Confronting the Unsustainable and Often Unethical Effects of Economic Globalization

Chelle McIntyre-Brewer

MA Critical and Creative Thinking Program

University of Nebraska- Omaha

Introduction

The global economy has major impact on environment with the majority of its effects hugely altering the ecological balance and future of our planet. Across the world, pollution levels continue to rise, and those not in control of resources become the increasingly marginalized. Land degradation is at an all-time high with agricultural pursuits, deforestation, mining, and the deposition of waste. There is a high correlation between the wealthy and environmental fitness as opposed to those who come from poverty being exposed to the worst environmental fallout consequences due to corporate waste zones, industrial pollution, and the pervasive 'not in my backyard' attitude from those who control resources. Despite many efforts to change environmental conditions, very few changes have actually been made. It is imperative that all major actors in the global economy work judiciously to alter the current trajectory of the earth's ability to sustain humankind, because current efforts are not enough and at the detriment to underserved populations.

Without an awareness of the issues facing these under-represented communities, environmental racism will continue to plague the global community. Most realistically, I contend that the means by which to combat environmental racism lies in making people aware of how the mistreatment of the underserved will, in turn, affect those who benefit from the products created by the corporations exacerbating pollution in areas that do not have the representation to advocate for themselves. While the idea of NIMBY (not in my backyard) is convenient for ignoring the state of global pollution, showing people that the negative effects of production do harm everyone forces those controlling resources to acknowledge that environmental racism is not sustainable. The results may not be seen immediately but will be profoundly obvious when clean water and air become scarce, nutrients in the soil are depleted, and diseases spread from

minority areas to those who control economic supply and demand. Making the consequences of environmental racism relative to the entire population so that there is an impetus to reform corporate mishandling of waste treatment and overseeing conservation initiatives in order to manage and restore an ecological balance is of the utmost importance of the future of society.
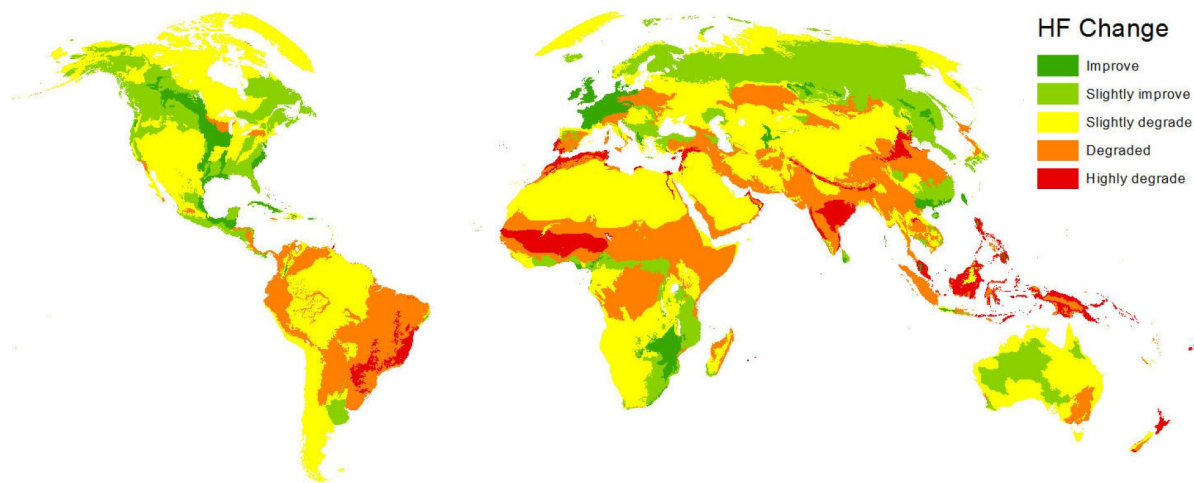
This map shows where humans' impact on the environment increased or decreased from 1993 to 2009. With some exception, the most impact has been felt on peripheral and semi-peripheral regions (Venter 2016).

Background

From the dawn of civilization, the allocation of resources has dominated politics at the local, regional, and global levels. This play for ownership has evolved over time and continues to be an area that raises questions about morality, sustainability, efficiency, and capacity for increased profit. Researchers and critics, alike, disagree as to how resources should be dispersed based on the aforementioned issues with some arguing for capitalistic gain at the expense of the masses and others taking a more environmental or humanistic approach. Realistically, these conversations need to come to some sort of affable consensus sooner rather than later because

there is a tangible reality that humans are consuming resources at a rate more pronounced than they are recovered, and entire communities are being destroyed in the name of profit. The history of allocation of resources must be understood to decide how to address the issue of global access to supplies of any nature. From the beginning, having the means to survive dictated success. Today that still holds true for a large portion of the global community, but there are others who wish to hold more capital for the intention of wealth.
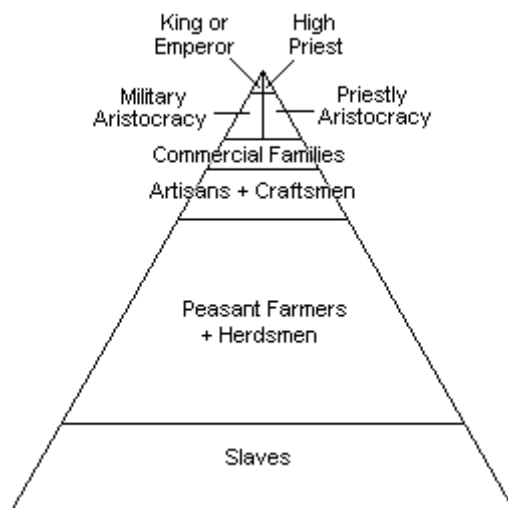
Pre-historic Quest for Resources

In pre-ancient times, the challenge in the days of the hunter-gatherer was to have enough food to survive. When sustenance disappeared, humans moved to another area until those resources also became scarce, repeating the pattern until agrarian abilities formed (Hakim 2005). Once humans were able to find ways to preserve food to consume in times of want, their explorations could be fulfilled on less of a primal level. "In the paleolithic period men were already aware that at certain times of the year animals and plants are less prolific than at others, and seasonal ritual observances to maintain an adequate supply of them were therefore deemed necessary" (Whitrow 2004). Even during this early time in history, supply was of utmost importance.

