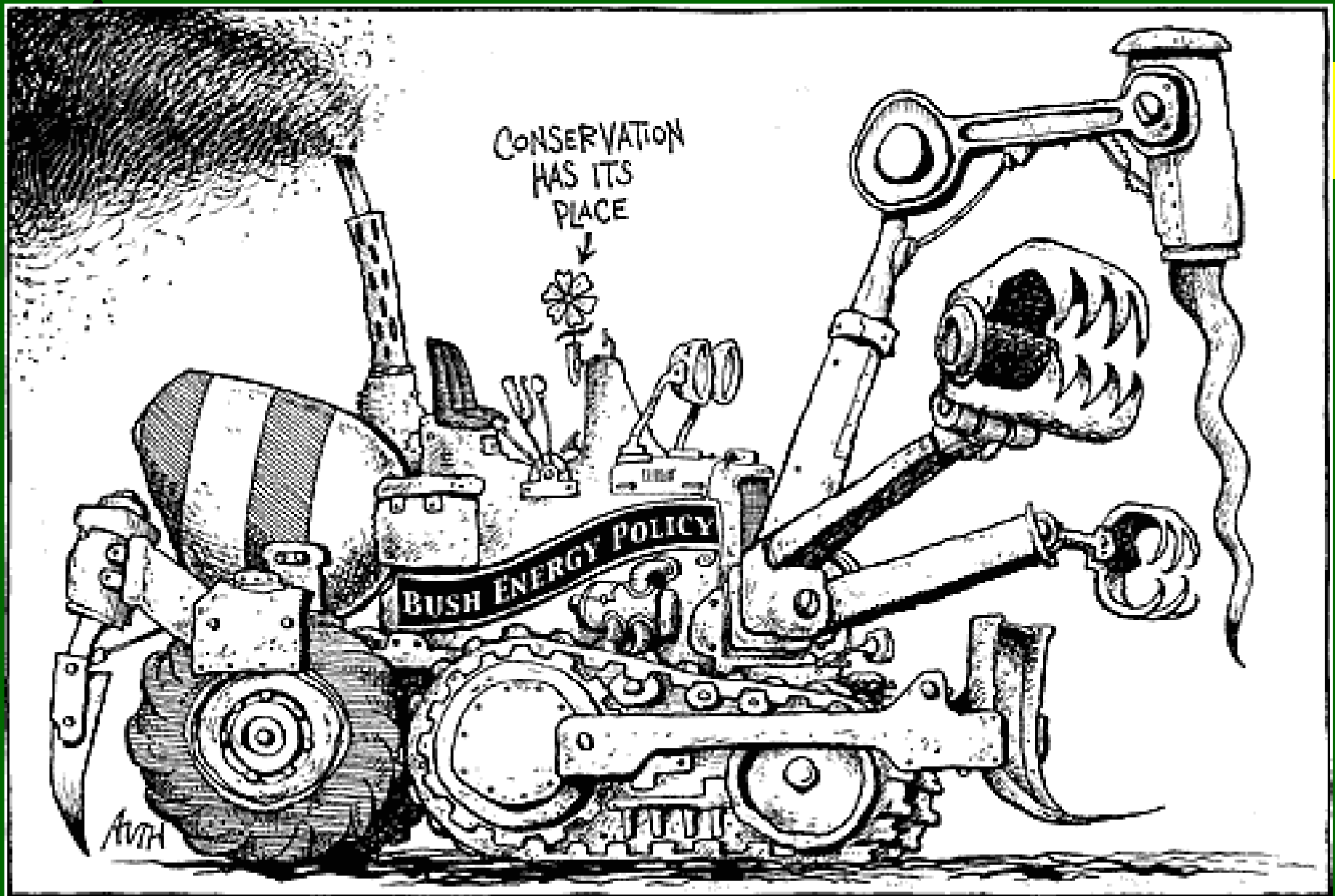
By JOSEPH KAHN

**W**ASHINGTON, April 30 — Vice President Dick Cheney said today that oil, coal and natural gas would remain the United States' primary energy resources for "years down the road" and that the Bush administration's energy strategy would aim mainly to increase supply of fossil fuels, rather than limit demand.

In his most comprehensive comments to date on the energy task force he is heading on behalf of President Bush, Mr. Cheney dismissed as 1970's-era thinking the notion that "we could simply conserve or ration our way out" of what he called an energy crisis.

The only solution, he said, is a government-backed push to find new domestic sources of oil and gas, including in protected areas of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and an all-out drive to build power plants — a need that he says will require one new electricity-generating plant a week for 20 years.

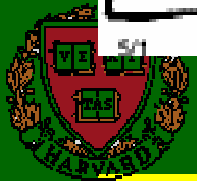




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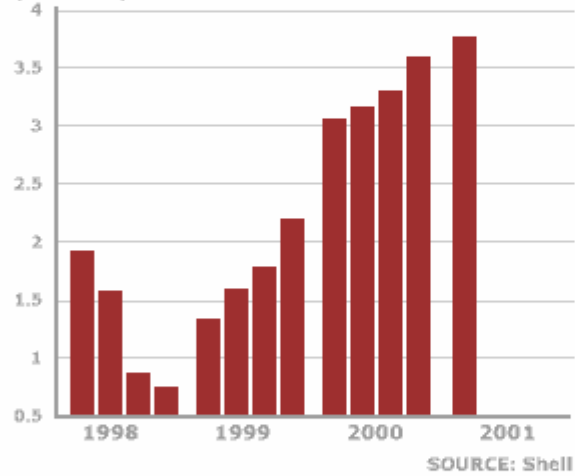
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  - Talking Point
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  - AudioVideo
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Thursday, 3 May, 2001, 10:46 GMT 11:46 UK

## Shell posts record profits

Shell: Quarterly Net Profit (\$ Billion)



The oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell has reported a 23% rise in net profit to \$3.86bn (£2.69bn) for the first three months of 2001.

The company said the figure was a fifth successive quarterly record and reflected higher natural gas prices, bigger profits from oil refining and increased liquefied natural gas (LNG) sales.

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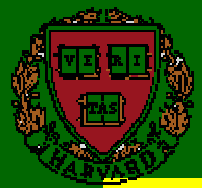
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## Exxon fined \$3.4bn for 'fraud'



A judge in the US has upheld a \$3.4bn (£2.37bn) fine against Exxon Mobil, the world's largest oil company, for deliberately underpaying natural gas royalties to the state of Alabama.

"Exxon engaged in egregious, intentional fraud by which it sought to deprive Alabama of hundreds of millions of dollars, probably well over \$1bn," an Alabama Circuit Court judge wrote in an order signed on Thursday.

"Exxon has shown no contrition or even changed its royalty payment calculation. Only

" >

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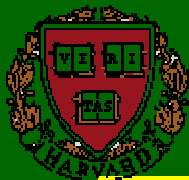
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Oil firms: Excessive profits?

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# BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Americas

Monday, 29 January, 2001, 11:09 GMT

Front Page

World



Africa

Americas

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Middle East

South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America

UK

UK Politics

Business

Sci/Tech

Health

Education

Entertainment

Talking Point

In Depth

AudioVideo

BBC VOTE 2001

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## Analysis: Oil and the Bush cabinet



By **Katty Kay**

A majority of President Bush's new cabinet are millionaires and several are multimillionaires.

According to information from financial disclosure reports, released by the Office of Government Ethics, most cabinet appointees have amassed their fortunes in stock options.

Now a Washington-based think tank is questioning whether some of the cabinet members could face a possible conflict of interest.

It is not unusual for American politicians to be

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Bush team

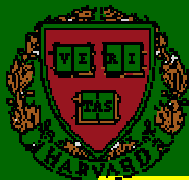
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Recession question

Missile defence

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George W. Bush



# BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Americas  
Wednesday, 11 April, 2001, 05:37 GMT 06:37 UK

- Front Page
- World
- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia
- 
- From Our Own Correspondent
- 
- Letter From America
- UK
- UK Politics
- Business
- Sci/Tech
- Health
- Education
- Entertainment
- Talking Point
- In Depth
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## Opposition grows to Alaska oil drill



Caribou go to the refuge to calve each summer  
Pressure is growing on Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to oppose US President George W Bush's plans to drill for oil in a wildlife refuge in Alaska.

