

Political Ideologies

Theory & History

Ecology (Environmentalism)

- **Ecology** – “The study of the relationship between living organisms and the environment.”
- Prevent the destruction of the environment
- Overturn conventional wisdom about economic growth and human behaviour
- Shallow Ecology / Deep Ecology

Ecology

- **Anthropocentrism** - “A belief that human needs and interests are overriding others.” **Ecocentrism** is one alternative. In the **ecosystem** human beings should not have a privileged status.
- **Speciesism** - “A belief in the superiority of one species over other species, through the denial of their moral significance.”
- **Holism** - “A belief that the whole is more important than its parts.”
- **Biodiversity** - “The range of species within a biological community, often thought to be linked to its health and stability.”

Ecology

- **Green politics** - “A political movement that gives priority to the promotion of ecological sustainability.”
- **Sustainability** - “The capacity of a system to maintain its health and continue in existence over a period of time.”

Ecology

- **Spaceship Earth** - “Just as a spaceship will eventually run out of fuel and other resources, so too will Planet Earth. We must therefore take greater care over of how we use national resources, and amend our ways accordingly.”
- **Futurity**- “A concern about the future, implying that actions in the present should be judged by their impact on future generations.”

Ecology

- **Anthropocene**- “The current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment”.

Shallow Ecology

- Constructive engagement with the political process
- **Green capitalism:** “The idea that a reliance on the capitalist market mechanism will deliver ecologically sustainable outcomes, usually linked to assumptions about capitalism’s consumer responsiveness.”
- **Consumer sovereignty:** “The notion, based on the theory of competitive capitalism, that consumer choice is ultimately the determining factor within a market economy.”

Shallow Ecology

- **Fairtrade:** “The product standard that guarantees ‘fair treatment’ of small producers in the early production stage of a product.”
- **Carbon footprint:** “The amount of carbon gas emitted during the production and distribution of a certain product.”

Deep Ecology

- **Biocentric equality:** “The principle that all living organisms and entities in the biosphere are of equal moral worth, each being an expression of the goodness of nature.” It is a ecocentric and moral principle.
- **Animal rights:** “Moral entitlements that are based on the belief that as animals are non-human ‘persons’, they deserve the same consideration (at least in certain areas) as human beings.”

Deep Ecology

- **Gaia hypothesis:** “The theory that the Earth is best understood as a single living organism that acts to maintain its own existence”.
- **Gaia:** “The Greek goddess of the Earth.”
- The revenge of Gaia
- **James Lovelock (1919-)**

Shallow Ecology vs. Deep Ecology

- environmentalism
- 'light' anthropocentrism
- science
- humankind
- limited holism
- animal welfare
- sustainable growth

- ecologism
- ecocentrism
- mysticism
- nature
- Radical holism
- animal rights
- anti growth

Ecology

- **Ernst 'Fritz' Schumacher** (1911-1977) – *Small is beautiful: a study of economics as if people mattered* (1973)
- **“Buddhist economics”** – Schumacher advocates human scale production care for the needs of the people and the resources of the Earth.
- “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect” – Aldo Leopold
- “Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites” – William Ruckelshaus

Ecology

- Eco-socialism: capitalism is the problem
- Eco-feminism: patriarchy is the problem
- Eco-anarchism: state is the problem
- **Murray Bookchin** (1921-2006): non-hierarchical cooperation is important
- Environmental crisis is related to the breakdown of the organic fabric of both society and nature.
- Ecological principles should be applied to social organization

Ecology (problems and challenges)

- *The name of the problem*
- Greenhouse gasses
- Global warming
- Climate change
- Environmental / ecological disaster
- The end of the world, capitalism, the idea of growth, resources?

Ecology (problems and challenges)

- Prioritizing (which specific problem is more urgent?)
 - “too poor to be green”
 - nuclear energy
- Framing (how to put or “frame” the problem)
 - *Greenpeace* – whale issue
- Addressing (how to resolve the problem) is linked to (who are “we”?)
 - a wide range of policy choices from green capitalism, consciousness-raising to eco-terrorism

Ecology

- **BBC Documentary, *People's Century: "Endangered Planet"***
- **Documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth* from Al Gore (2006)**
- **National Geographic Documentary, *Six Degrees Could Change the World* (2008)**
- **Documentary, *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret* (2014)**

Ecology

- **Andrew Heywood**, *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 5th edition or above.
- **Kevin Bloor**, *The Definitive Guide to Political Ideologies*. Milton Keynes: Author House, 2010.

Links

- <http://www.keremblog.info/>
- *avesis account:* <https://avesis.yildiz.edu.tr/keremkar>
- *departmental website:* www.itb.yildiz.edu.tr