Emergence of Civilizations and Hierarchy

As humans migrated, so did their cultures, languages, and religions. They developed unique identities that have influenced their regions throughout time. As anthropologists continue to study the remains and artifacts of those who predated the current population, it is commonly agreed that the cradle of civilization is in the Middle East and Northern Africa, with Ethiopia also having a distinct early culture (Haviland 2013). As independent civilizations gathered the knowledge and resources to create agrarian societies with more complex governments and the opportunity for caloric energy to be expended on recreation, social hierarchies developed. The

result was a miniscule ruling or upper class, a very limited scholarly or merchant class middle

class, and the rest being the working class which supported the entire civilization.

The upper classes had the luxury of time and wealth, while the lower classes toiled on

land they did not own, for profits they could not claim. Their needs were barely being met while

those in positions of power lived comfortably (Postgate 1994). As time progressed, the labor of

the lower classes and the prowess of the merchant and ruling classes created trade routes

spanning various continents. These routes brought with them the opportunity for economic

growth through trade, the profits of war, and the acquisition of land for various civilizations.

Inevitably, there was an unbalance in resources on all levels. In fact, some of the very resources

being distributed were the very lowest classes: slaves. The idea of man as a commodity was an

idea well-established throughout the continents based on the emerging idea of conquer to claim

for political growth (Brace 2004). Unfortunately, the practice of slavery- in whatever form-

developed as a reality wherever the acquisition of resources takes place.

King or Emperor   High Priest

Military Aristocracy   Priestly Aristocracy

Commercial Families

Artisans + Craftsmen

Peasant Farmers + Herdsmen

Slaves

Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas (Peter Stearns et al 2005).

Age of Exploration

By the Age of Exploration, the dominant political and expeditionary forces, except for the various dynasties of eastern Asia, existed in Europe. The focus of established political entities was threefold: gold, God, and glory. Monarchs sought to gain capital by finding gold and other lucrative assets, converting as many foreign civilizations to Christianity, and enjoying the glory of owning more of the Earth's crust through imperialism. Throughout this period, which is generally acknowledged as starting at the beginning of the 15th century and ending toward the end of the 17th century, the high seas became the area of focus, instead of the land routes that had been well established by that point. The Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and with them a wide variety of seas were now filled with trade route claims for shipping companies acting under the authority of various kingdoms and countries (Mancall 2006). Once again, the resources were allocated to the few- those wealthy enough to dictate exploration- and mined, cultivated, or manufactured by the masses.

While the native population was dying in droves, *encomenderos* 'not only took countless lives through forced labor, but also indirectly destroyed the collective farming system…. On the Pacific coast the Spaniards destroyed or let die out the enormous plantations of corn, yucca, kidney and white beans, peanuts, and sweet potato; the desert quickly devoured great tracts of land which the Inca irrigation network had made abundant" (Galeano 1997). At this point in history, agriculture was not nearly as valued as the precious minerals being mined to sustain the desire for riches of the elite in Europe.

With the demise of natives in colonial expanses, merchants quickly latched on to the market of slaves coming out of the Middle East and Africa, loading human cargo in ships and setting sail for, first, South America, but quickly on its heels, North America, as well. Once the

Colombian Exchange was created and agriculture unique to the Americas falling in favor, the Triangular Trade soon followed suit with its own economic cycle. Ships filled with slaves and gold from Africa and the Mediterranean were traded for sugar and molasses in the West Indies where it was turned into rum, and other raw materials from the American Colonies were sent to Europe to be manufactured so they could be sold so that the entire process would begin again Galeano, 1997). Because of the reliance on water routes, countries also hired privateers to act on their behalf essentially as pirates to pull as many commodities from foreign nations of opposite allegiance as possible. While privateers were considered perfectly legal, their illegal counterparts formed in protest to the unfair economic and political practices of the day, being romanticized with Virginia governor Alexander Spotswood commenting, "'People are easily led to favor this Pests of Mankind when they have hopes of sharing in their ill-gotten wealth'" (Woodard 2007).

While so much attention has been paid to European imperialism, the Ottoman Empire (Turks) dominated the Middle East while Asia was a confluence of the major players in Europe as well as Japan and, eventually the United States between colonial times right on up to the inception of World War I. Prior to that period, it had seen several large imperial forces ravage the area. At the very root of colonialism, regardless of location, were resources.
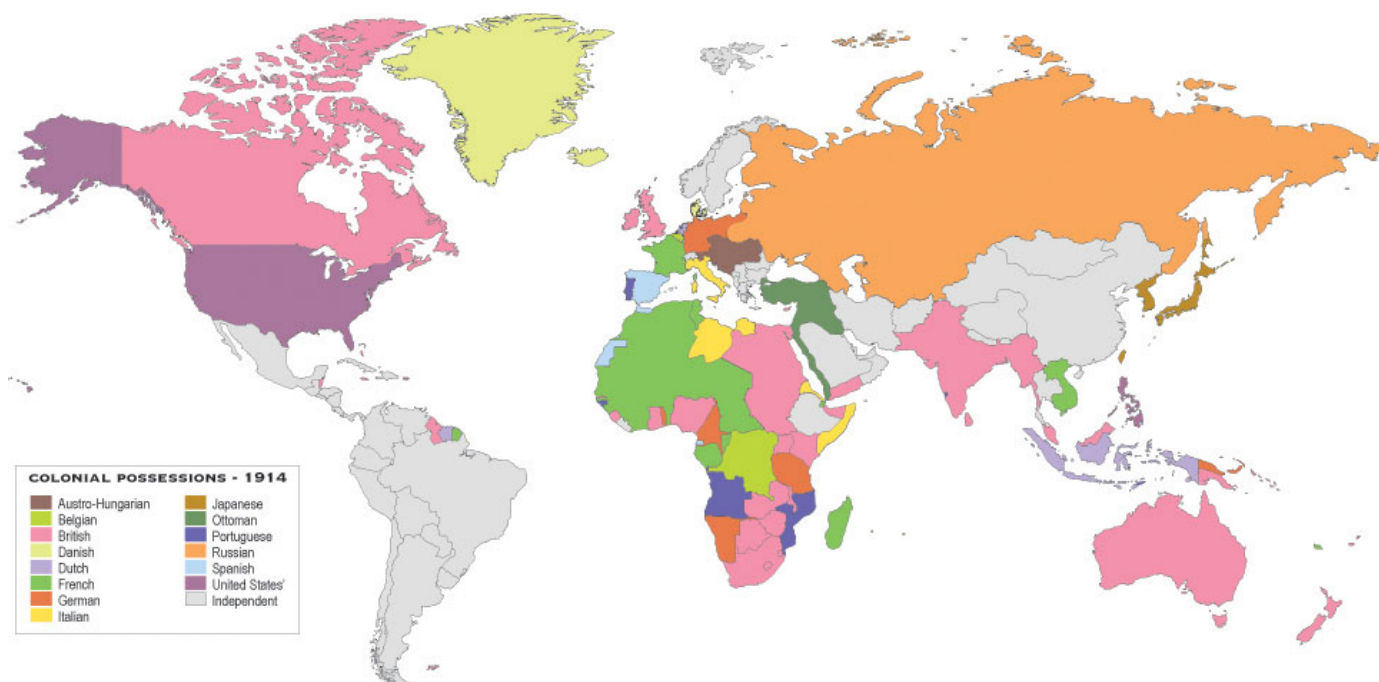
Colonial Possessions as of 1914, depicting the wide variety of countries involved in imperialism though most originate in core area (Chappel-Sokol 2015).

