

HST 203: U.S. History Sp18 (Escobar Meta 41002 43590)

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Forum 4 Environmentalism as Religion

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Environmentalism as Religion

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, May 25, 2018, 7:13 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Environmentalism as Religion topic.

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, something that describes which one of the questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Environmentalism as Religion

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion



by [Cameron Noriega](#) - Saturday, May 26, 2018, 1:05 PM

I always thought being green is good. I never thought environmentalism would be a religion. But I can see the viewpoint of it from the commercial. In the commercial you can see people being punished or shamed for not being green or choosing paper over plastic. Also seeing the Al Gore image reminded me of the "Buy a liberty bond, lest I perish!" picture. It shows after all these years the same propaganda is still happening to this day. People back in the day had to prove their loyalty by buying liberty bonds or do anything to prove they're truly are American. Now in this modern day. People have to prove their green by choosing paper, choosing organic, reusable materials.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

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Being is the problem; Not the Environment.

by [William Perdomo](#) - Saturday, May 26, 2018, 1:27 PM

The first image, "save the planet, kill yourself," is an interesting one because it betrays the fundamental nihilism I see running through the radical environmentalist movement. Environmentalism used to have two practical moral and ethical threads running through it. One, that we should leave the planet better than we found it so that our descendants will have, if anything, and as a matter of common courtesy, a world that isn't unlivable; and two, that, practically speaking, it serves humanity best to preserve our environment as a matter of survival. I, myself, am influenced by my faith to act as a proper steward of the planet because it is a vital part of the creation, and as a matter of charity it is my duty to contribute to my fellow man's survival. I see none of this present in a movement where the problem doesn't seem to be with "polluters" but with humanity itself, and when I say humanity, I mean, fundamentally, they have a hatred of being. I don't think these people understand how illogical and antithetical their statements are because if the planet is indeed in itself a being to worshipped, and worship having to be performed by something separate than itself, i.e., other created beings who offer love as a matter of their own free will, then what the hell would be the purpose of wiping out humanity unless the purpose isn't worship but simply a hatred of the worshippers themselves and, by extension, a self loathing on the part of the people who make these exhortations for mass suicide? It isn't exactly sexy to claim you hate humanity and want to wipe it out so it's much easier, and certainly, casts one in a virtuous light, if true intentions are slathered over with a thick, didactic, preachy morality. This not only gives the environmentalist a dopamine hit of self-righteous goal seeking, but also allows a venting of their hatred of being on an appropriate agent who ceases to be an individual person, but a squid ink cloud of concepts that can serve as bull's eye for the collected ire of a fanatical mass movement. Eric Hoffer's book, "the True Believer" makes an excellent observation about the mind of a fanatic and how

the believer, makes an excellent observation about the mind of a fanatic and how they're usually motivated by a lack of meaning and the crushing weight of individual existence. He notes that the "true believer," whether religious or secular, seeks an escape from their own listlessness, lack of meaning, and responsibilities as a individual. Instead, he/she yearns for a unity, a forgetting of the self, so that they can be absorbed as one molecule among many inside the steel of a spear aimed at a society that has robbed him/her of meaning because it something that must be discovered and suffered rather than an innate "right" that serves as an antidote to internal chaos. In the case of the radical environmentalists, it's not society they want to shatter for a better utopia; but being itself because to them it's better to be nothing than to suffer as something.



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Expectation/Reality

by [Meri Pedelini](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 4:25 PM

I would like to believe that people will make the right decision and recycle, buy eco-friendly things etc. on their own time, and out of the goodness of their hearts and love for the planet. (progressive optimism) however, I don't think it is possible to get the whole population of the country to abide by the same earth friendly rules, unless we are of course required by law or if it somehow involves money. And even if it did become law, how will we hold people accountable/responsible for breaking these codes. Looking at Brown vs Board of education, a way more serious example obviously but related nonetheless, Brown won the case to end segregation in schools however as we observed in class on Thursday, the people in the country did not exactly abide like good citizens until the federal government had to step and regulate. I think if the big things become something more than just voluntary (like solar panels in every house, all locally grown food, etc) That stuff is pretty drastic and it would be very hard to maintain and keep track of everyone violating these rules but I think we could

find a way to make littler things like the lightbulbs we use or just banning plastic bags like we did in Eugene, to make a difference. We haven't had plastic bags for a couple years and I don't at first there was a backlash but it seems like people have just gotten over and got their own bags or just used the paper ones, we've adapted.