The pressure is coming from representatives of the World Wildlife Fund, leaders of the native Gwich'in people and a former Canadian Prime Minister, John Turner - all gathered in the

**“You, President Bush, back off from the Arctic refuge”**  
Former Canadian PM John Turner

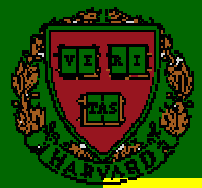
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Beyond America,  
there is a pervasive  
and growing sense  
of outrage in the  
wider world....



# TIME.com

Saturday, May 12, 2001

## A Letter to President Bush

Dear Mr. President:

No challenge we face is more momentous than the threat of global climate change. The current provisions of the Kyoto Protocol are a matter of legitimate debate. But the situation is becoming urgent, and it is time for consensus and action. There are many strategies for curbing greenhouse-gas emissions without slowing economic growth. In fact, the spread of advanced, cleaner technology is more of an economic opportunity than a peril. We urge you to develop a plan to reduce U.S. production of greenhouse gases. The future of our children—and their children—depends on the resolve that you and other world leaders show.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Carter  
Mikhail Gorbachev  
John Glenn  
Walter Cronkite  
George Soros  
J. Craig Venter  
Jane Goodall  
Edward O. Wilson  
Harrison Ford  
Stephen Hawking

# BBC NEWS

Front Page

You are in: World: Americas  
Monday, 2 April, 2001, 13:57 GMT 14:57 UK

World



- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America

- UK
- UK Politics
- Business
- Sci/Tech
- Health
- Education
- Entertainment
- Talking Point
- In Depth
- AudioVideo

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## Bush urged to rethink Kyoto snub



Mr Bush says cutting emissions is not in the US interest

Ten prominent figures from various walks of life have written an open letter to President George W Bush urging him to review his stance on the environment.



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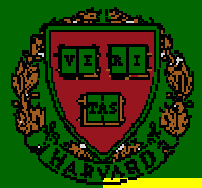
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- BBC ONE TV NEWS
- WORLD NEWS SUMMARY
- BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN
- PROGRAMMES GUIDE
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Global warming  
Is the US right to ditch the Kyoto deal?



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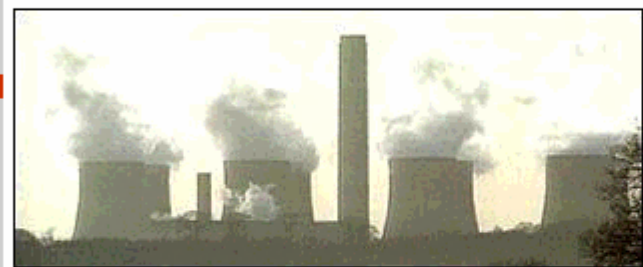


# BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Americas  
Tuesday, 3 April, 2001, 10:29 GMT 11:29 UK

- Front Page
- World
- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia
- 
- From Our Own Correspondent
- 
- Letter From America
- UK
- UK Politics
- Business
- Sci/Tech
- Health
- Education
- Entertainment
- Talking Point
- In Depth
- AudioVideo

## Anger as US abandons climate treaty

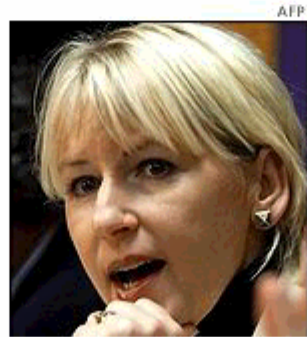


US President George W Bush encounters international criticism after he announces that the US will not implement the Kyoto Protocol which aimed to limit global climate change.

### Latest news

#### EU delegation fails to move Bush

An EU delegation in Washington to try to rescue the agreement meets with a cool response from the Bush administration. The BBC's Stephen Sackur reports.



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  - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY
  - BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN
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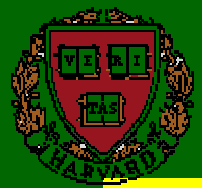
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Global climate change

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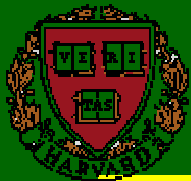
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- US power giant files for bankruptcy
- Bush pushes budget as tax cut wavers

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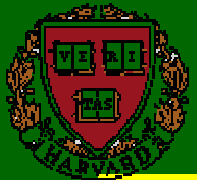
**BBC Weather**



Global disgust with American energy and resource  
gluttony is growing.



Even within America the public is beginning to question the ravage of resources.





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*Welcome to*

*REP America...*

*the national grassroots organization of  
Republicans for environmental protection*

*"the environmental conscience of the GOP"*

"Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the nation." --President Theodore Roosevelt

"I do not intend that our natural resources shall be exploited by the few against the interests of the many." --President Theodore Roosevelt

REP America is an independent organization that has no affiliation with the Republican National Committee or any state or local political party.





Your daily guide to helping the planet

## Celebs launch UK Esso boycott over climate stance

UK: May 9, 2001

**LONDON - Environmental groups and celebrities yesterday launched a UK boycott of Esso, the European brand of giant Exxon Mobil, over its support for Washington's withdrawal from the Kyoto climate pact.**

Activist and former model Bianca Jagger kicked off the "Boycott Esso" effort, which is also supported by pop star Annie Lennox and actor Ralph Fiennes.

"Often, we as individuals feel powerless in the face of this catastrophe that is unfolding. But with this campaign we can make a difference," Jagger, former wife of famed Rolling Stones rocker Mick Jagger, said in a statement.

### TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT NEWS

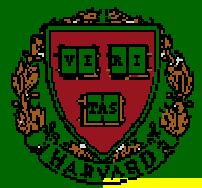
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# BOYCOTT BU\$H

[Families Against Bush](#) | [Things you can do](#) | [US company info](#) | [Pictures](#) \*



## Save Our Climate - Boycott US Companies Supporting Bush

We advocate a selective boycott of American products and services until George Bush signs the Kyoto Protocol and agrees to reduce US greenhouse gas emissions.

Companies opposing the Bush line on Kyoto should not be boycotted.

## Family Advice From Families Against Bush

**RED LIST - Don't Buy**  
**GREEN LIST - Do Buy**

In the coming months we aim to give 'do' and 'don't' buy advice on these pages...

[\[read more\]](#)

## News from America

### Most Americans Oppose Bush on Kyoto

Grist Magazine reports: 59 percent of Americans polled disagreed with Bush's move to withdraw from the Kyoto treaty on





# BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Asia-Pacific  
Monday, 16 April, 2001, 12:29 GMT 13:29 UK

Front Page

World



- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America

UK

- UK Politics
- Business
- Sci/Tech
- Health
- Education
- Entertainment
- Talking Point
- In Depth
- AudioVideo

- BBC VOTE 2001
- BBC SPORT
- BBC Weather

## Greens urge US oil boycott \*



The Greens hope to hit oil companies where it hurts

An international conference of environmentalists has called for a worldwide boycott of United States oil companies after President George W Bush said he would not support the Kyoto climate change treaty.

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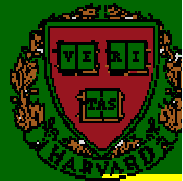
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- WORLD NEWS SUMMARY
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- 13 Apr 01 | UK Politics  
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- 09 Apr 01 | Music  
Sting slates Bush over Kyoto
- 06 Apr 01 | Sci/Tech  
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# BBC NEWS

You are in: World: Asia-Pacific  
Monday, 16 April, 2001, 12:29 GMT 13:29 UK

Front Page

World



- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East
- South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America

UK

- UK Politics
- Business
- Sci/Tech
- Health
- Education
- Entertainment
- Talking Point
- In Depth
- AudioVideo

