

Day 5: Changing Social and Cultural Beliefs

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Road map

- What is our Dominant Social Paradigm?
- How does our DSP affect our relationship with the environment?
- The history of the environmental movement
- The roles of social movements and interest groups

Dominant Social Paradigm

What is this?

Dominant Social Paradigm

What is this?

Smith Definition

*“The DSP constitutes those clusters of beliefs, values, and ideals that influence our thinking about society, government, and individual responsibility”
(12)*

American DSP

- Laissez-faire capitalism
- Individualism
- Growth
- Progress
- Faith in science and technology

DSP and the Environment

Components Important for Enviro Politics

- 1 Free market economics
- 2 Growth orientation
- 3 Faith in science and technology
- 4 Separation from the natural environment

How does each shape environmental policy and politics?

DSP: Free market economics

- Consumption-based
- Utility maximization
- Self interest and supply/demand yield greatest good for society
- Market failures: externalities and information asymmetry
- No accounting for future costs

DSP: Growth orientation

- GDP based on output and growth
- Growth based on additional inputs
- Planned obsolescence

DSP: Faith in science and technology

- Conquer nature
- Human ability to manipulate nature
- Will save us from environmental damage
- Blind faith AND rejection of uncertainty
- Science not packaged for policymakers

DSP: Separation Nature

- Orientation towards dominance
- Christian Dominion: Stewardship, Destruction, What?
- Human-centered moral view in Western society
- “Pleasure principle”

History of the Environmental Movement

Eight Eras

- 1 Dominance
- 2 Early Awakening
- 3 Early Conservationist
- 4 Later Conservationist
- 5 Reawakening
- 6 Complacency
- 7 Little Reagan Revolution
- 8 Post-Reagan Resurgence

Dominance (1492 – Mid-1800s)



Figure: “American Progress” by John Gast, Public Domain

Early Awakening (Mid-1800s)

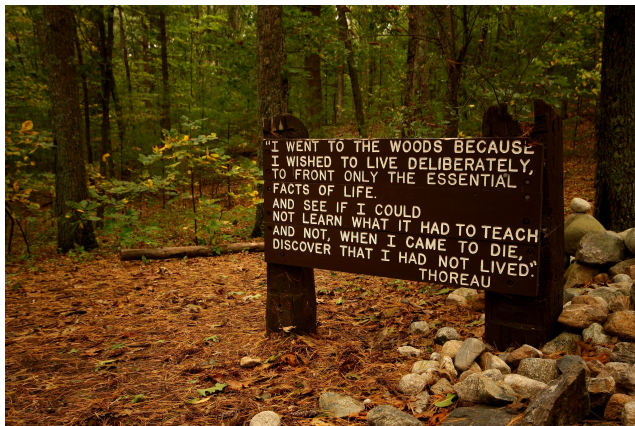


Figure: "Thoreau Quote" by Ekabhishek, CC BY 2.0

Early Conservationist (Late-1800s)

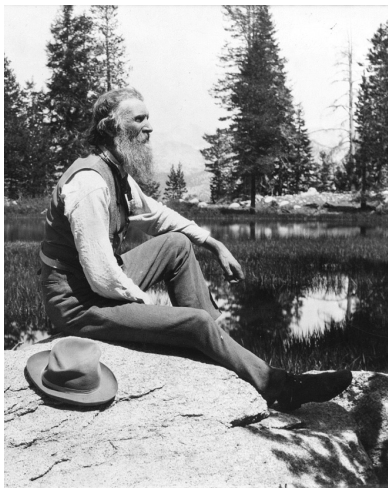


Figure: “John Muir” by Library of Congress, Public Domain

Later Conservationist (Early-1900s)

Conservation vs. Preservation



Figure: “TR & Pinchot” by U.S. Forest Service, Public Domain

Reawakening (1960s)



Figure: “Centralia” by JohnDS, Public Domain

Reawakening (1960s)

- *Silent Spring* (1962)
- High profile incidents: Cuyahoga River, Santa Barbara Oil Spill, Love Canal, Centralia
- National Environmental Policy Act (1970)
- First Earth Day (1970)
- Sierra Club, Audubon, Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation growth
- Widening of movement