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Recycling? Yeah, like that still happens.

by [Scott Fails](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 9:12 PM

I think the overbearingly shunning nature towards the public by the environmentalist in our modern day society has become extreme. I believe it is at the forefront of our local community and there is a more policing nature of environmental faux pas here in Oregon as we are known to be a very environmentally conscious state. I never really had much opinion on the subject myself until an experience that I had at the local dump a few years ago when asking an employee of the dump which bin the type of cardboard that I was holding went into? He got really close to me and made me aware that it didn't really matter which bin I deposited the cardboard into that all of the local recycling there at the dump just went to the landfill anyhow as there wasn't enough money or staffing for a proper recycling program as there used to be, but they continue with the facade of the program to avoid public environmentalist backlash. Though extremes in nature, some of the images at the bottom of the question do speak directly to the attitudes and mentalities of those in the war for the environment. I am not opposed to the protection of the environment, not those who choose to speak out about it. I simply just don't care enough to have an emotional connection to the cause which I assume is most of the problem anyhow? I try to do the best recycling as I can not only with household goods, but with anything reusable that I can. However, I don't have a huge issue with those that do t either. That probably makes me part of the problem?

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Re: Recycling? Yeah, like that still happens.

by [Mirissa Hicks](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 6:44 PM

I do agree that environmentalist has become extreme. I remember reading a few months ago about the ban on recycling that China had put on the United States, due to the many major effects it had on their country. I also had read that America isn't equipped to handle the amount of recycling that our country produces and that in turn most of the items we recycle will just end up in the landfill. I do believe that is true mainly because every month I get a reminder on my trash/recycling bill that

there are certain things they will fine you for if you throw them in the recycling bin. For myself I know I have thrown things in my recycling bin that aren't supposed to go in there and have realized it too late and yet I have yet to see a fine or see the people who pick up my recycling going through my bin. In the article *Huge Amounts of Americans' Recycling Goes Into Landfills Because China Won't Take It Anymore* by Amy Pollard she states "Medford, Oregon-based Rogue Disposal and Recycling, have had to divert all of their recycling to landfills since the ban took effect, as reported in the Times." (Pollard) It does seem like recycling is becoming more of a personal status that you're trying to save the planet instead of a reality, because of these factors.

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/05/china-ban-on-some-recyclable-materials-means-americans-recycling-is-going-into-landfills.html>

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Environmentalism as a Religion

by [Alexander Thompson](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 9:59 PM

I think these types of conflict can be solved or prevented by legislation and education, but I wouldn't go as far as prosecution. If you tried to imprison someone for throwing an orange peel in the trash rather than compost there would be an uprising. But I can see some areas that could prevent these situations. A Lot of it comes down to who is making what, not who is using what. If businesses are able to produce both incandescent light bulbs, as well as LED light bulbs, then people will use both, but if a company is only allowed to produce LED light bulbs, then people would only use LED light bulbs. The same could be said for paper and plastic bags at grocery stores. As is shown in the past it tends to be easier to control a small number of producers, than it is to try and control the entire population.

As far as Environmentalism as a religion, My problem is with how the author relates the two together. To illustrate this point I will relate Americanism to religion.

Holy Day - 4th of July.

Food taboos - we don't eat dogs, cats, horses, etc.

Prayer - Pledge of allegiance.

Temples - White house, washington monument, Pentagon, etc.

Using this logic you can call just about anything a religion. And as far as seeing religion

Using this logic you can can just about anything a religion. And as far as saying religion is separate from science. Environmentalism is based on scientific research and understanding, without science we would have no clue all the damage we've done to our environment.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Bipartisan look at religion

by [Alexander Thompson](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:14 PM

I think that my lack of religious beliefs gives me a nonpartisan look as at aspects of both sides. I'm not biased one way or another, because I don't believe in a single religion in particular, i can compare all aspects more or less equally.

I also think that #3, and #6 support my position. On paper, communism could technically be an effective if not "good" form of government. Communism hasn't been done correctly in the real world, so saying that environmentalism is like communism is like saying that environmentalism doesn't actually work outside of an idea. #5 also goes along with my position. People can't even seem to call environmentalism on its own a religion, so they have to put it with something else associated with religion, in this case, "Christian", and "Bible".

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Being Environmental = Religious? I think not.

by [Kayla von Stein](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 10:41 PM

I will state first and foremost, that I am not religious in any aspect and so I am coming from the perspective of someone who does not go to church or read any sort of holy book and etc. I am an atheist, so with that being said here is my analysis...

Reading Mr. Rubin's article, I can't help but disagree with his notion of "being environmental" as "being religious." The only part I could see as being in relation to religion is the tribal mentality of the movement and the labelling of those against it or outside of it as "evil." My main reason that I have such issue with the comparison is that there is no scientific backing with religion at all, and there is with being environmental.

As a person who likes to work with things that have some evidence to them, I can't understand why someone would not want to be at least somewhat environmental. The skepticism with some of the claims that have been made, I can understand because I would want the full scientific method to be used in order to get the right data to be able to do the right thing for the longevity of the planet.

Overall, my feelings were summed up with the chuckles I had at his comparison to religion. I recognize that I might be on another part of the spectrum than he is. Much like the ACLU cartoon that was shown at the beginning of class, I think this is a matter of looking at it from an extreme angle without seeing the benefits.