- BBC VOTE 2001
- BBC SPORT
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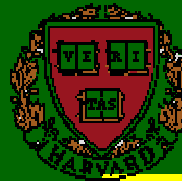
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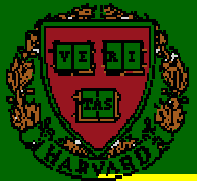
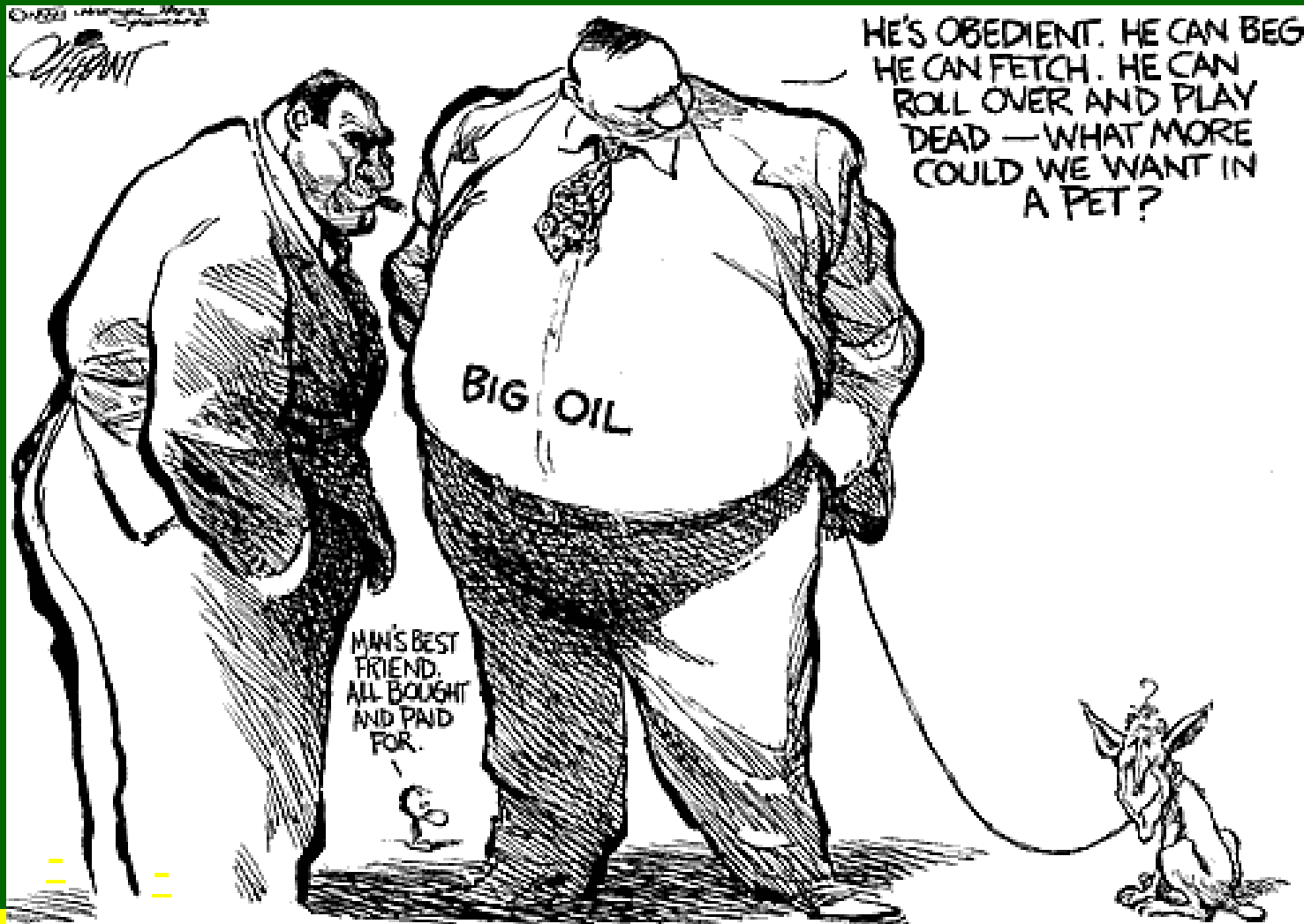
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- BBC ONE TV NEWS
- WORLD NEWS SUMMARY
- BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN
- PROGRAMMES GUIDE

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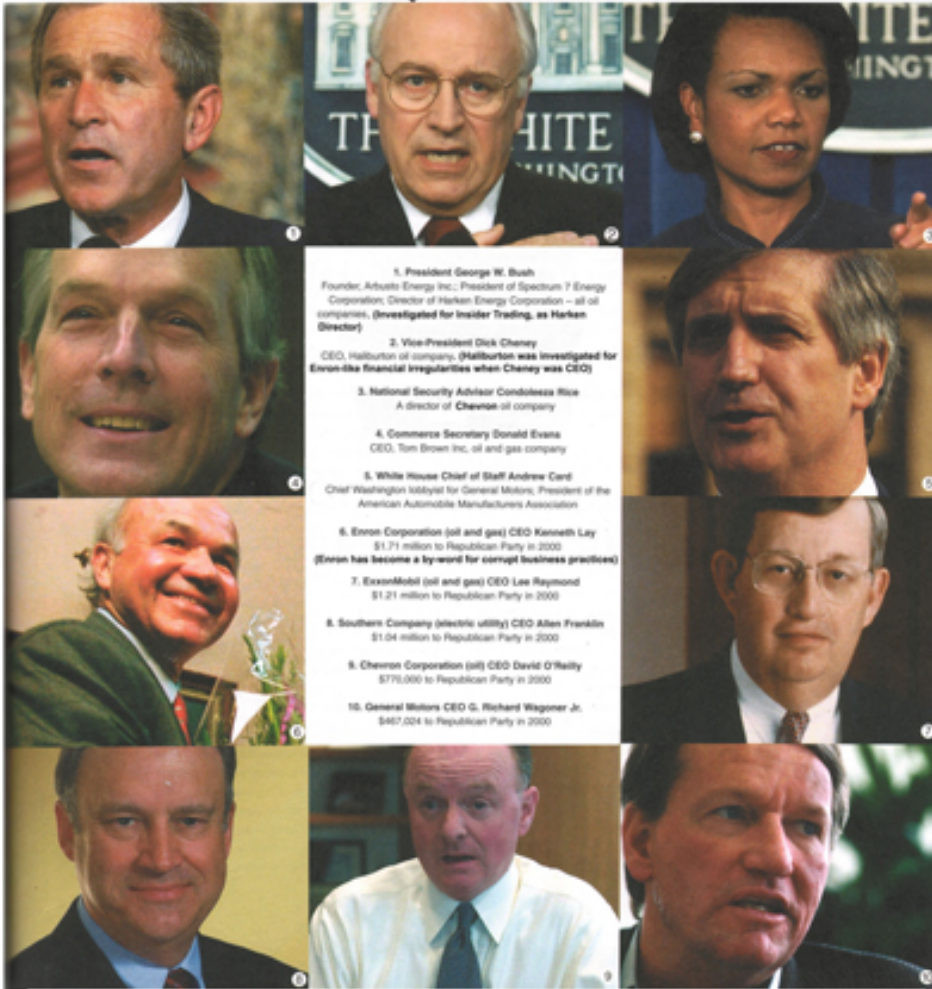
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- 15 Apr 01 | Asia-Pacific  
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- 13 Apr 01 | UK Politics  
Blair urged to tackle Bush over Kyoto
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- 06 Apr 01 | Sci/Tech  
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Beyond that, he seen as “bought and paid for” -- the obedient political spokesman for large corporations.



## The ties that bind the Bush administration to the fossil fuel industry are numerous



1. President George W. Bush  
Founder, Arbusto Energy Inc.; President of Spectrum 7 Energy Corporation; Director of Harken Energy Corporation – all oil companies, (Investigated for Insider Trading, as Harken Director)
2. Vice-President Dick Cheney  
CEO, Halliburton of company. (Halliburton was investigated for Enron-like financial irregularities when Cheney was CEO)
3. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice  
A director of Chevron oil company
4. Commerce Secretary Donald Evans  
CEO, Tom Brown Inc. oil and gas company
5. White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card  
Chief Washington lobbyist for General Motors, President of the American Automobile Manufacturers Association
6. Enron Corporation (oil and gas) CEO Kenneth Lay  
\$1.71 million to Republican Party in 2000  
(Enron has become a byword for corrupt business practices)
7. ExxonMobil (oil and gas) CEO Lee Raymond  
\$1.21 million to Republican Party in 2000
8. Southern Company (electric utility) CEO Allen Franklin  
\$1.04 million to Republican Party in 2000
9. Chevron Corporation (oil) CEO David O'Reilly  
\$776,000 to Republican Party in 2000
10. General Motors CEO G. Richard Wagoner Jr.  
\$467,004 to Republican Party in 2000

**Fossil fuel interests no longer need to lobby the US government.**

**They ARE the US government.**



## Campaign against Climate Change



Home

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Images from London demo

Images from global demos

Global Climate Campaign

Actions Gallery

Weekly Climate Vigil

The Climate Threat

Climate Politics and the US

Press Cuttings

Resources

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### CLIMATE MARCH London, Saturday 3rd December



"MOP" (First "Meeting of Parties" to the Kyoto Protocol) Climate Talks in Montreal, 28th November-9th December. The London Demo was part of the International Day of Climate Protest with climate demos all around the world from Montreal to Japan. For more info click [here](#).