Industrial Revolution Through World War I

As colonies in the Americas and Asia fought to gain independence, the Industrial Revolution prepared to become the impetus for even more scrambling for European nations to find means to obtain the raw materials to produce finished products. Known as the Scramble for Africa, Europeans ravaged the African continent, claiming land masses filled with potential income and rivers for transportation at a rapid pace. In 1870, ten percent of Africa was controlled by European entities, but by the onset of World War I, ninety percent had been claimed (Easterly 2009). The fruits of the African continent were being taken at an incredibly high cost to the African people. Despite the atrocities occurring, many wealthy investors ignored the horror of African imperialism.

The beginning of the twentieth century ushered in great transformations, both politically and economically. The emergence of a solid middle class brought about new ideas and

challenges to the traditional modes of government. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand became the excuse needed to embark on a deadly war which cultivated a war machine fueled by corporate greed on both sides. Then, the post-war period was difficult on multiple levels. "Industrial production, which had been geared to the war effort, had to be changed over to peaceful uses" (F. Gilbert 1979). This time-consuming process led to unemployment as soldiers from all fronts returned home to find there were few jobs to be filled. Combining this with the Great Stock Market Crash of 1929, the world was struggling to recover.

This time the fascist regimes came forward with economic promises of vast improvement at the expense of freedom and progress and eventually led to World War II where no continent was left unscathed, whether by being directly involved in battle or through commitment of manpower and resources. Corporations showed their disregard for moral principles by choosing to work with enemy governments while providing products for Allied countries. Some of their technological advancements even led to the death of both Allied troops as well as the victims of wide-spread genocide (Mark Achbar 2003). To date, corporations involved with this duplicitousness deny direct involvement, taking an amoral approach that they have no control over the use of their product once sold to entities (Achbar, 2003).

Post-World War II

Once World War II concluded, it seemed the world was split between communist ideologies and capitalism. Oil, which came to the forefront during the First World War, dominated economic decisions globally. Europe and Asia were in ravages, while the United States held the upper hand economically on a global level. It seemed that the tables had turned on the former economic and political powers while former colonies exerted their fledgling power in protest of long held oppression (F. Gilbert 1979). Smaller, previously ignored countries such

as Viet Nam and Korea came to the forefront in the fight between capitalism and communism, while the people of those countries were more interested in exercising their independence. Time and again, countries would vie for true freedom from outside influences only to find that they were inherently sewn into the web of globalism. Since Central and South America now had more business ties with the United States than Europe and, as already noted, corporations have a long history with tyrannical governments, this geographic region, like Asia followed by Africa, would find itself in political upheavals at the whim of wealthier governments or connected corporations (Galeano 1997). Even today, the corporate impact over government is undeniable. Corporations such as Monsanto are deeply embedded in the political decisions made in both developed and developing nations (Robin 2008). Essentially, those corporations, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization are the equivalent of the ancient Mesopotamian priests, making decisions that affect the lives of many while directly benefitting the few.

Though the Cold War is considered over, many alliances still convey (Cold War Alliances 2000).

Environmental Racism

Environmental racism is a concept that evokes considerable controversy but must be addressed in order to protect the future of our planet. The term takes on different meaning depending on the geographic area depicted, but the basic premise is that the ethnic and racial minorities of a region are underserved in terms of adequate access to basic environmental protections and rights. While those currently benefitting from this marginalization continue to refuse to acknowledge the profound damage being done to, not only the minority groups directly involved, but the entire planet, our world is rapidly decaying and reaching a point of irrevocable damage. Unless honest conversations are had, and constructive solutions are implemented for the well-being of both the environment and humans tangled in this web of pollution, everyone on Earth will pay the ultimate price.

The United States

In the United States, environmental racism is typically identified in areas of lower income, dense population, and primarily minority residents, referring "to any policy, practice or directive that differentially affects or disadvantages (whether intended or unintended) individuals, groups or communities based on race or colour (sic)" (R. Bullard 2008). These types of communities are found all over the country, in both urban and rural areas, and involving a multitude of races and ethnicities. Ironically, one of the most affected groups of peoples in the United States of environmental racism are the Native American tribes, particularly on reservations. "The legacy of institutional racism has left many sovereign Indian nations without an economic infrastructure to address poverty, unemployment, inadequate education and health care, and a host of other social problems" (R. Bullard 2008). Despite well-known and accepted histories of cultural interest in the earth and its relationship to humans, Native Americans are

routinely found advocating to protect their land and resources from mostly economic entities

determined to find profit at the expense of the environment (Werdel 2006). Most recently, the

Dakota Access Pipeline controversy brought to light the conflict between corporate entities and

tribal affiliations with the protests over the possibility of contaminating water and infringing on

sacred burial grounds at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation (Liu 2016). The sheer apathy of

the pipeline's corporate response caught the American people, as well as global followers, off

guard and brought to light the inequalities feeding into institutional environmental racism.

