

LECTURE 2B: INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENT RE-ENGAGEMENT

- 1788: all Aus land claimed by Aboriginals, 1965: none, 2016: beginning to reclaim back
- 2006: Australian maps show claiming of land harder + less in areas where white Australians live

Claim Process

- Ongoing, dating back to the Mabo Decision
- When complete, up to 70% of Australian continent will be under some form of Indigenous title
- Closer to urban area = land tenure more shared + more likely non-exclusive
- People getting land back: most remote, last colonised + least invaded areas

Population

- Across Aboriginal titled land: 1,000 small communities
- 700,000 across Australia: mostly in urban + coastal areas – not getting land back

Types of Indigenous Land Holding

- Land rights + reserves
 - Full rights
- Native Title Exclusive Possession
 - No rights over minerals + sub-surface environment
- Native Title Non-Exclusive Possession
 - Land leasing, shared control

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION OF ABORIGINAL LANDS

- Due to alienation + low value or agriculture, most Aboriginal lands remained unused + unexploited
- Most intact ecosystems + environments across the continent
 - Low threatened species counts
 - High biodiversity
 - Good vegetation – most unaffected
- Challenge of how to manage land when given back
 - Often engage in natural + cultural restoration, + maintenance of biodiversity through government programs
 - Choosing to be land into *Conservation Estate* (50% of Aus conservation land is Indigenously owned)
- Indigenous effort in maintaining environment understated in literature, esp. Aus State of the Environment Reports
- Commonwealth: fund Indigenous Ranger Groups

Djerk Indigenous Protected Area

- Located in Central Arnhem land, late colonisation (easy to reclaim)
- Aboriginals: living as hunter gatherers until 1967 (land beyond the frontier, culture able to survive)
- 2009: declaration of land reclaimed as an Indigenous Protected Area
 - Involved clans joining force to have an I.P.A
- Djerk, had Indigenous Rangers since 1990

Activities (In Environmental Management)

- Water Buffalo: inhabit Arnhem land, create enormous environmental damage, rangers shoot them, eat + test for disease
- Marine Rangers: find old nets, get debris out of water + control illegal fishers
- On country education: promotes attendance + mix between customary + Western knowledge
- Fire: carefully planned, *Fire Abatement Project*: reduce GHG emissions, paid, effective in abating CO2

LECTURE 3A: INDUSTRIALISATION, CAPITALISM + ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

- From 1780 onwards, notable characteristics: industrialisation (dominant mode of production), capitalism (near-universal economic order), intense use of fossil fuels, rapid pop growth, rise of nation-state + global environmental changes

Industrial Revolution

- Period of massive increases in production + consumption (growth in output, concentration of wealth increased in Northern world)
- Large scale factories, using human labour in conjunction with machines, powered by fossil fuels to produce goods
- Increase in luxury times
- Industrialisation of agriculture: increased use of fossil fuels, increased monocultures increased use of inorganic agrochemical + urban phase (decreased land available for agriculture)
- Fossil fuel use/dependence:
 - Critical development: internal combustion engine
 - Early 20th C: electrification widespread
 - North – 400 times more energy than the South
- Rapid population growth – due to developments in public health + medicine (fall in death rates)
 - Decreased infant mortality, increased life expectancy, decreased birth rate as affluence of middle class rises, population stabilises in DC's after WWII, increased birth rate in developing

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

- Study of political economy: 18th C Europe, study of wealth, production (economy) + distribution (politics) – intertwined

Political Economy:

- Links environmental change to questions of social power, inequality, distribution of resources, livelihoods (links wealth + accumulation to questions of distribution)
- Fundamental exploration of wealth (to explain elements of economy)
- Key category of analysis: money, value, land, capital, labour
- Capitalism: global process, logic: exploit labour + non-human world to make profit
 - Effects felt unevenly – resulting in environmental degradation
- To address environmental problems: need to address the political economy which drives capitalism

Policy v Political Economy

Policy: problem solving, solution driven, questions of why

Political Economy: seeks to explain, broad logic of production, distributive consequences of logics of production

Environmental Change + Political Economy

- Capitalism: generates new forms of competition + concentrations of power
 - Also generates social + environmental costs
- Ecological destruction structurally linked to accumulation
 - Due to: externalities (pollution), + ecological surplus (free goods from environment)

NEOCLASSICAL ECONOMICS + NEOLIBERALISM

Neoclassical Economics	Neoliberalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose in 1950's, dominant, infuse how current global politics + economics work <p><u>Based on abstract premises, listed below</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual = central unit (as rational, selfish) • Supply + demand calibrate to produce an equilibrium price • Markets = perfectly competitive 	<p><i>How society ought to work, listed below</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best organised by market allocation • Improvement through privatisation (successfully socially managed) • Promoting global integration • Interested best served under flexible conditions of labour supply • Market based (eg. Insurance) welfare provisions (rather than state-based) • Involves abstraction + adoption dependant on local circumstances

Questions for Neoclassical Economics

Ecological Economics criticise:

- Mechanistic equilibrium models
- Feasibility of long-term economic growth
- Concerns of population pressure on socio-ecological systems
- Rate of change (environmental + social) irreversible – downplayed in mainstream economics

Key Terms

Economy: the system of activities + administration through which a society uses its resources to produce, consume + distribute wealth

Technology: changes structure of economy + environmental effects

Externality: unintended effect of economic activity on other firms + individuals which do not figure in the costs + benefits associated with activity of firm or individual responsible (*cost not accounted for in the market*)

Substitutability: resources can be substituted for others, but substitutes may be equally unsustainable

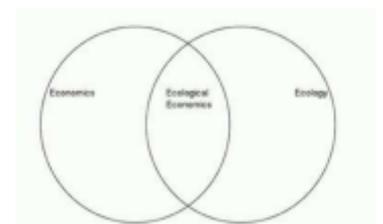
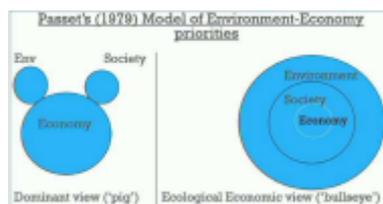
Capital: any asset that generates an income, can be natural, financial, human or physical, can be substituted to some degree (there is a cost)

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIES

- Response to limitations of Neoclassical economics
- Based on rational consumer choice, impact uncertain
- Includes quality of life: often not seen in mainstream economics
- Sees economy as open system, located within environment
 - Production of G + S uses sources (matter + energy), and sinks (absorption of waste by environment)

Economy + the Environment

- View: economy exists inside society inside environment
- Argues study of economics comes after study of environment + society – not separate, embedded within
- Market economy: couldn't exist without social institutions
 - + unpaid services of ecosystems



Interaction between economic systems + ecological systems, looks at interdependences