*We helped to create a global wave of protest to press for the urgent action we need to prevent the catastrophic destabilisation of global climate!*

10,000 is the figure given by the 'Independent on Sunday' for the number of marchers on what was a groundbreaking event for climate campaigning in the UK.

Thanks to everyone who took part and helped make this happen!

December 3rd was the Saturday midway through the

Pics from the Dec 3rd climate demos around the world - click [here](#)



Demonstrators in Seoul, South Korea. Got pictures to upload now go [here](#)

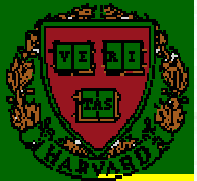
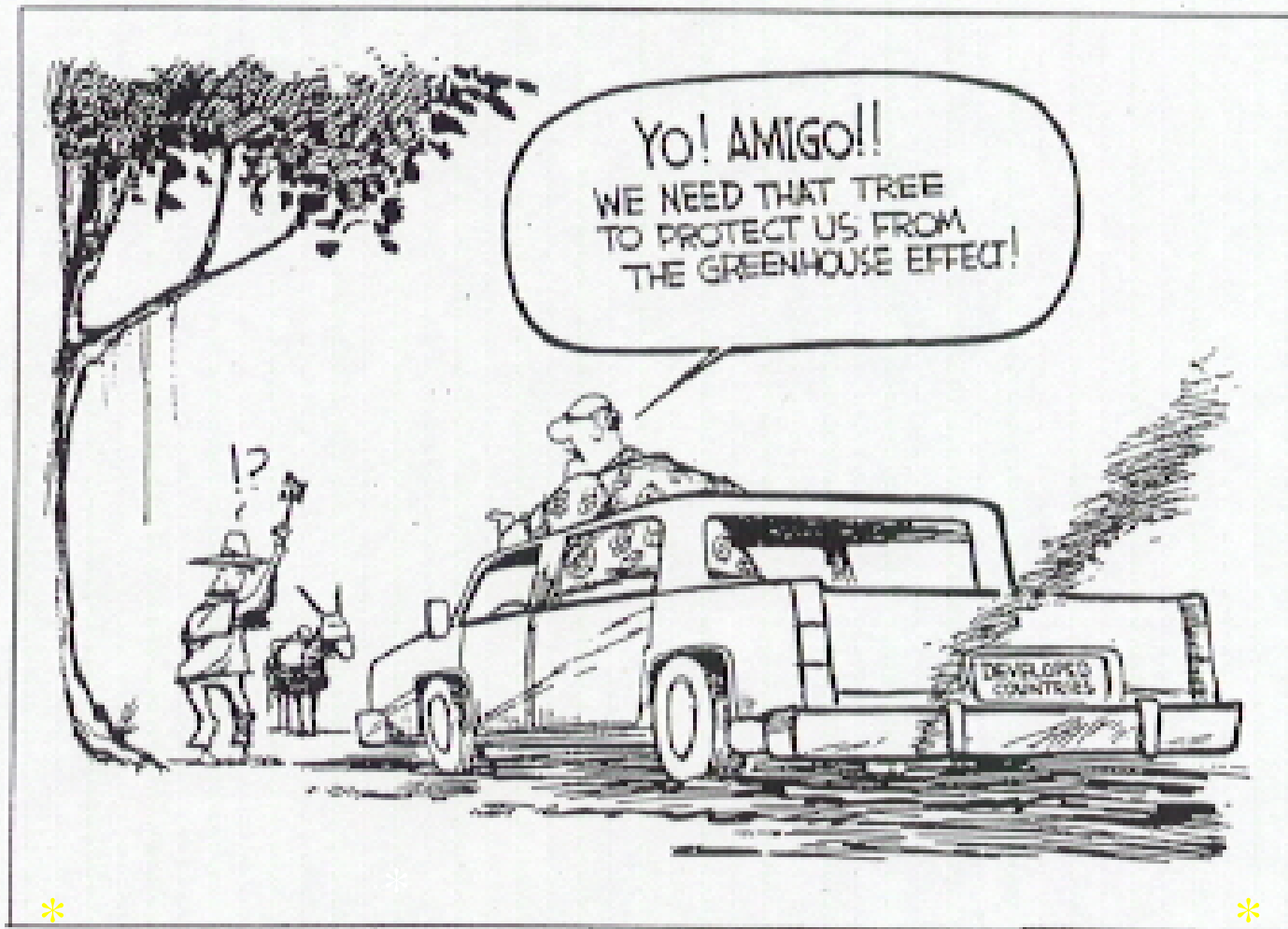
**MONTREAL : VICTORY...or at least the tide begins to turn .....**



<http://www.campaigncc.org/resources.shtml>

<http://www.campaigncc.org/resources3/static/fossilbush.jpg>

The administration stance has destroyed U.S. credibility on global environmental issues by rejecting Kyoto

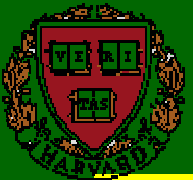
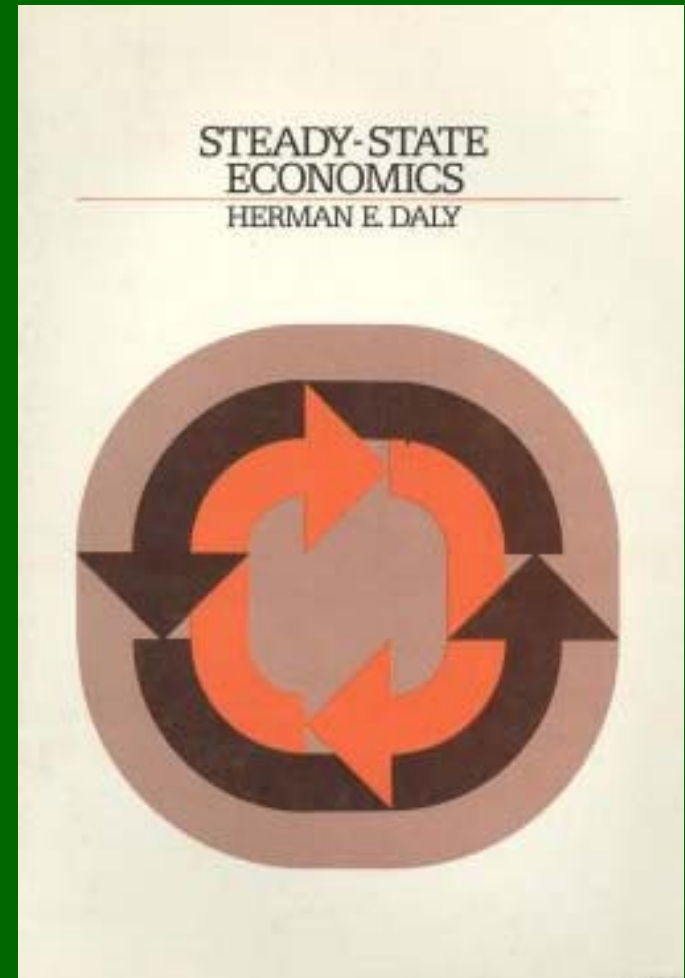


# New Definitions are needed...

It is clear from the large scale public debate emerging on around the world, that whatever else it means, “sustainable development” needs to be *ecologically* and *socially sustainable* as well as *economically* beneficial.