Source: Energy Transfer Partners   LARIS KARKLIS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Map depicting Dakota Access Pipeline and its infringement on Standing Rock Indian Reservation (Karklis 2016).

Corporate indifference to industrial pollution is not unique to the Native American

community in the United States:

"Two influential studies exploring this relationship—one by the U.S. General

Accounting Office (USGAO) and the other by the United Church of Christ

(UCC)—found that African-Americans and other people of color were more likely to live close to hazardous waste sites and facilities than whites." (Taylor 2011)

Both studies were conducted in the 1980s and revealed inequities on several levels. The UCC research was able to link race specifically to augmented opportunities for exposure to contaminated materials (United Church of Christ 1987). Most importantly, these studies brought awareness to the fact that minority communities were more prone to environmental racism.

Whether natural or man-made, environmental disasters continue to dominate in areas where poverty and minority communities exist. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast region, specifically New Orleans. The result was chaos and destruction which impacted all strata of society, but has been felt since at a particularly base level for the black community. The authors of *Institutional Discrimination, Individual Racism, and Hurricane Katrina* explore the reasons for this inequity in their research, explaining that previous poverty and lack of resources prior to the hurricane made escaping its wrath more difficult while recovery efforts were statistically stunted by governmental sources as compared to predominantly white areas (Henkel, Dovidio and Gaertner 2006). Over a decade later, the area is still being rebuilt, with a focus on the corporate infrastructure dominating the horizon while some families are still living in FEMA provided trailers (Robertson and Fausset 2015). Nature may have created the storm, but society has allowed its destruction to linger in underserved areas.

Other parts of the United States that have experienced environmental racism have been affected purely from a corporate vantage point. Detroit, Michigan has been historically known as the car manufacturing center of the United States, while its factories sit empty and pollutants continue to corrode the environment surrounding the city and its outlying regions. In 2014, it

was revealed that lead levels in the water of Flint, Michigan could be legally defined as toxic waste by the Environmental Protection Agency (Craven and Tynes 2016). As a major contributor to Detroit's automotive industry, toxins were being released into the air, water, and soil for generations leading to this crisis and affecting a predominantly minority and underserved population. "Flint's water crisis fits into a historical trend of environmental racism in the U.S., which for decades has allowed polluters to prey on communities of color, in part because of weak environmental regulations" (Craven and Tynes 2016). The industrialized North was certainly not alone in its contributions to environmental racism.

In the South, racism continues to be a force of oppression, particularly through corporate impacts on the environment. The USGAO's study, "Siting of Hazardous Waste Landfills and Their Correlation with the Racial and Socio-Economic Status of Surrounding Communities," sites lenient regulations and handouts for corporations, with little legislation to protect land, water, and air resources (United States General Accounting Office 1983). This information came as a result of the public outcry to the Warren County, North Carolina Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) dump sites created by Ward Transformers Company beginning in 1973 (McGurty 2009). While Warren County received support from an outraged populace, other areas of the South were found to be just as contaminated, with a predisposition to place factories, dump waste, and otherwise fuel environmental racism based on the fact that these communities did not have the same representation in political places of power and, in predominantly Latino communities, language barriers added an extra level of under-communication of the dangers of industrial pollution (R. D. Bullard 2000). Across the United States, economic growth has been set as a priority while underserved communities continue to suffer from the effects of pollution and environmental degradation.

Europe

Sadly, the same can be said for the rest of the world, as well. Europe has a vast history of discrimination against minority groups, which led to the mistreatment of indigenous groups around the globe. On its own continent, Europe continues to struggle with its treatment of Romani and native tribes of the continent (Harper, Steger and Filčák 2009). Comparable conditions face the Romani to those of minorities in the United States, as they are relegated to poorer urban areas, with contaminated living situations (European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network 2009). The European Roma Rights Centre indicates that "Forced evictions of Roma on environmental grounds are on the rise" (Gökçen 2012) while mining and deforestation efforts are threatening the well-being of ethnic groups in the northern regions of Europe (Tauli-Corpuz 2015). Sami, Koni, Yemets, and other indigenous groups of continental Europe find themselves in similar positions as the Native Americans, with their food and water supply contaminated by corporate efforts to expand and increase profit (Steger 2007). The environmental threat to these marginalized people is very real and seldom recognized at a global level.

With such indifference toward the well-being of the indigenous groups of the region, it is no wonder that the refugee situation in Europe has been cause for discontent and inevitable environmental racism. Vast amounts of those fleeing political unrest in Africa and the Middle East have converged on the European continent and are often used for undesirable labor that exposes them to dangerous chemicals and extreme weather conditions to work for wages that do not meet the European standards (Serpis 2015). Further north, refugees routinely jostle with French riot police in Calais as they attempt to access the United Kingdom, living in deplorable conditions that are veritable environmental hazards (News France 2017). The European quest to

imperialize has extended this sort of behavior to a global level that remains problematic to this day.

Latin America and the Caribbean

As one of the first conquered areas, South America and the Caribbean is rife with examples of environmental racism. The identity of this geographical location has been molded by fierce colonialism and exploitation of the land and its indigenous people. Despite centuries of pillage and annihilation of the native population due to war over resources, slavery, and the spread of disease, the people still take an active role in fighting environmental racism. "Campesino identity and farmworker identity have long been pillars of political participation in rural Latin America, particularly where peasants' demands for justice figure in national histories of revolutionary violence. Now despoiled landscapes, poisoned watersheds, agricultural chemicals, and other rural environmental problems share the platform with such traditional peasant issues as land, credit, and commodity prices." (Carruthers 2008)

The destruction of the environment is largely due to foreign interests either using the raw materials native to South America and the Caribbean or creating industrial settings in these areas to save money on labor, production, and the disposal of toxic waste (Terry 1998). Much the same as the other cases examined in this writing, ethnicity, race, and poverty are driving forces which determine where these corporate outposts are located and the damage done is typically to the underserved community while those with adequate resources are distant from the damage incurred.

