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< [Previous \(Rights, Rights, and Mo...\)](#)[\(Military Industrial Co...\) Next](#) >**Environmentalism as Religion** by **Joe Escobar** - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:53 AM**This forum thread is for Environmentalism as Religion posts and replies.**

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post.

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[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Recycling Tigers** by **Andrew Schubert** - Monday, May 27, 2013, 7:03 PM

Dear Mr. Escobar and fellow History Students,

First of all, I just say that I'm slightly in awe of the correlation that's been drawn in this forum topic, between Environmentalism and Religion. I can't say that I've ever reached this analogy on my own but after reading the article and watching the ad, I can see the logic that enables this correlation.

I grew up in a very alternative and green household, and although in my adulthood I can say that I didn't take ALL of the practices to heart, I still cringe at myself when I throw a soda can into the trash. I was also raised as an agnostic, which has subsequently turned into atheism, which might explain why I never thought of the two as similar. But after further review, I must say that no, there are too many dissimilarities between the green movement and any organized religion for me to really consider them to be one and the same.

I will consent that the recycling centers we've erected around the country have grown in size and complexity, but they aren't religious in nature, people don't go to visit them or utilize them in prayer. The only way, in my mind, that a recycling receptacle

could be considered akin to a shrine is their similarities in shape and size. That alone is not enough to make them the same.

As for the prosecution of citizens who have no adopted elements of the green revolution into their lives, I can concede that they may be persecuted to some extent, but not because of their beliefs, but because of their practices. For example, say you consider yourself to be an upstanding religious person who happens to witness another human performing a heinous act. Would your first response be to condemn them for doing something reprehensible? Or to condemn them for not sharing your religious views? I would imagine that for most of us, morals are not completely self-contained within a construct of beliefs. If this were the case, it could be argued that all atheists are immoral, which I don't believe to be true.

Lastly, I would say that environmentalism isn't religious because it's not borne out of scripture or faith, but rather on science and fact. Also, one could still be an environmentalist while being say, Catholic, Muslim, or Jewish, which I find to be less true for most religions. Just because house cats are related to tigers, doesn't mean all house cats should be kept in the zoos or all tigers let into quiet neighborhoods at night. We recognize, as a society that although some things bear resemblances to others, doesn't mean they should be treated as the same.

Andy Schubert

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won't be resolved

by Tyler Kennedy - Monday, May 27, 2013, 11:04 PM

I don't think rights issues will ever be resolved, although you can understand the issue better if you educate people on it. Such actions as the ones showed in the cartoon won't be don't peacefully; you will always encounter resistance when trying to make a change. This closely describes environmentalism as a religion, just check the list comparing the two.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Resolving Environmental Issues

by Morgan Martinka - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 7:20 AM

Environmental issues could eventually be resolved through education. When generations become educated and aware of issues it's more likely that actions to resolve them will become the new norm. However trying to resolve them through legislation or prosecution without conclusive evidence proving these issues would be a violation of our rights. Much like if laws were placed forcing people to attend church.

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Re: Resolving Environmental Issues

by Minfeng Xu - Thursday, May 30, 2013, 8:37 PM

This is true. Educated believer of a religion will become more wisely. Like you said, aware of issue rapidly and resolve it via their knowledge instead of using violation. It is also true that using legislation or prosecution seems like force someone to attend to church. Believers usually go to church voluntarily and with what they believe. If they were strongly push by others to believe what they don't believe or don't know about, they would reject and avoid to do so.

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Greenism

by Robert Badewitz - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 9:52 AM

These types of issues may be resolved some day, but i feel that the best most effective way will only come through education. It has the possibility to be done peacefully and voluntarily but only through educating people. I can see there being coercively but that will not work in the long run, government forced regulation does not work in my eyes. More in this later.