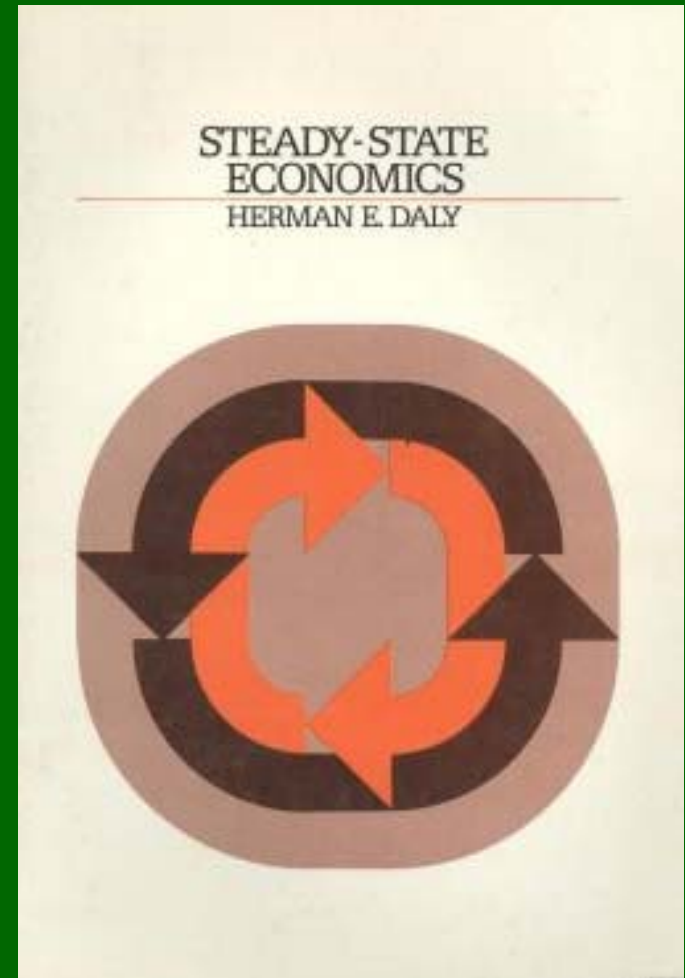
In fact, our entire concept of economics needs to move away from the circumscribed thinking of market-driven economics towards an economics of sustainability – in short, a

“steady-state economics.”



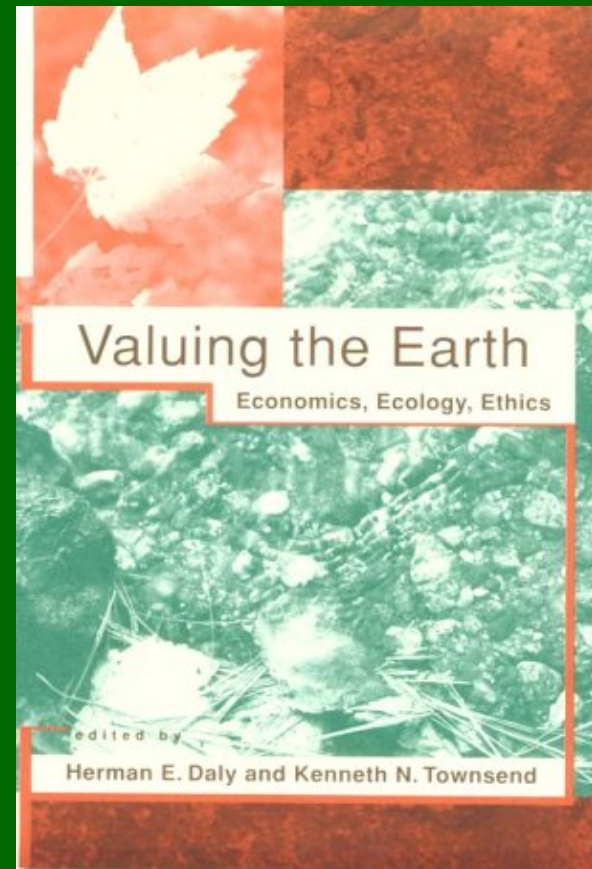
# New Definitions are needed...

For this reason, environmentalists are beginning to articulate **new sets of principles of *environmental ethics based on an understanding of steady-state economics and social justice.*** Environmentalists are essentially ethical “consequentialists” in search of a deontology.



# Valuing the Earth

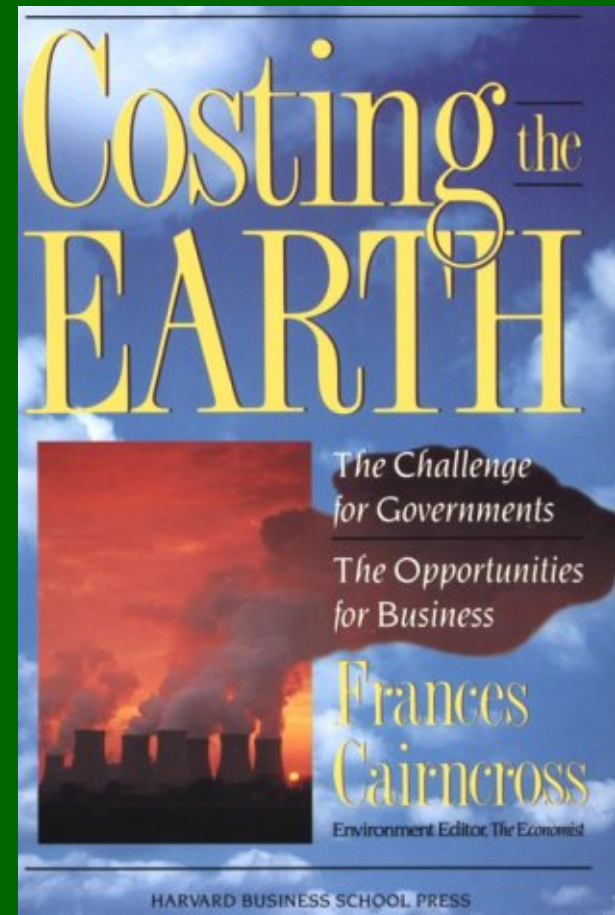
In search of the new deontology, environmentalists are asserting that we need to devise new methods to “value” the earth. The economist, Herman Daly, has been in the forefront of efforts to devise new ways of valuing the earth’





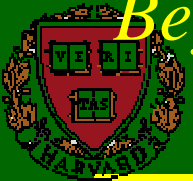
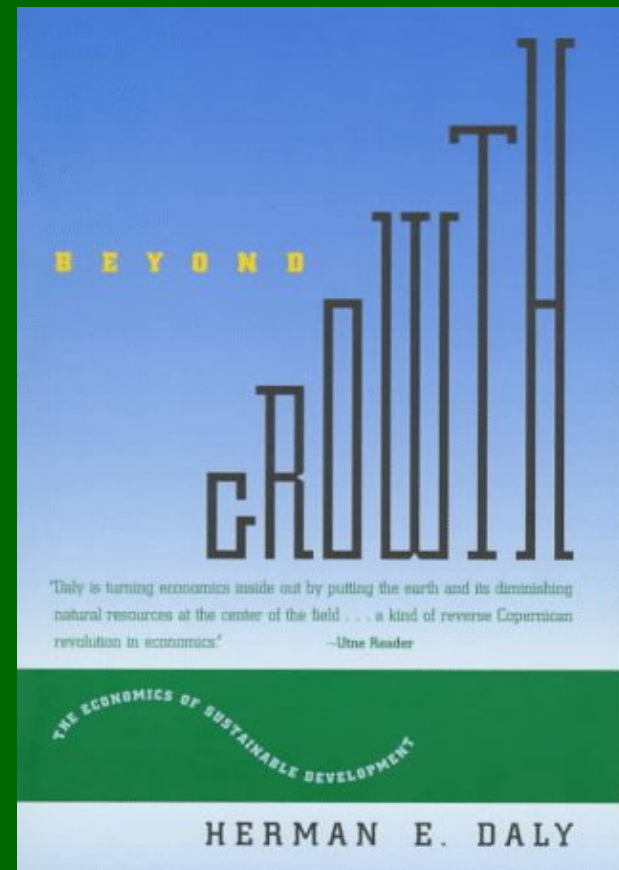
# “Costing” is not enough...

While the business community has always been good at “costing” the natural resources of the earth, environmentalists are arguing that that is not enough. Costs do not (and some argue -- *cannot*) capture the true value of natural assets because they only represent use-values.