Effects of the global economy, resource acquisition, and industrialization on Latin America (Rowntree, et al. 2011).

Africa

The same can be said for those living on the pillaged continent of Africa. Well documented activity of first world national corporations sending toxic waste to Africa, stripping the continent of its natural resources without regard to ecological balance, and exploiting labor is pervasive throughout colonial history (Grossman 2006). Environmental racism is a volatile issue in Africa, with political unrest being only a portion of the violence as impoverished communities continue to be affected by contamination, disease, and lethal living conditions (Terry 1998). "South Africa is in a state of ecological collapse moving towards ecological catastrophe," with "[m]ost black South Africans continu[ing] to live on the most damaged land, in the most polluted neighbourhoods near coal fired power stations, steel mills, incinerators and waste sites" (Cock

2015). Sadly, the experience of black South Africans is far from an abnormal representation of

the conditions suffered by the indigenous people of Africa. The Ogoni people were victims of

environmental racism when Shell Oil began drilling on their tribal lands, leading to toxic

environmental levels in what was previously nutrient rich soil (Spitulnik 2011). After a massive

outcry from the people and very public protests, the Nigerian government arrested and executed

nine protestors to quell the situation, ultimately siding with Shell Oil and continuing to allow

large scale pollution (Spitulnik 2011). Ultimately, the same sort of patterns of environmental

racism present themselves in Africa as has been seen elsewhere, with the underserved

populations and minorities being exposed to dangerous levels of pollutants and contamination.
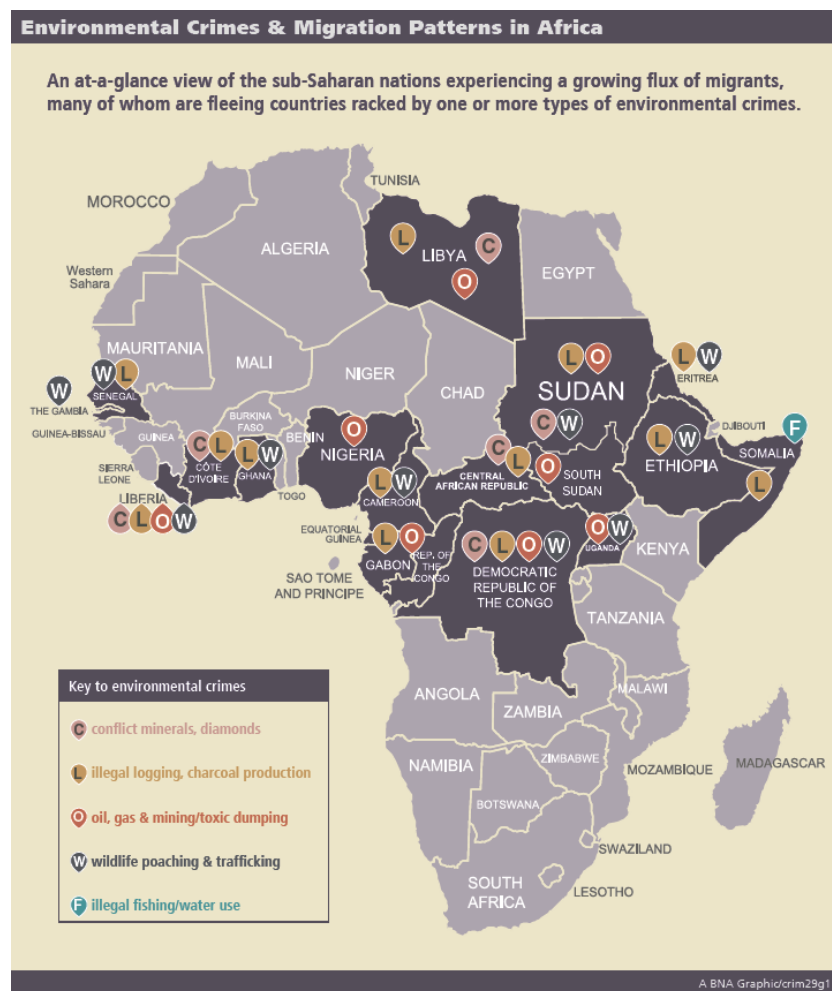
Other instances of environmental racism and corruption in Africa (Kigotho 2015).

Asia

  Asia, in some ways, has a unique relationship with environmental racism. Geographically, Asia is an interesting area because it is filled with island countries as well as being home to major industrial nations including Korea, Japan, and China. It constitutes an enormous amount of the planet and includes a wide range of ecosystems, governments, ethnicities, and industries. It also is home to the largest ocean on the planet which, as Haunani-Kay Trask attests, "The vast Pacific is a dumping ground for toxic and hazardous wastes" (Trask 1993). Aside from the tremendous amount of environmental contaminants released during World War II, the area remains rife with industrial activity that releases pollutants at the expense of indigenous people of the region.

  Even on the continental mainland, environmental racism has been prevalent throughout the area. In 1983, Texas owned Union Carbide Corporation experienced an industrial catastrophe when its plant mixed methyl isocyanate, a chemical fertilizer, with water causing a noxious gas to loom over the town of Bhopal in India, exposing 520,000 people in the area (LaBarr 1991). Within three days, approximately 8,000 native residents were dead and thousands more would be diagnosed with lung fibrosis, blindness, tuberculosis, neurological issues, severe body pains, while the death toll continued to mount (Das Gupta, Aruna and Ananda Das Gupta 2008). The sheer number of those affected is staggering in comparison to many of the other regions of the world, which makes sense considering that Asia homes 59.63% of the world's population (United Nations 2011). Another common denominator making this particular disaster similar to others of its kind in Asia is that the incident occurred with an outsourced subsidiary of a Western corporation. Paradoxically, Asian corporations lead in global statistics when it comes to outsourcing, with the majority of their companies moving to South

America for cheap production and obtaining resources (IAOP 2009). The combination of geographic size, massive diverse populations, varied resources and ecosystems, and economic competition make Asia ripe for opportunities to extort people indigenous to the continent.

