

HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

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Forum 4

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Environmentalism as Religion

by Joe Escobar - Thursday, May 22, 2014, 8:46 AM

This forum thread is for the Environmentalism as Religion discussion.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your 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.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE:
Environmentalism as Religion

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Self Sacrifice or for Greater Good!

by Kira Iantorno - Sunday, May 25, 2014, 2:17 PM

First of all the author of this article is Paul H. Rubin has a PHD in economics, and if Fox news is going to give Bill Nye a hard time for being an engineer, then Mr. Rubin has even less of an educated point of view on this topic. The only connection that religion and environmentalism have is there always will be fanatics. I find this article incredibly offensive toward both religious communities and environmentalists. He calls recycling a self-sacrificing ritual; I can only imagine what he thinks of nurses and washing his hands.

For the purpose of this forum I will only concern myself with the rights of the individual and environmentalism. The commercial portrays the reaction of many who aggressively react to consumers that don't participate in greener alternatives. There are no actual police busting down people's doors for not turning the lights off or watering the lawn for too long. It is the responsibility of the individual to choose to care about these things.

When somebody says its their right to do something they are usually wrong. People do not

have the right to use styrofoam cups, or drive the newest gas guzzling automobile. It is not illegal to do or own these thing but not because it is a right. In the future the debate on the importance of being more sustainable will change policies and laws, yet even then it will not take the rights of anyone away. People will still be allowed to have a voice, they will not be arrested without being given their miranda rights. The world will still keep turning and we will still be in America.

The idea that environmentalism is a religion just to connect it to the first amendment and silence people who advocate it is disappointing. The one right that this author is forgetting is the freedom of speech. He may not agree with them or even like them but they are completely free to speak their opinion without retaliation from the government.

“The most basic component of freedom of expression is the right of freedom of speech. The right to freedom of speech allows individuals to express themselves without interference or constrain by the government. The Supreme Court requires the government to provide substantial justification for the interference with the right of free speech where it attempts to regulate the content of the speech.”(http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/first_amendment)

This does not mean they won't get fired from their job or be immune to ridicule on Facebook. The government can not choose to make a group of people a religion just because they are passionate about what they are advocating. You could say the same things about women's reproductive rights, gay marriage, and net neutrality. The people's voice is important for the growth of this nation. These type of issues can be resolved peacefully with education. The more we know about our effect of being on this planet the more our government and others will learn how to coexist with it.

Neil deGrasse-Tyson on climate change debate.





Re: Self Sacrifice or for Greater Good!



by Derek Landon - Sunday, May 25, 2014, 9:07 PM

After reading the article and watching the video, I felt like PAUL H. RUBIN was right and I sided with him. Then I read Kira's bit on what she thinks and it drastically changed my perspective. Kira said that Paul has a PHD in Economics and because of that, I think that his article is extremely biased. Yes, there are so many people now that are trying to be "green" and sometimes they do make dumb decisions like not wanting nuclear power to help stop global warming, but they mean no harm. All people are trying to do is come together to help clean up the world so it will last longer. Sure, I guess if people are coming together and worshiping one thing and only that thing that it is a religion, but there are so many "green" people that can tell the good stuff from the bullshit. His article is basically saying EVERY green person is in a cult and they want to take over the world. All they are trying to do is help the environment and are trying to make the world last longer.

I think with education and scientific research, we can find out things that will actually help the environment instead of assuming something works and then never truly finding out. I also think the "green" people need to give other people a chance to live. Not everyone wants to reuse all the time and that isn't a crime. Sometimes its just more efficient to do things differently, even if we leave a bigger carbon footprint. I also think if we ever did find a for sure way to help the environment, the government would place laws to restrict people from doing it any other way. We could see harsh environmental laws in our lifetime easily, and I think even after our era, laws will be put in place to keep the earth "greener".

I got a good laugh out of the video and was pleased to see it was enjoyable to watch.