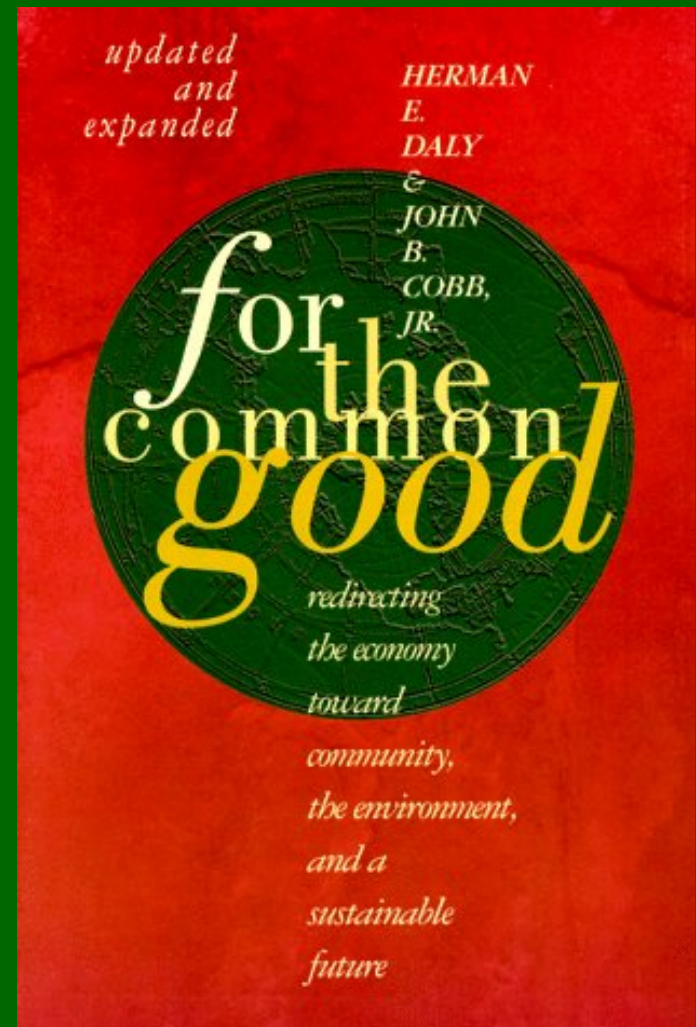
# Moving beyond the growth phase...

Economists like Herman Daly are arguing that we need to move beyond the immature growth stage in our economies to a more mature stage of steady state. One of his first books was entitled *Steady State Economics*, and one of his most recent is called, *Beyond Growth*.

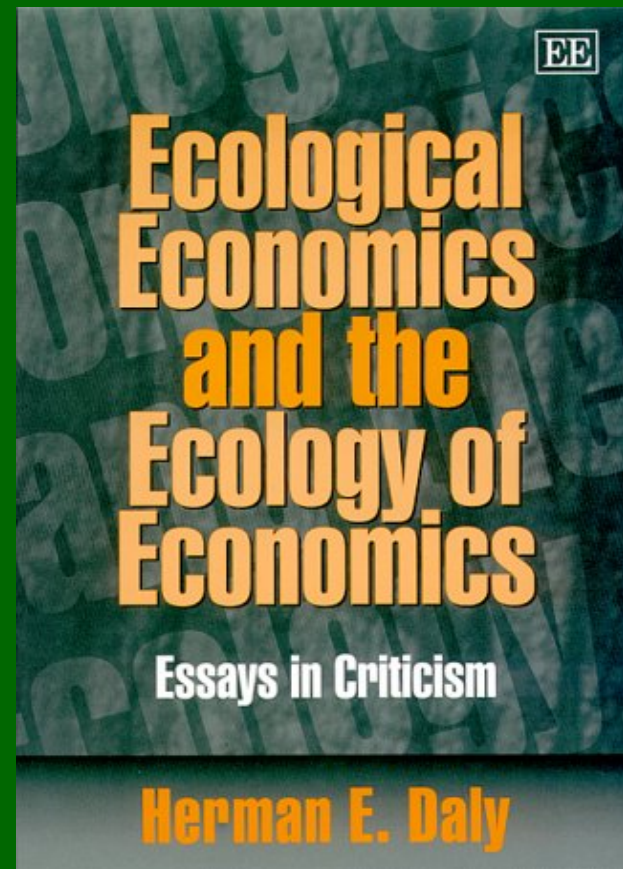
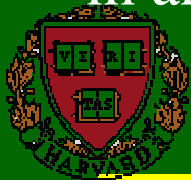


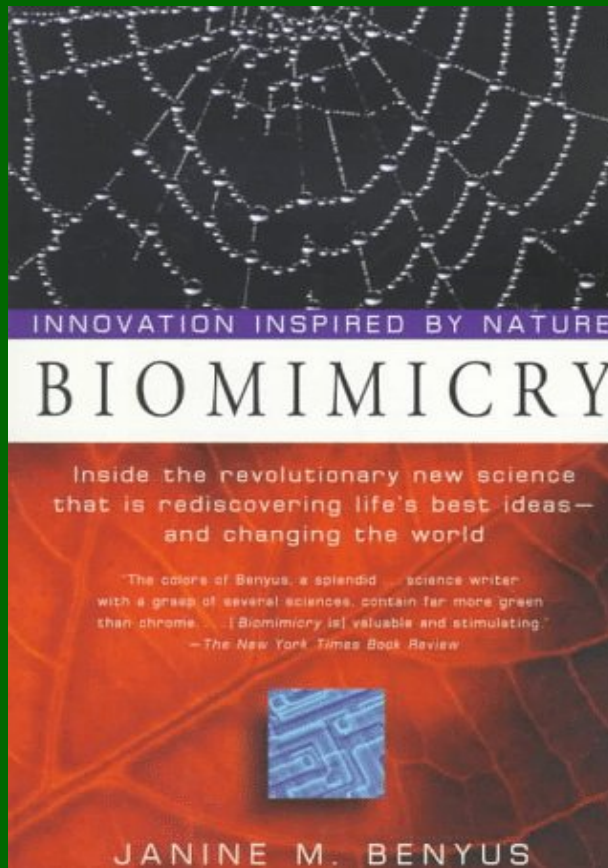
In fact, beyond neo=classical economics to a socially sustainable future...

In a recent book which he co-authored with theologian, John B. Cobb, Jr., Herman Daly argues that we must reorganize the economy: *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, The Environment and a Sustainable Future.*

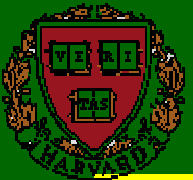


A collection of his essays makes it clear that he thinks conventional economics will lead inevitably to ecological destruction if we pursue “business as usual” operating procedures. (Members of the MIT Department of Economics opposed the publication of this book by the MIT Press). In short, there are limits to usefulness of market metaphors in an ecosystem





Advocates of redefining economic activity as a subset of viable ecosystems are pointing to economic processes which are “inspired by nature.” Learning through biomimicry how nature expends energy, processes materials, and “produces” goods is the new inspiration for modeling human economic activity.

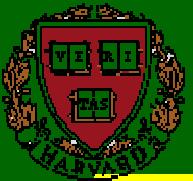


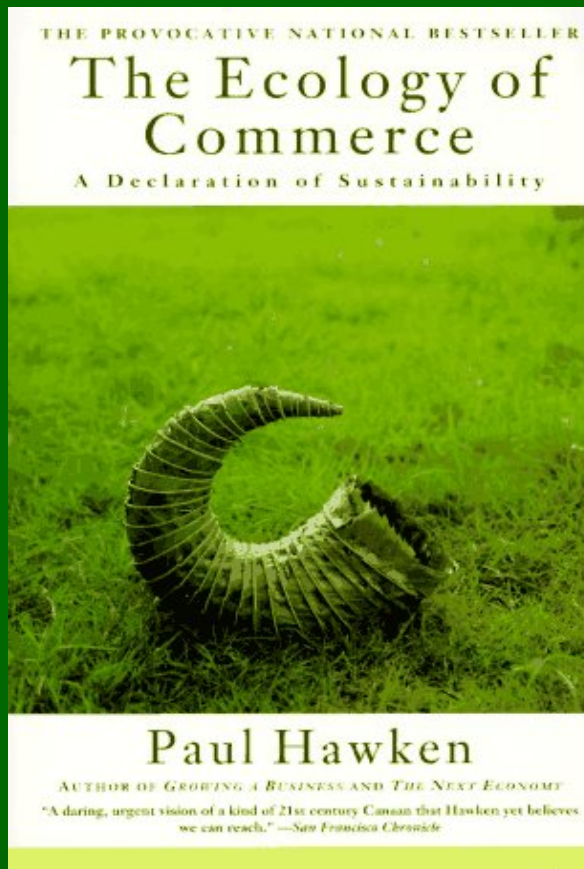
The  
Local Politics  
of  
Global  
Sustainability

Thomas Prugh, Robert Costanza,  
and Herman Daly



Economists attentive to this new approach to ecologically grounded economic activity are paying particular attention to local social and political conditions necessary to assure sustainability. Global sustainability, they argue, can only be achieved through local legitimacy and socially sustainable policies.