Not In My Backyard- NIMBY

Throughout the globe, a common theme that keeps arising is the idea of NIMBY, an acronym for Not In My Backyard (Maiorino 2011). In short, those who pollute are sure to place the waste or damage in an area that will not directly impact or inconvenience their lifestyles (Maiorino 2011). Reviewing the evidence researched, it is fair to argue that environmental racism impacts those who are underserved and under-represented. The predominant cause of the issue is a desire to save money at the expense of the environment, thus affecting large segments of the population who do not have the resources by which to fight large corporations.

Without an awareness of the issues facing these under-represented communities, environmental racism will continue to plague the global community. Most realistically, I contend that the means by which to combat environmental racism lies in making people aware of how the mistreatment of the underserved will, in turn, affect those who benefit from the products created by the corporations exacerbating pollution in areas that do not have the representation to advocate for themselves. While the idea of NIMBY is convenient for ignoring the state of global pollution, showing people that the negative effects of production, in fact, do harm everyone forces those controlling resources to acknowledge that environmental racism is not sustainable. The results may not be seen immediately but will be profoundly obvious when clean water and air become scarce, nutrients in the soil are depleted, and diseases spread from minority areas to those who control economic supply and demand. Making the consequences of environmental racism relative to the entire population so that there is an impetus to reform corporate

mishandling of waste treatment and overseeing conservation initiatives in order to manage and

restore an ecological balance is of the utmost importance of the future of society.

Deaths from unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene
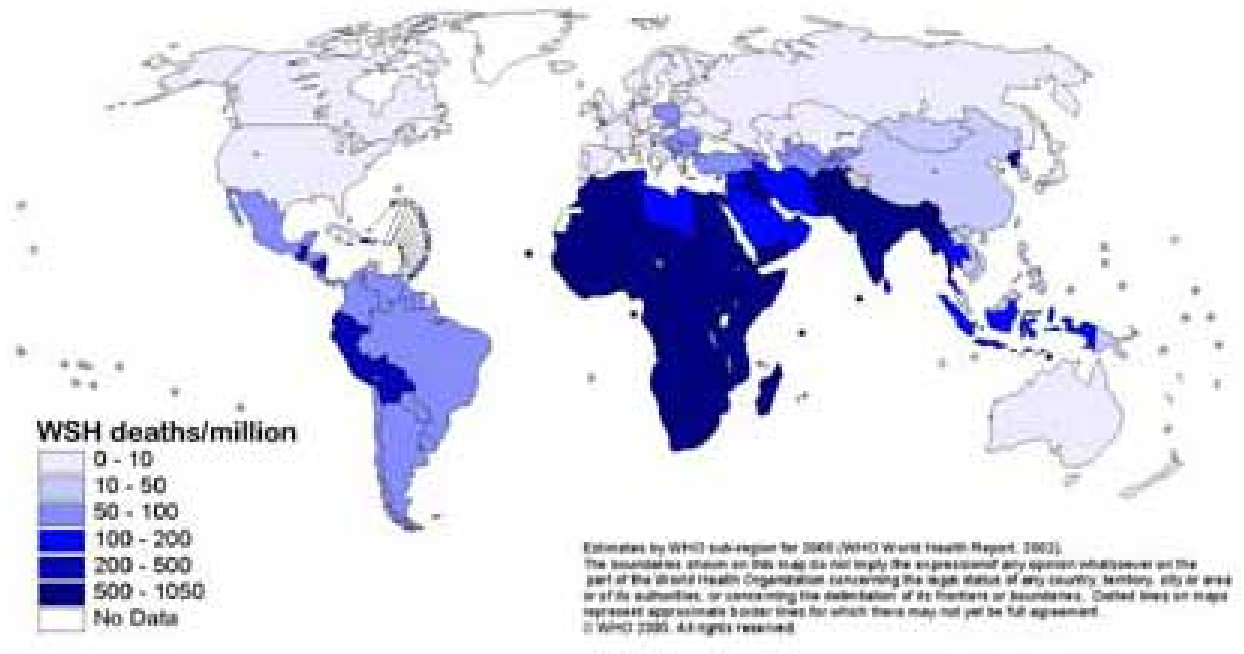
A global view of deaths attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene indicates a proclivity for peripheral areas to take the brunt of pollution (World Health Organization 2005).

Theories of Application

The reality is that very little has changed since history has been recorded: Those who

have power wield it over those who do not, monopolizing access to resources and strategically

withholding it from those who need support the most. The question lies in how to adequately

deal with the unequal distribution of resources globally. While theorists debate the merits and

best practices of economic development, it is imperative to remember that the past is the key to

the present. Humans repeatedly choose to ignore the iniquities of that which has occurred,

continuing to make the same mistakes. Classical liberal economists argue for a more traditional

view of economic development, ignoring the fact that viewing developing nations with a

primitive lens that is often condescending. Walt Whitman Rostow, after all, strongly supported

efforts by the United States in Viet Nam which led, not only to failure and a highly corrupt

government, but to environmental and human destruction with the introduction of Agent Orange

by corporate influence of Monsanto as well as the overall destructiveness of war (Milne 2008).

This approach to economic development has been proven, time and again, to be opportunist and

elitist, not to mention unsustainable. Still, a neoclassical movement evolved to advocate for free

markets and accountability through private investment and market efficiency. Although this is

the predominant theory in practice to date, inherently it is problematic because the investors

logically are those who have the means to pay into the system in order make an influence.

Arguably, it is the same issue that exists between the *Unholy Trinity* Richard Peet describes

between the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization (Peet

2010). Those who have the resources control the resources.