You might also find this (very seriously made) video funny.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Recycle recycle recycle

by Mitchell West - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 7:42 AM

you make a good point Kira but i do see alot of what the author talks about in eugene, you dont recycle and people think you're crazy, and while there is no police busting in doors there is something worse, constant condesing among the general poputation. atleast in eugene, we are forced to buy plastic bags in stores now, isnt that a step closer to the green police , also you mentioned his point on the uselessness of recycling, fun fact, my brother was a recyclist for 2 years and most of what they recycled ended up in the dump anyways so yes it might end up being a self-sacrificing ritual. now to deal with those pesky laws. while it is not illegal right now to do any of the things you listed what happens when someone does make driving a gas hog illegal? because its not eco friendly, this might very well happen, also what if we went to war which as we have seen time and time again you lose freedom of speech, that means if they can make it an eco war guess what it becomes illegal to talk against it. the author got some wrong but i feel at the way we are going that it might come to pass so keep that in mind

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Marcus Mcphaul - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 8:58 AM

I completely agree with professor Paul H. Ruben, especially since I have moved to Oregon there has been somewhat of a culture shock due to the large "going green" movement here. I believe the reason this Green movement is very comparable to religion is the reason most people begin to follow. Most people are looking for something to belong to in life to give their day to day life more meaning, and nothing makes people feel better than believing they are saving the Earth, and that they are ahead of the curve in terms being aware of what we need to do to save this planet. I also do not believe it will be a peaceful transition to transform the public into eco friendly people, I see a future filled with new fines for our day to day actions such as throwing away trash or even the type of gas you decide to buy. Im already starting to see a sort of resentment from those who are eco friendly towards those who choose not to be, in my head I compare this to the early 1900's when the American public wore pins to show how patriotic they were, and if you were seen without these pins you didn't care about America and you were looked down upon. Now its if you are not recycling or driving a hybrid car then you do not care about this earth, when that could not be any more false at all. The reason I believe most people choose not to recycle or spend extra money on a hybrid car is because they do not see a direct relation to doing so and somehow saving the Earth, not because they don't care about the only planet we know as home.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Couldn't have said it better.



by Katie Birrenkott - Thursday, May 29, 2014, 3:05 PM

I completely agree with everything that you are saying. I also am not from Oregon and wrote in my post about the exact same culture shock that you described here. It's very easy to say that going green is a way of life and not just doing one thing. It's about following a set of rules and abiding my our planet, which can definitely be comparable to religion in saying that religious folk also abide by a certain standard or set of rules in order to leave in a better place.

The transition that has just hardly started already hasn't had a peaceful transition. I know everytime I am in Eugene I among other curse having to pay a lousy five cents for a bag. It's not a matter of cost, it's a matter of being forced to do something that shouldn't have a second thought.

As mentioned in my post with the South Park video, environmentalism is another way to make you feel better about yourself, just the way people have religion doing the same. If you want to make yourself feel better by "being part of the solution and not the problem", then by all means do so. However, don't force others who do not care and would rather put all trash into one bin.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Problem in the Eugene



by Mitchell West - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:21 PM

while i agree. i have no problem with bringing my own bags when i shop, sure its a pain when i forget them but the problem comes when people who dont care just go to springfield and get free bags, there has been an increase in shopping in springfield for this exact reason. it defeats the purpose when it is so easily

circumvented, also there is a difference between going green and being eco friendly. ill recycle bottles and if im at lane ill recycle what can be recycled, that is not going green, that is part common sense and part do as the roman's do.

fun fact, the diesel you buy at the pump has some bio in it thus making it go bad after 6 months and Eugene lost a ton of money because they brought it in case of emergency and when they went to do a test found that it went bad.

i dont mind those who are considerate and doing recycle without boosting about, its those that do boost that are the problem, to quote the bible "do not do as the pyarciss do, those that fast and then go to the streets and say look at me look at me, or who go to the temple to pray before man, when you fast wash and make it seem as if you arent, when you pray, let noone know you are praying but god alone" (it might be a little off). this is how we should recycle, do it in our homes, in secret and not before others to get praise