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Possibly Harsher Punishment for the Ones who Hurt the Planet

by [Decker Robinson](#) - Sunday, May 27, 2018, 11:25 PM

These type of conflicts can be resolved, most likely with legislation. Although people know the damage we do to our Earth, some ignore the signs our planet is giving them. Unfortunately, we will need government to put in more laws to protect our planet because people will continue their harmful habits. If the habits continue, then our government should make the punishment harsher (jail time, hefty fines). Legislation won't always work at first; but, if people are punished for their wrongdoings then they will have to learn. Our country has shown that the people may resist at first; but, after laws and punishments were put in place, they eventually listen. A good example is the country's resistance to freeing the slaves at first. After laws and punishments were put in place, the people were soon to listen.

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NFL as a religion?

by [Meri Pedelini](#) - Monday, May 28, 2018, 2:09 PM

I do understand what the author is trying to say in this article and I think it is a very clever comparison, with comparing things like Holy Day to Earth Day and recycling bins to shrines. It is an interesting way to look at it critically, but I don't consider it accurate at all. With this kind of reasoning you can make just about anything turn into a "religion", like Alex Thompson said in his post comparing it to Americanism. Heck lets make Football a religion!

Holy Day- Super Bowl

Food- Beer lots of beer

Shrine - TVs and Stadiums

etc etc

I also disagree with the author of the article claiming that environmentalism is based off of a 'belief' instead of science. I cant wrap my head around when there are countless images of landfills and plastic in the ocean and data that proves our pollutions and waste are affecting our planet in various ways compared to pre-industrial days.

Im not very religious and Im not super green, I do my best to do my part but Im not super dedicated to either one. I do believe that there are some people who take being eco-friendly too far and begin to condemn people who are not a part of the movement, which I don't agree with. Much like the green spectrum, So I can see the comparison to religion in that sense because there is a spectrum in every faith too, those who are a part of the group but pretty relaxed about it toward the left and then there are people who take it very seriously and will exclude/judge people for not being a part of it (toward the right)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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education can help

by [Cam Burnett](#) - Monday, May 28, 2018, 5:23 PM

After looking at the article by Paul H Rubin and how the environmentalist are just like a religion i never looked at this way before and it really showed me how similar these two things are. Although i'm not very religions i could see the connection between the two, and how people can act upon environmentalism, I do believe through education we can fix these problems if we teach the negative effects that there is on the earth due to pollution, from kindergarten to 8th grade the school i was at taught us about recycling

and how pollution and it really influenced everyone to become a environmentalist but maybe not to the extreme. I think with education we can influence better care of the earth we live on, I think image #4 speaks most to my views because clean energy is something we should really push for considering the past and how weve damaged the atmosphere in the past with nuclear testing and tones of air pollution due the industrialization I do think educating people can help with this.

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Environmentalism in our daily lives

by [Mirissa Hicks](#) - Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 9:27 PM

When I first started reading this article comparing environmentalism to religion it didn't sounded absurd, but after reading some of the points that where made I can see the connection. I agree with the point about "self- sacrificing rituals that are not particularly useful" (Paul Rubin) as I go into the student store or cafeteria at Lane there is only one choice for bottled water and posted above the water fountain explains that Lane is a bottle free campus. This drives me insane for the fact every single cooler is filled with sugary drinks IN PLASTIC BOTTLES! We self- sacrifice something simple as water because were helping the plant? I don't believe that we are. I know many of us just worry about waking up and making it to class on time and grabbing a reusable water bottle isn't on our minds, so in turn we get to school and buy one of these drinks from the cafeteria or the store and the problem we were trying to solve by saving the plant from the plastic bottle usage isn't being effective. Now with that same statement I disagree when Rubin states "Recycling paper to save trees, for example, makes no sense since the effect will be to reduce the number of trees planted in the long run." I do believe that it is beneficiary to recycle and this statement isn't effective in the use of even if we stop recycling and plant these new trees they are going to need time to grow and mature, so we can use them for products which the demand for trees is not going to be able to keep up with the growth of these younger trees and it is going to hurt the environment and our society.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Environmentalism in our daily lives

by [Meri Pedelini](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 10:35 AM

I totally agree with the thoughts on the Lane Store! Or how they encourage a healthy, fit lifestyle yet the first thing you see when you walk in is a "make your own milkshake" kiosk followed by rows of pizza and hot dogs (although they do have a great salad bar and lots of healthy options!) its all about balance right?