Unlike the previous two theories, the social theory of development holds the most

promise for the global community. Within this philosophy is the desire to view commodities

within the framework of sustainability and cultural milieu. As Ernst Friedrich Schumacher

advocated in *Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered* (1999), individuals

need meaningful work for proper human development and "production from local resources for

local needs is the most rational way of economic life" (Schumacher 1999). Instead of solely

relying on economic growth as the key measure of success, social economic theorists contend

that addressing systemic issues such as poverty, inequality, population migration, premature

death rates and other social problems with positive outcomes is just as important. Localization

and decentralization leads to more access for all parties involved to have a say in the allocation

of resources. I contend that this does not infer that globalization is a bad thing or that the

interconnectedness of global production networks is a blight on the future of the planet. Rather, I suggest that taking the time to assess local and regional assets and have them managed by the locality is beneficial for everyone because it adds a layer of personal interest to what is often a distance transaction. As Peter Dicken so aptly explains, "The real effects of globalizing processes are felt not at the global or the national level but at the local scale: the communities within which people struggle to meet the needs of their daily lives" (Dicken 2015). Affording these people the ability to make choices that are to their benefit, and applying this mode of management universally, ensures a better chance of a checks and balances system that requires localities to work with one another to solve issues. Clearly not a panacea, utilizing local interest is an effective means by which to improve circumstances. The result may not be the cheapest, fastest, nor the most technologically advanced, but there is a better chance of sustainability of mankind.

Conclusion

Since humans were able to control resources, there has been an effort to exert dominance over the lesser endowed. As the economy became ever more globalized, the machinations were put into place to exert control by the few over the many. The effects have been devastating, ethically questionable, and nonsustainable. In order to move forward, the global population needs to recognize that NIMBY has been utilized as a means for passing the negative aspects of economic growth on to those with more difficulty exacting change. While it is highly unlikely that the global cities of the world will their pervasiveness, it is certainly possible to create more centers for trade and commerce in order to enable diversity in influence. This is certainly the case as cities in Central and Southeast Asia climb to prominence. Furthermore, progress has been made in identifying environmental racism and its characteristics. Due diligence in battling

policies and procedures that allow this discriminatory behavior must be applied. Currently, such organizations as the United Nations, Transparency International, and the O'Neill Institute are working vigorously to bring incongruities to light. It is far too easy to look at the state of ethics and sustainability in regard to global economics and consider it a lost cause. However, an attitude of resignation will not improve the current situation being faced by mankind. Only through involvement, awareness, and proactivity can change be sought.

References

Adil Najam, David Runnalls and Mark Halle. 2007. *Environment and Globalization: Five Propositions* . Winnipeg: International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Albareda, Laura. 2008. "Corporate responsibility, governance and accountability: from self-regulation to co-regulation." *Corporate Governance* 8 (4): 430-9.

Bergreen, Laurence. 2012. *Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504* . New York: Penguin.

Brace, Laura. 2004. *The Politics of Property: Labour, Freedom and Belonging.* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Bullard, Robert Doyle. 2000. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, class, and environmental quality.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Bullard, Robert. 2008. "Environment and Morality: Confronting Environmental Racism in the United States." *United Nations Research Institute for Development* 1-36.

Carruthers, David V. 2008. *Environmental Justice in Latin America: Problems, Promise, and Practice.* Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Chappel-Sokol, Sam. 2015. "Culinary Colonialism." Culinary Diplomacy.

Cock, Jacklyn. 2015. "How the environmental justice movement is gathering momentum in South Africa ." *The Conversation*, November 1.

Coe, Jonathan. 2013. "Sinking Giggling into the Sea." *London Review of Books* 30-31.

2000. "Cold War Alliances." *Resource Link World History 17th-20th Century.* New York: Global History Regents Review.

Conrad, Joseph. 1942. *A Conrad Argosy.* Garden City: Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc.

Cook, Captain James. 1971. *The Explorations of Captain James Cook in the Pacific: As Told by Selections of his own Journal 1768-1779.* Edited by A. Grenfell Price. New York: Dover Publications.

Cordingly, David. 1995. *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates.* New York : Harcourt Brace & Company.

Craven, Julia, and Tyler Tynes. 2016. "The Racist Roots Of Flint's Water Crisis." *Huffington Post*, February 2: B3.

Crowley, Roger. 2015. *Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire.* New York: Random House.

Das Gupta, Aruna and Ananda Das Gupta. 2008. "Corporate Social Responsibility in India: Towards a Sane Society?" *Social Responsibility Journal* 213.

Dicken, Peter. 2015. *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy.* Seventh. New York: Guilford Press.

Easterly, William. 2009. *The Imperial Origins of State-Led Development.* New York: New York University.

European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network. 2009. *France RAXEN National Focal Point Thematic Study: Housing Conditions of Roma and Travellers.* Bruxelles: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Fischer, Andrew M. 2015. "The End of Peripheries? On the Enduring Relevance of Structuralism for Understanding Contemporary Global Development." *Development and Change 46(4)* 700-732.

Galeano, Eduardo. 1997. *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent.* New York: Monthly Review Press.

Gilbert, Felix. 1979. *The End of the European Era, 1890 to the Present.* New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Gökçen, Sinan. 2012. *Slovak Republic Targets Roma Homes as 'Waste'.* European Roma Rights Centre.

Gray, John. 1998. "Globalisation--the dark side." *New Statesman* 11 (495): 32-34.

Grossman, Elizabeth. 2006. *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxics, and Human Health* . Washington: Island Press.

Hakim, Joy. 2005. *A History of US: The First Americans, Prehistory-1600.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Harper, Krista, Tamara Steger, and Richard Filčák . 2009. "Environmental Justice and Roma Communities in Central and Eastern Europe." *Environmental Policy and Governance* 251-268.

Henkel, Kristin, John Dovidio, and Samuel Gaertner. 2006. "Institutional Discrimination, Individual Racism, and Hurricane Katrina." *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy* 99-124.

Hochschild, Adam. 1999. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story in Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa.* New York: Mariner Books.

IAOP. 2009. *Asian Companies Dominate Global Outsourcing 100 List.* Poughkeepsie: IAOP.

Jean-Yves Huwart and Loïc Verdier. 2013. "What is the impact of globalisation on the environment?" In *Economic Globalisation: Origins and Consequences*, 108-125. Brussels: OECD Publishing.

Kahuthu, A. 2006. "Economic Growth and Environmental Degradation in a Global Context." *Environment, Development and Sustainability* 8 (1): 55-68.