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Shame is the wrong approach

by Blake Taylor - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 9:39 AM

Shaming someone into anything is the wrong approach, no matter what you are doing. I have felt the evil glare from the cashier when I have forgotten my cloth bags at the grocery store. It's not up to my fellow citizen to police me, but I encourage my fellow citizen to create, support and vote on legislation that supports their wishes. As soon as shame and dogma enter the picture, it becomes too easy to pit citizens against each other so that eventually, environmentalism is the purview of one specific party. We have come to the point where we can safely assume who someone votes for, where they shop for groceries and what their social attitudes are simply because they drive a Prius. Environmentalism can no longer be treated with religious fervor because that immediately creates an "us versus them" mentality, which is ridiculous because our environment is arguably the one thing that we're all in together.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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"We're all in it together"

by Miranda Townsend - Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 12:40 PM

I agree with your post, while social pressures sometimes help bring about change, it is not up to our fellow citizens to police us. And the idea of being essentially bullied into doing anything, is not appealing.

I also liked your point that there so many stereotypes involved in our social attitudes. However, ultimately the environment is something that affects us all, or as you put it, "the one thing we're all in together."

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Shame is the wrong approach

by Morgan Reid - Thursday, May 29, 2014, 8:33 PM

I completely agree with you and definitely don't think we should be shaming anyone into doing anything. I feel as if that almost takes away the purpose. Besides, when it comes to being environmentalist, we shouldn't be shamed into doing anything; we should have a conscious urge to want to do things to better our community. It shouldn't be forced, and this wouldn't be an issue if we all cared enough about the world around us.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Shame is the wrong approach

by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 11:42 PM

The only possible outcome to shaming someone is going to be a negative one. Either shaming them will discourage them from trying something again, or in my opinion the worse outcome of forcing someone to do something that they do not want to do because since they are being forced, the quality of work will not be the best it could be. I do agree with you that environmentalist can no longer be treated with religious favor as well. The planet and environment everyone lives in and that is something you can't change.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Legislation for the top of the Mountain.

by Zachary Ogborn - Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 8:59 PM

I'd like to focus my initial response to this Forums prompts on the '*Rights*' component. I truly believe that Legislation passed to cap Industrial wastes such as a Hefty CO2 tax or a rework of Chemical Disposal Procedures for Corporations and Industries wouldn't have any negative effects on the average '*Green*' practising citizen, let alone the average SUV driving, Plastic bag using, hot water wasting American. Without pulling up the statistics, I **guarantee** that *Dupont, BP, ExxonMobil, etc.*, contribute more environmentally detrimental substances then anyone you know on a personal basis.

So how could passing Legislation aimed at reducing those Corporations Carbon-Footprint be a bad thing? Yes we can argue that gas prices could rise or the cost of consumer goods may go up. Keep in mind that America already throws away **millions** of tons of completely pristine goods every month and wastes **billions** of dollars a year on useless items.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Environmentalist I am; Zealot I'm not.

by Zachary Ogborn - Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 9:48 PM



Truth be told, I have always wanted to find something to believe in, something to fulfil that 'Tribal' part of my evolution (*as was described in the article by Paul H. Rubin in our provided Forum Materials*), and something to feel like I am a part of in a greater context. I've found **VERY** few ideologies or associations that accomplish that and honestly, I was never raised religiously so the 'Green' mentality has without a doubt filled that void (*among select others*).

I find myself understanding where Mr. Rubin is drawing his similarities of the modern 'Green' movement to a Religious identification or 'Cult'. I absolutely **agree** that there are fellow citizens amongst us that preach the most extreme aspects of environmentalism and shame others if they do not subscribe. That in my mind constitutes a *Fanatic* and the article draws the connection between that aspect of the two very accurately. It does however skip over the basic gist of Environmentalism as a movement or understanding.

(also, a **HUGE** Kudos for the CNN Video posted with Neil DeGrasse in it. He says it how it is, **Science is fact whether or not you acknowledge it.**)

Fortunately I find myself **NOT** Identifying the 'Green' disposition I have as a Religiously directive way of life. I suppose Paul H. Rubin may have written this article to acquire his editorial quota rather than to provide any solid portrayal of The **General** Practising Environmentalists as a new cult. Would he have written a piece about Nice Guys, Billionaire Philanthropists, or College Frat Bros becoming a New Religious Identification due to their increase in commonality? **I don't know haha.**

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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C'mon people now.  

by Katie Birrenkott - Thursday, May 29, 2014, 12:07 PM

Now reading these articles and comments i had one very distinct thing stuck in my head, and though it may not be the most "educational" or "factual", it's what I thought of. Go ahead and give it a listen.