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Environmentalism in our daily lives**by [Decker Robinson](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 7:33 PM

I agree that it is pretty infuriating and somewhat hypocritical that sugary drinks are bottled are used and bottled waters aren't. With that being said, its important to see where Lane is coming from for the "Bottle Free Campus". As inconvenient as it is, plastic has been proven to be very harmful to the environment. I think if Lane cut all plastic bottles it would clear up some of the confusion for their decision to not use plastic water bottles. As inconvenient as it is, we need to understand that we are making an impact on bettering our planet.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**A picture speaks a thousand words**by [Meri Pedelini](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 10:28 AM

I think the image #9 sums up my opinion on environmentalism, a picture of the spectrum with dark, light, and bright sections. While I agree that protecting our environment is important I do agree with this image explaining the "extreme" sides of the issue and the middle ground which I think is where most people try to live in. The left side explanation even uses the word "radical" in it, which reminds me of what we learn in class and the right side

I had a friend/coworker who was involved in the "earth first" group, (image #6) and he would tell me things they would do and demonstrations they would carry out and to me they were pretty radical (chaining themselves to mill equipment, arson, vandalism etc.) he also referred to himself a communist which back then, I didn't even know what communism was. So when I saw these images comparing being green to communism I instantly made the connection to this particular person and our conversations.

Image #4 with the people lifting up the windmill in the same style as the Heroes in Iwo Jima image reminds me of last forum on the subject of images abusing history. I can see the point they are trying to make but to me that's kind of like comparing apples and oranges. Not on the same level.

oranges. Not on the same level.

The last image I'm having a hard time understanding what the difference between liberal and conservative environmentalism is, why conservative is greener and why liberal is dry and such. Maybe it's going over my head so someone can feel free to help me understand. Are they saying that the social innovations and new eco technologies are conservative ideas?

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Final thoughts

by [Meri Pedelini](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 10:32 AM

Even if I disagree with the argument claiming environmentalism being a religion, I still think this is an interesting subject to discuss and critically think about how people use a way of life and the extremes/non-extreme directions it can go. Something that also came to my mind with this forum is if we looked at the Vegan/Vegetarianism movement being discussed. I think that would be interesting to look at as well as see some of the images and articles out there on this trending lifestyle where people who eat meat are seen as the "evil" and how the spectrum would look under those circumstances.

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How does the strength of your own religious belief, or lack thereof, impact on your interpretation (acceptance or dismissal) of these materials?

by [Chris Castro](#) - Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 1:36 PM

How does the strength of your own religious belief, or lack thereof, impact on your interpretation (acceptance or dismissal) of these materials?

I was raised in a christian home and i've always been a believer. However even if i didn't have my faith this argument for environmentalism being a religion seems silly to me. Yes they do make some interesting points for it being similar to a religion but their just similarities and thats it. Environmentalism has been around for a very long time and its never become a religion nor will it in my eyes. Instead i would argue that its just a common sense issue that has been a subset of religious teachings. For example native americans have their own belief systems and yet the all simalarly take care of "mother earth" as i've heard it said. In the case of christianity i've heard it said that since god created the heavens and the earth we should take care of it. After all it essentially would be a gift to us from god if he truly made it. Even in islamic teachings

enviornmentalism is a huge aspect. In fact there are quite a few quotes from their noiy book that are geared towards being enviornmentally friendly. Again i think environmentalism has just always been something people are aware of. Its just common sense, we have one earth so take care of it. If enviornmentalism hasn't become a religion yet i don't think it ever will, and i think the idea of it becoming a religion is silly.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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I couldn't agree more...

by [Scott Fails](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 11:49 PM

I completely agree with you. The idea of environmentalism being compared to or treated as a religion is simply blasphemous. The very idea of it makes zero sense to me and is laughable at best. I wasn't raised in a household where religion was important, but certainly was raised with a set of beliefs that I follow pretty much the same today. However, I don't think that's important in this topic at all. Religion is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods." That said, who is the controlling power for the environmentalist party? Mother Earth? It isn't for me to decide whom an individual "worships", however given the definition you have to consider its entirety. It's not just a "controlling power" of worship, but also "especially a personal God or gods." You can't have just the one half of the definition to manipulate it however is comfortable for your scenario. So, again I ask, who is the God or gods the environmentalist worships? The majority of religions do have an environmental aspect as mentioned in previous posts and I agree with that. The reason for that though in my opinion is that the earth we live on and everything that encompasses our universe shall be treated as a gift and protected for its sacred value, but the idea that a religion is even considered in this scenario alone just goes beyond the realm of reality to me. I get it, the environmentalist is going to come at those Christian, catholic or other religious believer and call into question their belief in an unseen God or gods. I say touché to that. Religion for me isn't just some frivolous belief of some cooked up malarkey though. Religion goes to the depths of existence and where individuals believe man was created and whom they worship for promises of an afterlife or unfathomable reward for a simple belief and a relationship with their believed creator. The idea that environmentalism is a comparable belief is ridiculous.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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env--- Roller



by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 6:16 PM

Well I can say that I, am not surprised that their calling it a religion as much attention that it gets and maybe it is about time maybe it will help people to manage their time and believe in something. Most of what I see from some the images boils down to (lets slap a picture on a t-shirt and let's see how much money we can make.) I think through education it would benefit conflicts better and help to minimize an already hot subject. My belief I am what some people might call a holy roller (that's Apostolic) in case you haven't heard the phrase.