Karklis, Laris. 2016. *Dakota Pipeline Access* . Map, Washington, DC: Energy Transfer Partners.

Kigotho, Wachira. 2015. "Environmental Crimes and Migration Patterns in Africa." *Bloomberg*, October 7.

Kwong, Jo. 2005. "Globalization's Effect on the Environment." *Society* 42 (2): 21-28.

LaBarr, Gregg. 1991. "Citizen Carbide?" *Occupational Hazards* 33.

Lawyers Collective and the O'Neill Institute . 2017. *Global Health and Human Rights Database.* September 18. http://www.globalhealthrights.org/.

Lim, Sijeong; Menaldo, Victor; Prakash, Aseem. 2015. "Foreign aid, economic globalization, and pollution." *Policy Sciences* 48 (2): 181-205.

Liu, Louise. 2016. "Thousands of protesters are gathering in North Dakota — and it could lead to 'nationwide reform'." *Business Insider*, September 13.

Magnarella, Paul J. 2006. "Human Rights and the Environment: Conflicts and Norms in a Globalizing World." *Journal of Third World Studies* 23 (1): 291-292.

Maiorino, Al. 2011. "Do You Have Control Over NIMBYism?" *Biomass Magazine*, March 22.

Mancall, Peter. 2006. *Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery: An Anthology.* Oxford: University of Oxford Press.

2003. *The Corporation.* Directed by Jennifer Abbott Mark Achbar. Produced by Bart Simpson Mark Achbar.

McConnell, R A. 1999. "Population, environment, globalization and the survival of civilization." *Mankind Quarterly* 40 (2): 155-178.

McGurty, Eileen. 2009. *Transforming environmentalism: Warren County, PCBs, and the origins of environmental justice.* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Milne, David. 2008. *America's Rasputin: Walt Rostow and the Vietnam War.* New York: Hill and Wang.

Moshirian, Fariborz. 1998. "National financial policies, global environmental damage and missing international institutions." *International Journal of Social Economics* 25 (6/7/8): 1255-1270.

News France. 2017. "Migrants and police clash at Calais camp demolition." *The Local*, March 12.

Pallemaerts, Marc. 2003. "Is Multilateralism the Future? Sustainable Development or Globalisation as 'A Comprehensive Vision of the Future of Humanity'." *Environment, Development and Sustainability* 5 (1): 275-295.

Pamela Das, Richard Horton. 2017. "Pollution, health, and the planet: time for decisive action." *The Lancet* 407–408.

Peet, Richard. 2010. *Unholy Trinity: The IMF, World Bank and WTO, 2nd Ed.* New York: Zed Books.

Peter Christoff , and Robyn Eckersley. 2013. *Globalization and the Environment.* Blue Ridge Summit, PA: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Peter Stearns et al. 2005. "Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas." *World Civilizations.*

Postgate, Nicholas. 1994. *Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the Dawn of History.* New York: Routledge.

Ray, John T. 1993. "Environment and global focus key to growth." *Adhesives Age* 18.

Robertson, Campbell, and Richard Fausset. 2015. "10 Years After Katrina." *New York Times*, August 25.

2008. *Le monde selon Monsanto .* Directed by Marie-Monique Robin.

Rowntree, Lester, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff. 2011. *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World.* 3rd. New York: Pearson.

Rubinstein, W. D. 2004. *Genocide: A History.* New York: Pearson Education.

Russell, Anna F S. 2011. "Incorporating social rights in development: transnational corporations and the right to water." *International Journal of Law in Context* 7 (1): 1-30.

Schumacher, Ernst Friedrich. 1999. *Small Is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered.* New York: Hartley & Marks Publishers.

Serpis, Almudena. 2015. " Salad days? Semi-slavery on the 'sweating fields' of southern Spain." *The Ecologist.*

Spitulnik, Debra. 2011. "Small Media Against Big Oil (Nigeria)." *SAGE Publications, Inc* 459.

Steger, Tamara. 2007. *Making the Case for Environmental Justice in Central & Eastern Europe.* 1-57: Center for Environmental Policy and Law, The Central European University; The Health and Environment Alliance; and The Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Tauli-Corpuz, Victoria. 2015. *Preparatory Report from the Sami Parliament in Sweden/ Sámediggi/Sámedigge/Saemiedigkie/Sametinget .* New York: United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Taylor, Dorceta E. 2011. "Environmental Racism - United States, Industrial, Toxic, Human, Power, Use." *Pollution Issues*, December 2.

Terry, Larry. 1998. "Environmental justice, permitting at the fore." *Chemical Week* 1.

Trask, Haunani-Kay. 1993. "Environmental Racism in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin." Boulder, CO: Audio Energy for Democracy, September 29.

United Church of Christ. 1987. "Toxic Waste and Race in the United States: A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Communities with Hazardous Waste Sites." New York.

United Nations. 2011. *Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development: An International Perspective.* New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division.

United States General Accounting Office. 1983. "Siting of Hazardous Waste Landfills and Their Correlation with the Racial and Socio-Economic Status of Surrounding Communities." Washington, DC.

Venter, Oscar. 2016. *Humans' Growing Impact on the Planet.* Map, Washington, DC: National Geographic.

Werdel, Nancy. 2006. "Native American Requirements Under the National Environmental Policy Act." *International Institute for Indigenous Resources* 1-14.

Whitrow, G. J. 2004. *Time in History: Views of Time from Prehistory to the Present Day .* New York: Oxford University Press.

William Haviland, Harald E.L. Prins, Bunny McBride, Dana Walrath. 2013. *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge.* New York: Cengage Learning.

Williams, Stuart Murray. 2010. *Anabaptism: Re-monking the Church After Christendom.* Lynchburg: Sustainable Traditions.

Williamson, Edwin. 2009. *The Penguin History of Latin America.* London: Penguin.

Woodard, Colin. 2007. *The Republic of Pirates: Being the True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down.* New York: Mariner Books.

World Health Organization. 2005. *Deaths from Unsafe Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation.* Map, Geneva: The Health and Environment Linkages Initiative.