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Jason Lyons - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 12:04 PM

First off i thought the commercial was hilarious. That being said i believe that the whole green movement is definitely getting more intense as the years pass. Eugene has already completely cut plastic bags from the grocery store. I think in with in the next decade these things could very well become more intense than they are now. i dont think they will ever become punishable like the commercial portrays but definitely more looks down upon by society more so than they already are. It is our right as americans to choose what type of car or what cup were going to drink coffee out of. I think we as a country have much larger issues to deal with the plastic bags, or incandesent light bulbs. If someone wants to better the world by saving a little energy on their electric bill or use paper rather than plastic, that is their right and i dont think the goverment should have any say in that.

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Minfeng Xu - Thursday, May 30, 2013, 8:40 AM

The article, the first amendment to the United States Constitutions is, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". This amendment clarified how American should treat religion. I think it can be resolved, but it could be a hard work. First, original religions used to organize by tribal instead of universal religions, and each tribe even had their own god or gods. Second, every tribe thinks their god was all-powerful and stronger than other even now, which is the root of religious conflict. Although the modern religion becomes universal, which replace some of the tribe god to universal god, it does not used by all religion. Therefore, the diverse religious conflicts need to be resolved by government power or legalization. On the other hand, the article also addresses the environmentalism as a religion. It accurate defines how this religion works for environment and human. I think it's a good idea.

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This has bothered me for some time...

by Agina Hale - Friday, May 31, 2013, 6:35 PM

This has bothered me for years. While I was doing some research on this subject, I found out that there are cities where laws were enacted against plastics being thrown in the trash. Also, there are big cities where it is illegal to recycle. The part that bothers me is that I don't fully condone all types of recycling. Some recycling is actually more damaging than waiting for it to deteriorate. Take plastic for example. What do you do when you downcycle plastic, it has to be shredded and melted back to another form which releases CO2 emissions. Paper, has to be washed, bleached and dried. Plus, it is driven out to drying fields by dump trucks. The chemicals that were in the original paper had to be pulled out with water and then where does it go? Glass and Metal recycling are the cleanest so far. If someone wanted to truly make an impact they would look at an item and decide what that mass would have to undergo to become something else. Plastic, melted. (What happens with melted plastic?) Aluminum, melts into metal. Paper, bleached and washed, Glass, smashed and ready to smelt.

My point is that since everyone is big on recycling, they almost feel no guilt buying the plastic products. All the starbucks containers, plastic drink containers. Recycling actually makes money for those who pick it up. It's free material. Whether the plastic downgrades with each generation or not, it's still free product.

The solution? I think we need to spend more time on the reduce and reuse. People need to make the decision for themselves, as consumers, we have the power to get the producers to do what they want.

On a side note: There are other options for plastic bags such as corn plastic. Problem there is corn prices are unsteady and often increase due to outside

influences. However, ignorance is bliss! Keep buying juice and drinks in plastic with a smile!! 😊

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Religions Provide Identity

by Brittney Nestle - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 10:05 PM

I think Environmentalism can certainly be viewed as a religion since, for people who are seriously into this; I imagine it touches aspects of everyday life. I think it's especially ironic that this article is questioning whether environmentalism is really useful almost like someone would question the logic/usefulness of a recognized religion. I don't think a "divine being" is really necessary to a religion though I know that officially it's in the definition, my reasoning is this: religion with God's and divine beings are not as popular as they once were being in post-evolution society and I think our perception has perhaps been adjusted for example: those who don't believe in god are classified as "atheists," I think this in itself has given people an unintended identity by inserting them in a sort of religion (or maybe counter religion.) I think the same applies for environmentalism maybe even more so. If one calls themselves an "environmentalist" it's immediately apparent what their beliefs are, it can predict many of their actions such as recycling and even show the types of foods they buy, maybe even where they buy it. I think something that provides that level of insight into someone's life, their beliefs, and provides pretty much a whole identity can absolutely be considered a religion.

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scary

by Robert Badewitz - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 11:14 PM

The more I think about this video, the more it scares me. As much as I agree with the fact that there needs to be something done about our environmental problems I am not okay with how it was done in the video. Having the "Green Police" enforce all these law would be problematic. Environmental change needs to come about through education, not having another Police force using authority to control people.

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