I Like Image number eight to me Looks like a bunch of crosses and windmills (religion) good one I get it

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by [Cameron Noriega](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 7:09 PM

Image one captures my eyes by surprise. It was positive and uplifting when it started with "Save the planet." And then instantly adds on "Kill yourself." What do they mean by that? Do they mean that the Earth population size needs to decrease? Or do they mean that the people that don't strongly agree with their side that they should "kill themselves."? Looking deeper into the quote "save the planet, kill yourself." I found out it's part of a religion from the Church of Euthanasia. Me not being that strong of a religious person but I find this Church of Euthanasia very odd. I don't know if this image 1 is where it came from but that's what I found when typing in "Save the planet, kill yourself."

Sum of ratings: [0 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by [Cameron Noriega](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 8:18 PM

I'm not that big of a religious person. So seeing the green bible on image #5. I saw the reviews about the green bible being a modern version of the bible. I never saw environmentalism as a religion. But I can see why it is like a religion but I don't understand image six for environmentalism being a communist. In my view I now see it as a religion more than a communism. People have a strong belief in being "greener" and they talk down on people who don't agree with their beliefs.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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**Environmentalism in life**by [Cam Burnett](#) - Thursday, May 31, 2018, 10:08 PM

Re expanding on the idea that environmentalism as a religion, the photos in #9 really connect to this idea while there is a spectrum in the second photo the first photo shows different types of environmentalist from light to dark. This really connects with religion because they both have this type of spectrum for those who are 100% with it to those who are so, so about it. And these kind of people like Jehovah's Witnesses can educate people on how their Bible or in this cause the ways of the green. I believe these things can and should be done voluntarily it is our earth and we should be taking care of that but I believe people must be educated on the situation. Maybe helping enforce clean energy acts maybe not to the extent of the green police but ways to better help people try and be green.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Environmentalism**by [Sierra Carrier](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 12:25 AM

Many observers have made the point that environmentalism is eerily close to a religious belief system, since it includes creation stories and ideas of original sin. But there is another sense in which environmentalism is becoming more and more like a religion: It provides its adherents with an identity. Scientists are understandably uninterested in religious stories because they do not meet the basic criterion for science: They cannot be tested. God may or may not have created the world—there is no way of knowing, although we do know that the biblical creation story is scientifically incorrect. Since we cannot prove or disprove the existence of God, science can't help us answer questions about the truth of religion as a method of understanding the world. But modern religions have largely replaced tribal gods with universal gods and allowed unrelated individuals from outside the tribe to join. Identification with a religion has replaced identification with a tribe. While many decry religious wars, modern religion has probably net reduced human conflict because there are fewer tribal wars. It is this identity-creating function that environmentalism provides. As the world becomes less religious, people can define themselves as being Green rather than being Christian or Jewish. Some conservatives spend their time criticizing the way Darwin is taught in schools. This is pointless and probably counterproductive. These same efforts should be spent on making sure that the schools only teach those aspects of environmentalism that pass rigorous scientific testing.

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Re: Environmentalism

by [Mirissa Hicks](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 9:51 AM

I like your view on this topic. I don't believe that environmentalism is 100% comparable to religion, but I do believe that are similarities between the that people demonstrate. When I looked up the exact definition of what religion meant it was defined as, "a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance." (google dictionary) Which can be said on both being an environmentalist and being religious. Both have strong interest and importance about the world, its creation, and its effects. I do see a comparison between the god creating the world theory, many people believe he did and many people believe it was science and that is one thing I feel like we will never actually know for sure. The same goes for environmentalist now I am not saying global warming isn't real we have clearly polluted the earth and contributed to major problems in our environment, but I don't think the world changing and having major issues in the eco system is 100% a human fault. I don't think we can ever determine officially what the world has actually gone or is supposed to go through. So, with that it seems like we can't completely prove god created the world just as we can't prove that we are completely problem with Global warming, but it is what we believe as both for religion and environmentalist

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

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Change can come peacefully before forced

by [Decker Robinson](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 4:12 PM

Change can be done coercively/peacefully if we as a society can get on board on fixing the damage we've done to our planet. Many people are either skeptical of Global Warming or they don't think that it will have a huge impact on their lives. There's a reason have been warning about this for the past decade or so. Obviously it's a problem that needs resolution. I think if change doesn't occur soon, then we will have to enact punishments for people harming the environment. I think this way people will not have to fully understand the impact of Global warming; which will actually help them possibly avoid the results Global Warming will bring.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1

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Religion is complicated

by [Easton McVeigh-Walker](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 4:17 PM