As most of us should know, South Park makes fun of anything and everything. This particular episode the town was being filled with "smog" from non hybrid vehicles so Stan made this song to get South Park to drive hybrids. After the song came out everyone started driving them and soon a large "smug" cloud formed and joined wjth the cloud from LA. They made this as a point to show what some people have commented on here and that driving hybrids and being green has caused people to think less of people who aren't and more of themselves because they are saving Earth. The writers made commentary that which I do not show only due to the fact that they are swearing throughout it and it could cause offense to some.

Moving here from North Dakota, this particular green way of life has been quite the culture shock for me. I didn't grow up recycling or even knowing what is recyclable. My Oregon born roommates when I moved shunned me for not knowing how to recycle and throwing my trash in the garbage. I even got fined by Sanipac for putting non recyclables in the recyclable bin. After that, I didn't even attempt to recycle because garbage is free. I'm one on campus who stares at the three differently labeled recycle areas trying to figure out where my garbage goes because of the lack of the catch-all garbage bin.

My point is, not everyone is going to recycle and fining/forcing those who simply do not care to is going to make them walk halfway across campus to search for a garbage bin or to not even utilize Sanipac's recycling bins.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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As Different as Apples and Oranges

by Miranda Townsend - Friday, May 30, 2014, 6:02 PM

While I do see what Paul H. Rubin was talking about when he said that religion and being environmental can be seen as part of your identity. However, religion is really something more fluid, spiritual, and transparent than reducing your carbon footprint. They are definitely tied into one another, but are so different that it is almost like comparing apples and oranges.

In regard to the commercial, I found it to be a little bit comical and probably not too far off from the truth in the future. Education will help influence some people's actions. However, we do have a track record as a country for forcing people to act the way we want. I think there will be more environmental policy in the future that will force people into doing the right things environmentally. This will probably look something like a compromise between the reality we see today and what we saw on the green commercial.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: As Different as Apples and Oranges

by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 9:10 PM

Do you think that if the government starts to enforce more laws regarding the environment that people will begin to revolt? Maybe not to the point of riots and violent

things but on more minimal scales like protests and things.

Also, I like how you talk about religion as more of a "fluid, spiritual, and transparent" thing rather than just something you identify as like being Green.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Real life green police

by Connor McCabe - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 1:29 AM

I was beside myself when watching this commercial. It almost doesn't seem like a legitimate commercial. The idea of an actual "Green Police" seems just weird and wrong. Maybe it is a joke towards the people that are so up tight about environmentalism that they go around policing others on how bad of a person they are for not being even half the environmentalist they are. Living in the town of Eugene you could imagine there are a couple of people that are just way better than you and need to teach you about how what you are doing is sooo wrong. When I was younger me and my mother were parked in a grocery store parking lot. We had just gotten in and my mom started the car. She needed to write out a check so she took the 20 or so seconds to do that... well after the 20 seconds turned into about 45 a woman in about her mid 50's walked up to our car and began to tap on our window, she had her daughter who was around 12 with her. She with a smug look on her face motioned for my mother to roll down the window, after she did the lady began to tell her how "Idling is the number one cause of global warming and that it was incredibly inconsiderate for her to be idling causing all the pollution she was and causing any near by children to choke down her fumes." My mom's car is no gas guzzler, it gets around 25mpg, as well as "forcing any near by children to choke down her fumes" if that was such a concern why would you have your daughter standing right there with you in a way forcing her to choke down all those fumes you hate so dearly. I agree there are ways we could improve as a society. We definitely need to become less wasteful and more grateful of what we have. We do not however need to force our opinions down people's throats and down right insult their intellect. *here is a link to a video which I saw as similar but a little more extreme than the situation I went through- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JPZskYKUvY>* P.S. and yes the lady who scolded my mother drove a Prius as well. P.P.S I mean no offense to anyone who drives a Prius there are just many who feel they are polishing the earth they drive on clean when they are driving there Prius.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Sad fact about the Real Green Police