Complacency (1970s)



Figure: "Logo" by NRDC

Little Reagan Revolution (1980s)

Even at the EPA:

Figure 2. Model-Predicted EPA Monitoring Activity (1977-85)

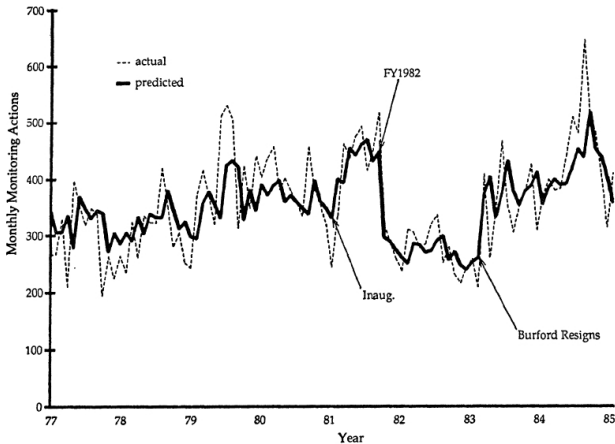


Figure: Wood (1988), Figure 2

Little Reagan Revolution (1980s)

Even at the EPA:

Figure 3. Model-Predicted EPA Abatement Activity (1977-85)

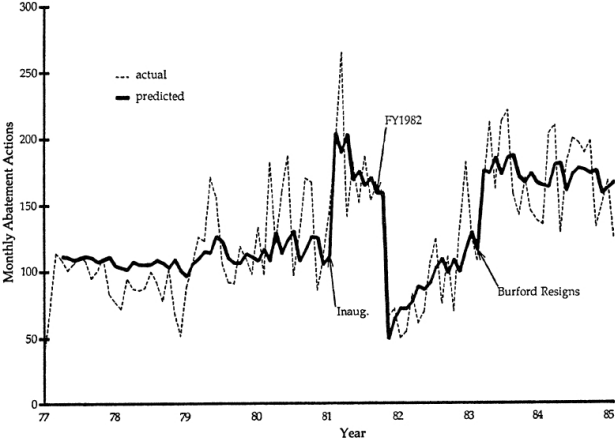
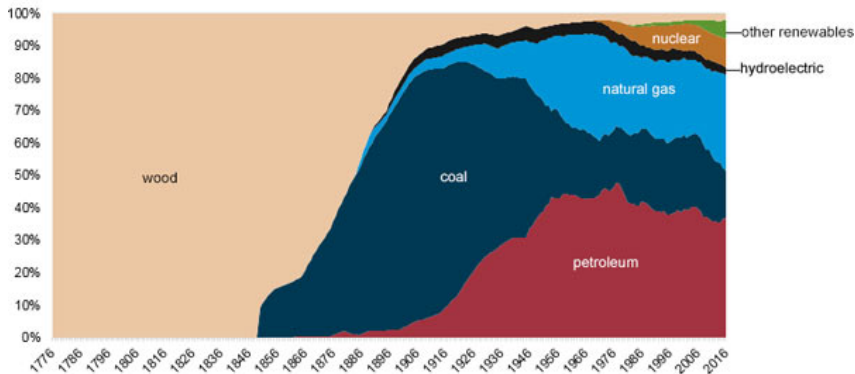


Figure: Wood (1988), Figure 3

Post-Reagan Resurgence (1990s-Present?)

Share of U.S. energy consumption by major sources, 1776–2016



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, April 2017, preliminary data for 2016



Figure: U.S. EIA

Social Movements vs. Interest Groups

Social Movements vs. Interest Groups

- Lots of interests, not all are demanded
- Common interest + organization for influencing policy
- Types of groups:
 - Professional
 - Social movements
 - Advocacy organizations



Policy Theories

How do social movements and interest groups fit into the policy theories that we discussed last week?

Questions?



Figure: Q&A by [Libby Levi](#), CC BY-SA 2.0