When it comes to religion I am never quite sure what to say and now this Green

When it comes to religion I am never quite sure what to say, and now this green religion they speak of has me more confused. I am not very religious myself and have no issue with those who are. As far as if I agree with these people who praise the Green way of life, yea sure, why not. I recycle things, I don't litter, I try to live a fairly clean life. I would not say that I make it a religious effort though, but does that make me a bad person, or a sinner. I guess in the eyes of some. However, worshipping our Earth as a God may not be all that crazy considering we know for a fact that it exists, because we live on it. So, I do agree with them as far as when it comes to taking care of the planet because it is the only one we have. I do not agree with the commercial in the literal sense, that they should be directly interfering with our lives as far as our carbon footprint. Almost everything humans do these days causes some sort of environmental impact.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Save the planet kill yourself --poor picture

by [Scott Carpenter](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 4:19 PM



I forgot to mention that I really think this picture is in poor taste. I think this picture is really not appropriate and is not really advocating in a positive manner/approach, I will say lets try to minimize what damage we do to the planet. while we occupy it. we do not have to kill ourselves in order to save it

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Re: Save the planet kill yourself --poor picture

by [Vanessa Heilmann](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 7:03 PM

So I agree this picture is in poor taste. The research I did on this post is actually from a group called the The Church of Euthanasia. "The Church stresses population reduction by voluntary means only." "Members of this organization affirm this can only turn into a reality by a massive voluntary population reduction, which will

depend on a leap in Human consciousness to species-awareness.”

(en.wikipedia.org) I think this is way over board in Environmentalism. I hear people all the time say, “I don’t want to bring a child into this world” or “we are so overpopulated, why do some women keep popping out babies.” Again sure people are entitled to their opinions but to protest on our streets and promote suicide to me is just wrong. “The Church's website previously had instructions on "how to kill yourself" by asphyxiation using helium. These pages were removed in 2003 after a 52-year-old woman used them to commit suicide in St. Louis County, Missouri, resulting in legal threats against the church.” (en.wikipedia.org) Are you serious, people who are having suicidal thoughts have it hard enough, groups like this are just encouraging them to end their lives. Depression is not a joke and provoking unstable people to to “voluntary population reduction” is terrible. Even with abortion, that’s a huge question for each individual woman to ask herself. Not because we “have too many people on this planet”. This group is taking life on our planet to the complete other side and think it is completely disgusting.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Some similarities within definitions....

by [Vanessa Heilmann](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:13 PM

This is a really great topic. I am going back to school for Natural Resources so I am kind of a plant nerd and also I’m committed to preserving our natural resources on earth. I also have no certain or strong religious beliefs at all. Paul Rubin’s article is an interesting take on environmentalism. I certainly don’t agree that being interested in saving our environment can be classified as a religion just based on his examples of the “meaningful rituals for Greens.” But interestingly enough when I look at the definitions of religion on google.com, the first being, “the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.” Some might say mother nature could be a superhuman controlling power? She is referred to as woman being the guiding force of creation or the original source of nature, so one could compare that belief to a religious belief that God created the world. Definition number two for religion from google “a particular system of faith and worship.” Faith meaning “complete trust or confidence in something or someone” and worship meaning, “the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.” Environmentalists are people who are concerned with the protection of the environment, so in this definition I see some similarities, but the environment is real. You can physically touch and see our native plants and our rivers. We depend on water systems for multiple purposes, whereas god is something you can’t physically see or touch. It’s a belief in that it exists. Now the third definition of religion is, “a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance.” Nature being in my eyes something of extreme importance

maybe not “supreme” but it has a huge impact on how we live on earth. When you look at the definitions of what religion is and environmentalism is it looks like there are similarities, but I’m not here worshipping our native plants or condemning invasive species for over growing and suffocating our trees. Simply expressing and learning about the importance and their physical impact on what they are doing to our land. There is actual proof of what human impacts and waste is doing to our country. That is not some “belief” that god created man or this world. It is right in front of our faces and under are feet daily.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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Proof vs Belief

by [Vanessa Heilmann](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:51 PM

I wanted to show some of that “proof” I mentioned in my last post, that human impacts and waste are actually destroying our planet. I know this is not a global warming debate but I at least want to mention a couple examples of issues that are affecting even just the littlest part of our planet, to show that environmentalism is real and has actual proof. (I won’t even go into the plastic bag island and the polar bear die off). I don’t agree with Paul Rubin when he says environmentalists, “Belief systems are embraced with no logical basis.” There is logical proof daily that we are harming ourselves and our future. Take Eugene’s recent lifting on the ban of spraying pesticides. We used to be one of the few county’s with a no spray roadside vegetation management program. In 2018 that ban was lifted. Pesticides are extremely harmful to our health. Medical studies have shown that these pesticides are linked to cancer, birth defects in babies and are partly responsible for the bee population decrease and also harming our wildlife. Now take the bee population, bees aren’t just responsible for making our flowers look pretty, they along with other pollinators, pollinate one third of our food. Between bees helping food production and creating honey, which is actually huge in our agricultural economy, we’d lose a lot of money. “Bees are responsible for populating \$15 billion in U.S crops alone.” (www.berkeley.edu/news/media/release) Imagine that impact on the farming industry. So if people think being “Green” is just some belief or religion start looking at the evidence and even our pocket books or grocery stores. This isn't some bible reference about the apocalypse or, some “beast” that “ is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction.” (www.openbible.info) This is actual reality and proof that we can physically see our impacts and how they are hurting us.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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Protests being more harmful than good.