by Mitchell West - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 9:15 PM

hearing your story Conner just makes shake my head a little and remember that while you think the Green Police is a joke you have just run into an officer. while the over the top militarism in the video is indeed laughable doesnt mean that there arent GP watching people such as the inconsiderate women who attacked your mom. i have found that those who preach, lecture and shame those who aren't Eco friendly are the officers of the GP. they are going out of their way to "punish" those that dont follow their ideology and give they could give tickets they would, i am not saying reminding

people of recycling is bad, i understand that you want to try and help be Eco friendly, these people are normal citizens living their lives, its those that go over the top who are the GP, who do anything and everything to make others to follow their ideals and who are self righteous.

the Green Police is very real and while not having military might they have self righteous fury and will shame all who oppose them

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Real life green police

by Ren Rasmussen - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:46 PM

I thought the green police commercial was hilarious but at the same time I think that is how our society is heading. Even the part when the green police was arresting the other officer for having a foam cup. From my point of view global warming is one of the last things we need to be worrying about. Yes I agree the earth has been warming up since the last ice age. I have experienced the same issue of your story and I will agree with you that we need to stop being wasteful.

This video is about third world people taking about first world problems and it just shows that we need to help these people first over fixing the "environment."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFuLSB73ciU>

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Apparently, environmentalism is a religion...

by Blake Taylor - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 4:10 PM

...because eventually, those who oppose the beliefs of a certain religion start to consider themselves martyrs. Poor Professor Rubin can barely get around Emory's campus without being confronted by one of those odious Shrines to Environmentalism (or as we devotees call them, "recycling bins") and for that, he seems to believe that he deserves to be canonized in the Church of Environmental Skepticism alongside St. Krauthammer and St. O'Reilly. (As a side note, I have to wonder: before recycling bins were installed, did he believe that the presence of garbage cans mean that we deified garbage? Or that the presence of public mail boxes mean that we worship the postal service?) Being aware that your presence has an impact on others - and behaving as though that matters to you - is simply being a considerate citizen. Being aware that your actions have an impact on the environment - something we all share, even though Rubin seems to believe that trees are trees, and that there's no difference between a pulp orchard or a national forest - is a part of that consideration. Granted, it's somewhat novel in our society to think that we don't have dominion over the land, sea and skies, and so to rearrange our thinking to reflect that may be jarring for some. I fail to see, though, how recognizing that humans are not superior organisms - and that Americans are not superior humans - is somehow tantamount to a religion. Kindergartners know to pick up after themselves and not take more than their fair share. If Rubin thinks that's too radical of a philosophy, then may whatever god you pray to help us all.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Apparently, environmentalism is a religion...



by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 4:22 PM

Blake,

I love your point of view on this topic, you bring up a good argument. What really got me thinking is when you talked about how it was before recycling bins, and I laughed a little when I read the bit about the post office and mail boxes because its just the same as saying environmentalist worship recycling bins today. Great post!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Environmental things



by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 4:14 PM

After watching the Audi commercial and reading the article my opinions on this Going Green environmentalism phase hasn't changed. I still see it as more annoying than helpful. I'm not trying to bash anyone who believes in being Green but I don't see how it actually contributes to "saving the earth". As for environmentalist as being a religion now I can see it happening. Throughout my day I see people changing their life to conform to being Green.

I do not believe that these kind of things can ever be resolved, it will never be peaceful to take away the things that everyone is used to such as the plastic bags in Eugene. Working as a cashier in the past I witnessed a lot of really angry people who yell and gripe about the ban. In no way is that peaceful, especially when you are on the receiving end.

