

## Industrialization and Environmentalism

Who does hold an authority on the topic of environmentalism though, the structural engineer? The biologist? A national park service worker? I think that everyone that has walked in the woods, off the regular path that's been walked only on by One Hundred and Sixty dollar hiking boots bought from a REI, has an authority on the woods and the state that nature is in. I am one of the many others that has walked into the woods and the deserts. I have seen the lush undergrowth on the Washington rainforests and the general forests there as well as stared upon Rainer, I have seen the snowy landscape of Montana in the winter, and have hiked the dry landscape of southwest colorado. Does this give me the authority to speak on the natural world and say what I think will help it, I will refuse to allow those who barely have experience in the wilderness to go out into a place of political discussion and begin to say and state what is the best course of action for the natural spaces in America, In fact, I would have rather seen Edward Abbey elected and running the lands in this country than a lot of bureaucrats.

Industrial society and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race. First said by a thin man in a Montana cabin who's violence had reached the FBI and struck fear into the general population of America, he was later identified as Theodore. J Kaczynski and placed into the Florence Supermax in the middle of Colorado. The actions that were taken by this man in his string of bombings have been debated if not they had an actual affect on the current enviromental problem, personally I believe that his actions where too radical to sway any actual popular opinion on this issue. It's hard to look at the manifesto of someone who did this terrorist campaign and say he had good ideas, and it is the same with me I just will not say it. Though, the problem is that he brings up a legitimate problem, one that cannot be fixed with shopping at Wholefoods and posting fancy art student infographics about the dying forests in another country. We as a people need to place focus on our **local** forests that have been molested by industry and urbanization, as a concrete tower is erected, another few habitats are destroyed and another tree is chopped down.

Another figure that will be a main vocal point of this article is the man that I first found when walking through the dense Washington undergrowth and contemplating why everywhere I stepped there was a survey stick. The man is Pentti Linkola, little known here in America but a very popular environmentalist in Finland and also a man that advocated for his beliefs that the Finnish Forests should be untouched by urbanization and that our rapid urbanization has made life even more difficult for people working. He uses the example in his book "Will Life Prevail?" (A collection of articles) that before the widespread adoption of refrigeration fishermen in an area sold locally and thus supported the local economy of the area. With the introduction of refrigeration, now the fishermen selling these fish have to invest into pricy units and without these pricy little modern ice boxes that they are required to have the fisherman will be put out of business. Now urban professionals from larger cities ask "why can you not deliver to us" this actively takes away from the local economy, so in the end it falls to be an economic problem it seems. Well strangely no, now that these small fishermen companies and singular entities are being placed out of business by new food preservation laws, large companies swoop in and begin massive fishing operations resulting in over-fishing. The butterfly effect scenario, is hard to imagine that it is the effect of refrigeration.

Linkola spoke of closing the borders and stopping immigration, not because of a xenophobic fear but because of the affects of immigration into a country. This does not just

apply to places like Finland but for many other countries, especially first world countries. What the increase of immigration brings is the need to develop more infrastructure and housing because more people are coming into the country. Linkola's solution to this is to close borders not just to immigrants though but to planes, boats, and travel in the country for extended periods, think of what Japan did with its policy of isolationism for 214 years which had positive effects to the preservation of culture and the environment over there. The reason for the banning of boats is that Linkola wants to nationalize the economy as well that boats cause environmental damage and similar damage is caused by planes.

Another thought I would like to state, which may seem like a topic contrarian to my disdain of infrastructure development, is the extreme lack of trains in America. Sure, we have AmTrak which, with its purpose of long distance train trips, has really gone unused by a lot of people. It is also hard to access these train stations, which are a limited commodity with there only being Seventy stations in the entirety of America. It would be in our best interest to build up the train infrastructure in America to combat the large amount of cars on the roads which is causing a lot of carbon emissions that are immensely harmful to the environment and the general public. I can remember a time when I was staying in Seattle and there were multiple forest fires happening down in Oregon and the fumes and smoke that wafted up to Washington from the fires was so detrimental to one's health you had to stay inside for a week. As more and more people enter into America from birth or immigration there will generally be more cars, and electric cars are still too expensive for a majority of the population so generally there will be more carbon emissions. Trains will provide a reason to not get a car like in Japan and Europe where trains are very prevalent, some say it is unrealistic for the size of America but there are train lines that go across the entire bottom half of Russia and into Mongolia/China from Moscow to Vladivostok.

To also cut back on a common cause of ecological damage is the transportation of vegetables and food in general, ever since the Spice trade in the 17th century we as people have been pacing around the globe transporting goods. That was fine at the time because what was used as transportation was sailing ships, now that we have these massive freighters that guzzle oil and proceed to release it back into the world as pollution it has become sort of an issue. That is why I am harboring back onto an old topic. Isolationism will drastically reduce carbon emissions ten-fold as well as help strengthen the country's economy. What I will introduce in this section though is the reintroduction of the family farm model in common society, this country has been built on a model of self-reliance which I believe can be seen by the common rejection of communism in America during the 50's-90's. The family farm would in theory benefit the owner as he has a source of food and if needed he could sell his yield to the community around him and strengthen the bond of the community, say if multiple families do this and some focus on ranching and animal husbandry others focus on crop rotation and farming. This would reduce the need for grocery stores and urbanization.

Another model of forestry that to me seems like the natural route to take when discussing such a dramatic change in the way we treat our environment is that of utilizing CCF forestry methods (or Continuous cover forestry). This method ensures that the trees stay at an irregular structure, something that looks more natural and has been utilized by a variety of countries. This method also promotes diversity in sizes as well as diversity in ages of trees, also as the name suggests it provides coverage of the forest floors.

What I have been attempting to get to with all my writing is that an installment of an Agricultural community based living would be deeply beneficial for the environment and for the sanctity of the American people's health. I will be transparent with my conscience and come out saying that I do not strive towards a goal of a quick reversal of all of our collective accomplishments as a global society. The problem that I hold against that is that we are already here, there is no radical reversal that we could take that wouldn't result in total collapse. The way of change that I would like to see is a gradual one. Over time we begin the restrictions in ways that allow people time to become comfortable with what is changing around them. Then the more extreme policies are put in place this section of roll-outs would be the aforementioned isolationist policy and immigration policies. After that it would be a good time to begin the changes in infrastructure like trains and the elimination of unneeded accessories of the industrial age such as the Glen Canyon Dam. Then finally the installation of the end goal, local Agriculture and communities.

## Bibliography

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