by [Vanessa Heilmann](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 6:44 PM

Thinking about protests environmentalists often have within Greenpeace, or Earth First!, or many other organizations reminds me of the student protests we are seeing in the 1960's - 1970's. I truly don't think either one is a healthy way of people getting their point across. People are entitled to their opinion of course and sure can express it on a bumper sticker or in their everyday actions in how they live. But once you start protesting and "forcing" another to live or believe in what you do, you are invading someone else's beliefs and to me that is not making your point heard, it only creates more conflict. Take the Kent State campus student uprising for example, those students were meeting those troops with violence and aggression, the same thing they are fighting against. Sure, there is some difference, and killing a person is not excusable, but how can you be fighting violence with violence? I don't agree with that way of action and truthfully hasn't shown to be a successful method in the past. "That night, in downtown Kent, there were reports of violent clashes between students and local police. Police alleged that their cars were hit with bottles, and that students stopped traffic and lit bonfires in the streets." (www.history.com) That's not okay to be causing acts of violence and aggression towards our policeman. The even crazier part to me is those policeman have nothing to do with us being at war. Then the Ohio National Guard was sent in to "calm tensions in the area." They were met with violence from the students. Neither is okay and not going to solve the problem of our troops in Vietnam. Same situation with environmentalist protesters. Take the example of the protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline, "In the end, this lengthy "protest" accomplished none of its stated goals, cost millions to those on both sides, and left the area in crisis thanks to the very sorts who claimed to be there as a form of protection." (http://thefederalist.com) I would argue how is that action to get the outcome you are looking for? Sure you are taking a stand and coming out publicly with your beliefs. But it sounds like that made the situation worse and was not a positive outcome for either side. Taking actual action to me is the only thing that will help with changing something you don't believe in, not protests or demonstrations.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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We can only do our best

by [Vanessa Heilmann](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 7:32 PM

The Audi commercial is very clever and sure some people are extreme in their views of recycling or waste. In the commercial they bring up the "plastic bag", or "foam cup", and even the "clean diesel car", and yes there are times I'm embarrassed or even disappointed in myself that I left my reusable bag in the car, but to me it's all about doing what we can do. I have many friends who eat only organic and recycle

everything, yet they smoke cigarettes. Sure that seems a little incongruent. We all have our vices and really can only do our best. So to make it an all or nothing to me seems ridiculous and even limiting. Any contribution helps so why make an individual feel bad for what they are not doing and lets focus on what they are doing. Yes, our environment is extremely important and I think through more education and even the companies themselves limiting the waste they are packaging their products in would help us. Humans are used to habits, and enjoy certain products or foods. So to have these companies focus more on what they are putting out on the shelves could potentially reduce a lot of waste. Of course, it also always comes down to money and that's not cost effective for a lot of these companies, so they continue to put their product in plastic even though we can't recycle that, and consumers will keep buying it because that's what they are use to.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Re: We can only do our best

by [Scott Fails](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 10:05 PM

You raise a very good point in that it isn't about an all or nothing mentality, but that every little bit helps in some way. I think that the idea of all in or all out is a skewed version of reality in most all applications. The reality I see aligns with your position and I agree with your take on the commercial as well. I think an important similarity that I haven't read in other posts yet is the similarity of condemnation in religion for certain practices as well as the same mentality if you aren't doing absolutely everything possible to save the earth and its resources. I applaud the effort of those who live a more earth friendly lifestyle in a sense that it simply isn't easy. Eating organic, recycling, reusing grocery bags and other habits of the environmentally friendly community takes extra thought, often time more money in food costs and a higher level of diligence to ensure your leaving less of a footprint. The similarity with the habits of the religious individual can be drawn when clearly stated in many religions is not only what to do, but what behaviors to not do as well. There's a checks and balances and a responsibility to carry out. Each requires a diligence to act and a personal accountability that one holds the self to for what they believe to be making a difference. However, the contrast of our environment being tangible at any point and religious gods not being so makes any comparison a tough pill to swallow for me. It doesn't mean I can't understand the similarities that can be drawn, just that I don't personally like the comparison to begin with.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

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“One nation under who? Listen, just don’t use plastic bags in Eugene.”