This article was pretty accurate when it comes to describing environmentalism as religion. It had a list of eco religious behaviors which i found a little amusing, mostly because they were true and I never thought about it before in the religious way until reading it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Environmental things



by Derek Landon - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:43 PM

In your previous post, you said "i don't see how it actually contributes to 'saving the earth'." It isn't necessarily saving the earth, but if everyone does it, it will prolong life. Maybe not in our lifetime, and maybe not in our kids lifetimes, but when it all comes to it, recycling will save us tons of money and space. It only makes sense to reuse what we can. I do agree with you on the "no plastic bags" rule. I worked at Fred Meyers in downtown Portland and have seen plastic bags be banned, and I think it is ridiculous. Paper bags are SO unreliable and rip when someone puts anything heavy in them. Plastic bags are far superior in that aspect. If people are going to outlaw plastic bags in stores, we might as well ban plastic trash bags too, which we all know how much of

a pain that would be. Its all about convenience with me. Also with paper bags I find myself giving them to my cat or just burning them. I do not have trash space for thousands of paper bags. At least with plastic I can reuse the bags as trash bags.

Paper bags also make this extremely impossible.



more funny stuff at [FUNNYA](#)

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Environmentalism equals money

by Ren Rasmussen - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:33 PM

They green movement has be so huge that it is literally everywhere in our lives. It all comes down to to money. These "green" cars are a huge contradiction. You are telling me that making these cars is with pure green energy and by buying one who suddenly go green. Also whats crazy that through media we are so heavily bombard by it we just start expect that the fact that somehow we are doing something wrong. In class we have been shown stickers of the red cross and raised pay signs in restaurants and if people didn't have those they are "evil" somehow. If we continue this path with "saving the environment" its going to be like that too. I don't want to get into the whole issue of global warming but Americans like we can fix it ourselves. The whole world and all its people have to be willing to help. We cant afford to go to every nation and help them be "green." With eating organic foods I do agree its healthier than fast food but not everyone can afford it. Eating healthy in the U.S. is way more money that eating fast food and fatty snacks. Obesity is a problem in the world and much of a bigger issue than the environment. I can through out a hugely arguable topic is that if we eat healthier we will help the environment. All those factories that produce all

the junk food we eat make less then the pollution will down therefor the environment will be better off. But that is not how our capital country works. We wont profit and with going green there is a lot of profit to be gained from ignorant people.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Green is my religion

by Edwin Westlund - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 11:11 PM

I feel that these issues can be resolved through education. If there is real scientific proof backing the fact that something is bad for the environment or bad for people then it is removed and some substitute takes its place that is a safer alternative. I don't think that coercion will ever be necessary. I do sort of find it interesting how the stereotypical environmentalist in my opinion is also a person who has no belief in a higher power. That sort of makes sense and aligns with the whole green is a religion subject. I do feel that things such as global warming(which has had just as many studies saying how deadly it is as there are studies saying that humans have no effect at all) have been blown greatly out of proportion to create need for this environmentalism push which is creating revenue for a multitude of businesses while also making the people who are raking in the money off of this movement feel better about he millions they are making because they are doing something that they can justify as being necessary and good for the environment.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Green is my religion

by Daniel Halverson - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 11:47 PM

Rachel Carson and her book Silent Spring is the best example of having that scientific proof to show that the environment would be in big trouble if things didn't change. People against Carson had multiple different scientist come in to try to find something wrong with Carson's experiments but they were never able to find anything wrong. People were aware of the possible environmental long term damage that was to be caused by Carson's book and now those problems have just got even worse in today's day.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Religious Environmentalists

by Brendan Gibbons - Saturday, May 31, 2014, 11:53 PM

In my opinion the article by Mr. Rubin did accurately describe environmentalism as a religion. I believe that both environmentalism and religion attempt to answer questions that we as humans have no real concrete answers to. Religion attempts to answer questions like "why are we here?" and "What happens when we die?" as well as others. Environmentalism can be seen as an attempt to answer the question, "Why is global warming occurring?". In this light environmentalism and religions are extremely

comparable. For me though environmentalism isn't only about global warming, but more about using less and trying to protect and preserve nature. I think many religious people would agree that religion is also about a lot more than just the meaning of life or what happens after we die. So once again I think the comparison between religion and environmentalism is accurate. Lastly I would argue that even if you don't believe in global warming that you can think of some positives that have come from environmentalism. I think you can say the same thing about religion, even if you don't believe in God you can see some positives that have branched from religion. I would definitely say that many more negatives have come as a result of religious affairs than environmentalism, but all in all I think Mr. Rubin's article did a good job at accurately describing environmentalism as a religion.

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