Beyond the professional economists, businessmen, like Paul Hawken, have begun to recognize that their practices have to be rethought and reorganized.

His book, *The Ecology of Commerce*, develops what he calls: *A Declaration of Sustainability*.



## Natural Capitalism

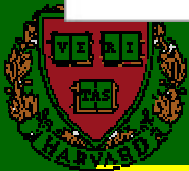


CREATING THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

"Hugely important... *Natural Capitalism* ought to be on the nightstand of every CEO."  
—Thomas Petzinger Jr., former "Frost Lines" columnist, *Wall Street Journal*

PAUL HAWKEN AMORY LOVINS L. HUNTER LOVINS

In addition, he has joined forces with Amory and Hunter Lovins (long standing critics of US energy policy) to elaborate what this new approach to economic organization would entail in an important new volume entitled: *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution.*

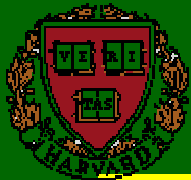
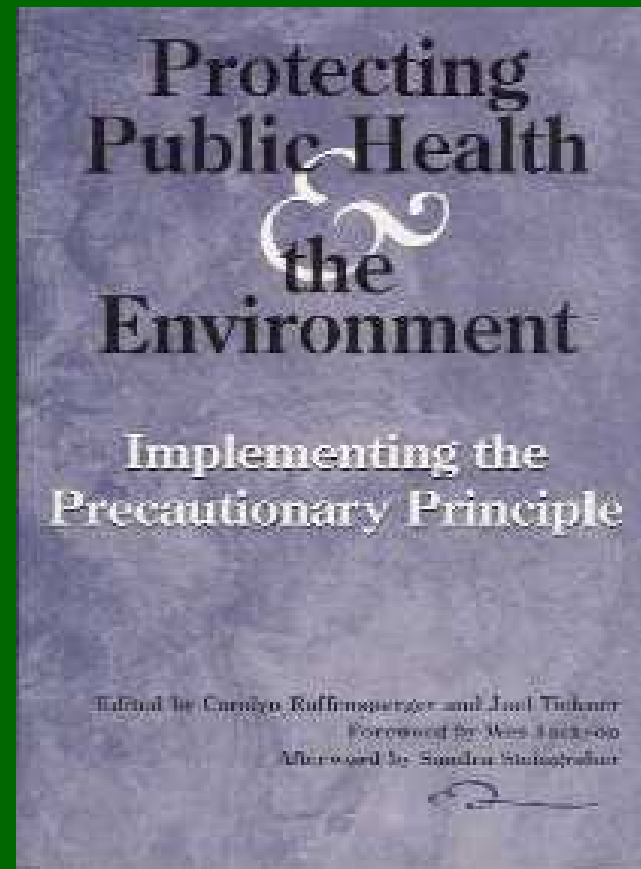


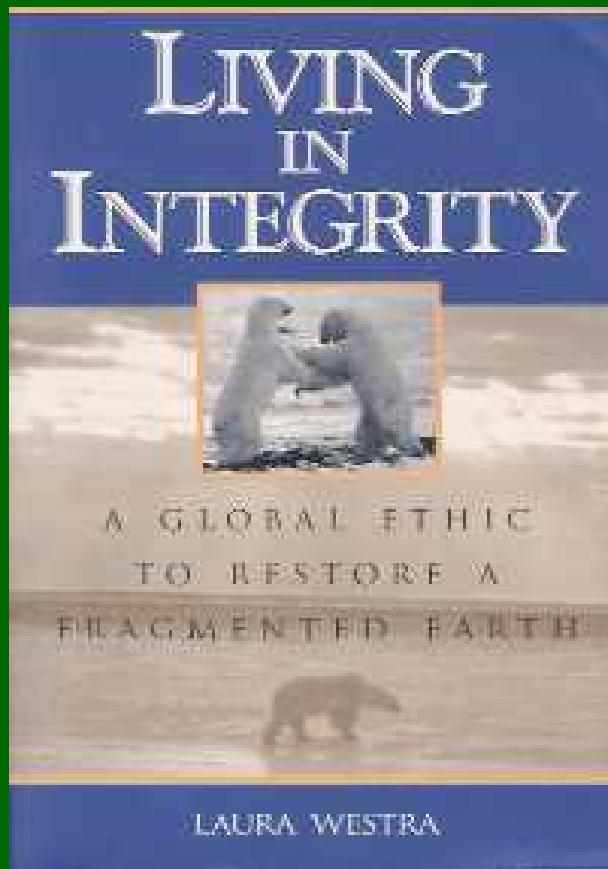


# “Precautionary Principle”

A strong impulse for redirecting economic activity has come from a recognition that you cannot maintain a healthy human population on a “sick” planet.

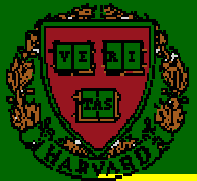
A public health focus upon environmental problems has led environmentalists to recognize the need for applying the precautionary principle in developing environmental policy.





Restoring balance to functioning ecosystems is a key step in restoring their underlying health and integrity.

Laura Westra and others are beginning to argue that environmental ethics need to be based on a fundamental respect for the integrity of natural systems.



# Overarching Principles of the Environmental Ethics of Sustainability...1

*Responsible ecocitizens should always and everywhere seek to tax, spend, legislate, litigate, advocate and agitate so as to....*

1. substitute the consumption of non-renewable resources with renewable ones;
2. reduce the consumption of renewables to at or below their rate of renewal;
3. introduce nothing into the waste/nutrient stream that cannot be "eaten" safely by another non-threatening organism;

## Overarching Principles of the Environmental Ethics of Sustainability...2

4. introduce nothing into the waste/nutrient stream that will destabilize system-wide balances in nutrient flow or energy;
5. allocate the fruits of production in a more, rather than a less, just and equitable fashion;
6. measure and monitor environmental conditions affecting the safety, health and welfare of *all* species -- not just human beings;

# Overarching Principles of the Environmental Ethics of Sustainability...3

7. educate and inform the public at large about the circumstances it must confront and the "footprint" it generates in the global environment;
8. entitle and empower local communities to manage their resources sustainably;
9. cajole, exhort and convince those who do not follow these precepts to mend the error of their ways;

# Overarching Principles of the Environmental Ethics of Sustainability...4

*And*

10. expose, denounce, condemn and seek to punish those who consistently and intentionally violate these precepts of responsible ecocitizenry -- including those who otherwise wish to present themselves as perfectly "respectable" public leaders.

*“...that thy days may be long upon the earth.”*

*[ If not you, who? If not now, when? ]*

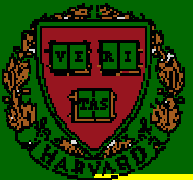
and remember...

## Don't Let the Urgent Crowd out the Important!



*“Terrorism is certainly a matter of concern, but if it diverts us from the environmental trends that are undermining our future until it is too late to reverse them, Osama Bin Laden and his followers will have achieved their goal of bringing down western civilization in a way they could not have imagined.”*

Lester Brown, *Plan B* (2003)





Last Updated: Wednesday, 13 December 2006, 18:07 GMT

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## Attenborough urges 'moral change'

Television naturalist Sir David Attenborough has called for a "moral change" among energy consumers to cut waste and reduce pollution.



Sir David said global warming would definitely get worse

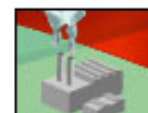
He told the Commons environment committee there was "no question" that global warming would worsen.

"What we can do is make the situation deteriorate less than it's going to."

Sir David said "a general moral view" that wasting energy was wrong - such as there had been over wasting food during the Second World War - was needed.