 by [Scott Fails](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 10:41 PM

I would also like to raise a point of forcing a belief on others. In many instances in everyday life there is becoming a public aversion to religion or the forced inclusion of certain populations in religious behaviors or even as simple as mentioning the word “God”. To be more specific, take the pledge of allegiance for instance and how it is being removed from schools for its believed religious connotation in the mentioning of our country being “one nation under God” much to the discontent of those self proclaimed non believers or the off spring of said non believers. I remember a time when those children who didn’t want to be a part of the pledge of allegiance simply stepped out of the room and did not participate and that was ok. However, the double standard that I do have a bit of an issue with are things like the city of Eugene going to a strictly no plastic bag regulation. While I myself have no issue with the regulation myself other than the plastic bags are more convenient for carrying purposes and not ripping purposes and cumbersome purposes and no paper cut purposes and the fact that according to those on the forefront of recycling here locally have made it clear to me that recycling isn’t taking place anyways due to funding (see my first post) then why go to the regulation in the first place? By going to such an extreme, isn’t that forcing the environmentalists “green” beliefs on the citizens of Eugene? I don’t even think that the idea of excluding plastic bags from an entire city should even be a thing. It’s a bit hypocritical if there is going to be any comparison of religion and environmentalism. In the comparison of the two I believe this double standard has some walking legs, though the overall topic is still an irritation to me. Here in our local community with it’s overall attempts at being environmentally friendly accompanied by the areas predominantly liberal views regarding just about any topic, I find this particular comparison of environmentalism as a religion to be a real topic that is important in our local society where the lines between the two can often blur and be pretty easily depicted as similar.

 Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)
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Game, set...match

 by [Scott Fails](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:01 PM

Finally, if we’re removing the pledge of allegiance from schools because of its religious ties, than I suggest there be a push to remove “Earth day” from schools for its environmentalism ties. I mean the comparison is there right? Fair is fair.

 Sum of ratings: [0 \(1\)](#)
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**Carrot or Stick?**by [Marissa Luther](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:07 PM

I think that to get people, individually to conform to ecological standards, it is pretty easy, as a whole. I might be biased because I was raised in the Eugene area, where most things are eco friendly, but it is generally easy to force people to be “eco friendly” with peer pressure alone. My stepfather is resistant to recycling properly and other eco friendly measures, but my family just pressures him to do the “right” thing. Another example is the deposit on soda cans, instead of offering a punishment, the state government offered a reward for recycling. This might also be a punishment to those who don’t recycle, because they already paid more for the deposit, and don’t get it back. However, with large corporations, it has been proven time and time again that they will do what is best for their bottom line rather than the planet. With the overuse of our resources, especially in Oregon in the timber industry, companies continue to clear cut old growth forests, and endanger people and animals with their pesticides and herbicides, despite knowing that the oldgrowth likely can’t be replaced. Most logging companies will not do the “right” thing, unless there is a direct negative consequence, which is why there is already many laws restricting it, despite no laws about eco friendly lightbulbs.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The Green Religion**by [Marissa Luther](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:17 PM

After reading the article, I do see many similarities with be environmentally friendly with religion. I don’t necessarily believe in a higher power, but I always recycle, and scold my friends and family members for not doing it correctly. I do think that learning about recycling is important in schools, while I will admit my bias in that school is what made me start recycling. However, towards the end of this article, the author stated “environmentalists almost universally believe in the dangers of global warming but also reject the best solution to the problem, which is nuclear power.” For one, the smart environmentalists use the phrase Climate Change; and I personally in school learned about many types of energy, including nuclear power. There are many misconceptions about nuclear power, but the main drawback has been very public since a tsunami in Japan spread nuclear waste. So, while I wouldn’t put a nuclear power plant near zones with many natural disasters, I would put them other places. I generally think of religion as silly, and although I see the similarities, I will keep recycling.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Earth as a God?**by [Jordan Lopez](#) - Friday, June 1, 2018, 11:53 PM

I never would have associated environmentalism as a religion but I can see it t being associated with one. In a interview on youtube I have watched before this forum there is a activist named Gary Yourofsky and the youtube name is titled Gary Yourofsky- Brilliant interview in prime time. Gary talks about how he believes in God and he believes God created humans, animals, and the earth therefore God is all those things. He goes on and talks about how people are religious but they only worship the things that man made in Gods name Like the bible or the quran but they dont worship God himself in the sense that God is the planet as well. I dont see that environmentalism would be a religion but I find that religion has influenced the practice of enviromentalism. People learn a certain way and the way of religion involved fear of a higher power to do right even when no one is looking and if you do wrong there will be a punishment in a sense. Whatever one beliefs can alter the cause and effect of malicious behavior. People need to be directed so acts have been made to help protect the earth from the Clean Air Act of 1970, The Resources Recovery Act of 1970, the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, the Pesticides Control Act of 1972, and the Enviromental Protection Agency established under Nixons presidency all mentioned on page 978 in the last paragraph. Environmentalism to me isnt a religion but its close to one.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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