**'Real change'**

## Climate change


[In Depth](#)


### Animated guide

How the greenhouse effect works and its implications for climate

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- ▶ [Climate threat to mobile species](#)
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David Attenborough









Gordon Brown – *Next UK PM*



Last Updated: Monday, 11 December 2006, 01:58 GMT

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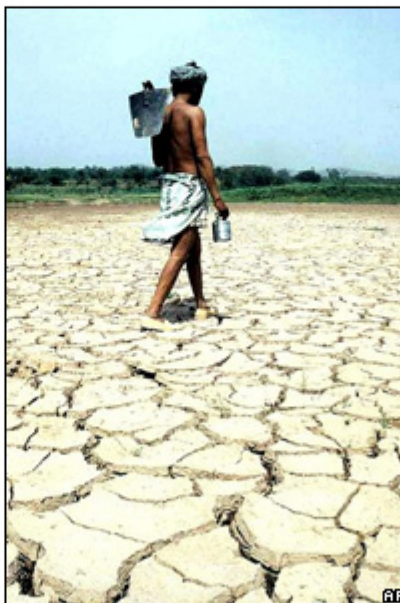
## Rights focus sought over climate

Attention to human rights is needed in tackling climate change, according to former UN human rights chief and former Irish President Mary Robinson.

In a lecture at Chatham House, a think-tank in London, she argues that climate change is now an issue of global injustice.

The ex-UN high commissioner for human rights urges policymakers to adopt "a radically different approach".

She also says that rich nations should meet their climate change obligations.



Poor nations are said to be most at threat from climate change

## Climate change


[In Depth](#)


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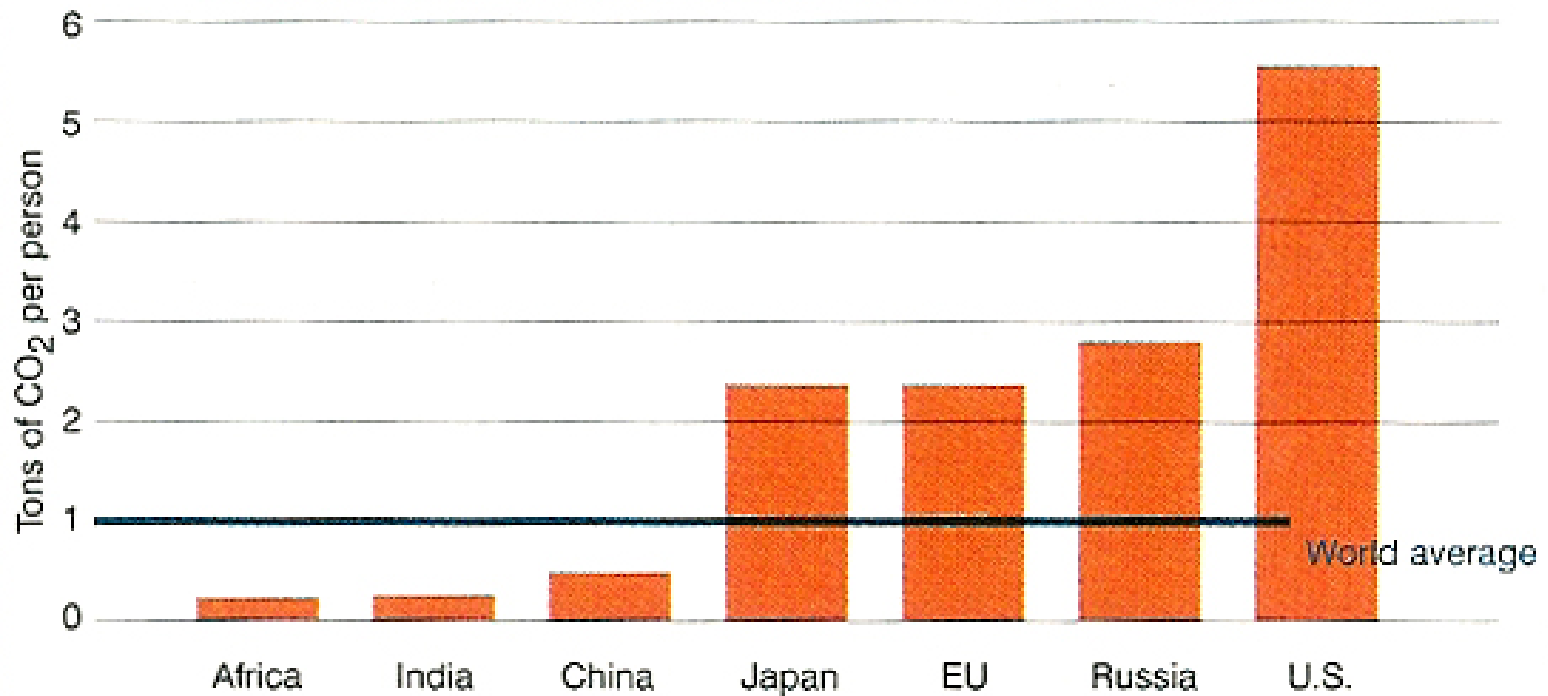
### GLOBAL POLITICS

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# Carbon Emissions Per Person



SOURCE: WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, DOE, EIA

Mary Robinson  
& Climate Change and Human Rights

•  
•  
•

For the time being, these assumptions seem to dominate our culture of 'late capitalism'

*Implicit theories*

*Financial "Investor's" Worldview*

**Community**

The moral community is made up of those who share in capital to undertake investments in industrial capacity and trading ventures

**System**

The system consists of investors engaged in differential strategies of investment throughout the world. The world as a whole is available as a theater for profitable investment. Financial resources knit the system as a whole together.

**Authority**

Authority is vested in trans-national and multinational alliances and agreements that work to facilitate the unimpeded movement of capital

**Change**

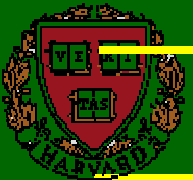
Change occurs through the identification and investment in new ideas.. Change is good and has become essential for competitive survival of rival financial groups. Growth is both good and necessary.

**Agency**

The investor is the agent of change in the system. The state should act to facilitate and "free up" the potential for the global movement of financial resources.

**Time**

The focus is upon the next "quarter" or a shortened time horizon determined by a calculation of the annual average rate of profit. Rapid "turnover" of capital is necessary for maximum profit generation. "Time is money."



If we are to survive, we will need to change our worldview and the underlying implicit theories upon which it rests.

*Implicit theories*

*Scientifically Informed Environmental Ethics Worldview*

**Community**

The moral community is made up of those who share participation in the earth's ecosystem and are accountable for their actions.

**System**

The system consists of a global ecosystem which has evolved in cosmic, geological, biological and historical time with varying trajectories amongst its different biological and abiological components

**Authority**

Authority is vested ultimately in ecosystemic functionality. Those species, groups, populations or communities who cannot perceive or refuse to adapt to the system rules are dismissed by authority of the larger system.

**Change**

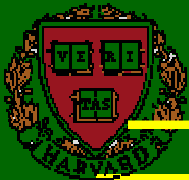
Change occurs through the continuous interaction of the biogeochemical dynamics within the global ecosystem and cosmic events from outside the global system

**Agency**

Natural process, including innumerable other species as well as humans are agents of change. Humans are almost invariably unconscious of and perhaps structurally incapable of understanding or foreseeing the full impact of their own actions – both individually and collectively

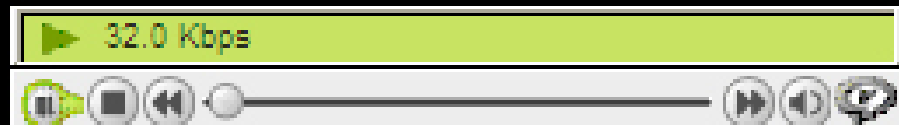
**Time**

Time is irreversible and both short and long. The relevant time frame is simultaneously both shorter and longer than we are normally accustomed to as human beings. “*Extinction is forever*” – so, sustainability questions likewise need to be judged not in terms of short time frames but in terms of what will last forever.



Jonathan Amos,  
"Arctic sea ice 'faces rapid melt'," BBC News Online,  
(12 December 2006 04:47 GMT).

*New evidence  
of a “tipping  
point” in  
arctic ice  
dynamics.*



Click to Start, Pause or Stop

# Environmental Ethics and Land Management

ENVR E-120

<http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~envre120>

## Principles of Ecosystem Management and Global Sustainability

Timothy C. Weiskel

Co-Director, The Climate Talks Project

Session 12

14 December 2006

Harvard University Extension School  
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