

# **Global Development and Environmental Displacement**

**York University**

**Prof. Peter Penz  
Winter 1998  
Canada**

## **Course Description:**

### **Fixed short calendar description:**

The course focuses on global patterns of environmental vulnerability and displacement of people due to particular strategies and processes of economic development. Phenomena such as frontier colonization, deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, famines, flooding, conflicts and population movements will be covered.

**Prerequisite:** Either ENV5 2300.03 (Foundations of Global Development, Peace and Justice) or another course providing an introduction to development-and-environment issues

### **Purpose and objectives of the course:**

The central purpose of the course is to explore the consequences of various development strategies and processes for people in terms of their access to the environment and the quality of the environmental base for their livelihood. The more specific objectives of the course are to:

1. distinguish different strategies and processes of development;
2. explore the consequences for people in terms of the concepts of access to the environment, environmental vulnerability and environmental displacement;
3. focus specifically on the processes of expulsions or exclusions of people, including in particular indigenous peoples, from their traditional environments, of processes of environmental degradation such as soil depletion, desertification, deforestation, and flooding, and of social consequences in the form of environmental conflicts, famines and large-scale movements of populations;
4. provide an informed basis for thinking about policy development, advocacy and development projects that is cognizant of environmental vulnerability and displacement.

This year the focus will be primarily on the following issues:

- i the relationship between famines, environmental crises and military conflict;
- ii environmental and military conflict between states and indigenous peoples in particular.

**Organization of the classes:**

The classes will consist of short lectures and extensive seminar discussions. *The readings are central to this course* and the lectures will merely serve to provide introductory frames for the readings and occasionally commentaries on the readings. The class discussions offer an opportunity for the clarification and assessment of the readings. Beginning in March, student presentations will be made in class.

The structure of topics is as follows:

1. Development and displacement: general patterns
  - 1.1 State policies and patterns of displacement
  - 1.2 Development: historical evolution and contemporary alternatives
2. Famines and violent conflict
  - 2.1 Famines and natural and social environments
  - 2.2 Population, environment, and conflict
  - 2.3 Environmental scarcity and conflict “
3. The displacement of indigenous peoples
  - 3.1 Introduction and the contemporary global pattern
  - 3.2 Dams in Asia and agribusiness in Central America
  - 3.3 History I: establishing colonial control
  - 3.4 History II: the colonial “civilizing” mission
  - 3.5 Canada past and present
4. Social justice and political action
  - 4.1 Indigenous peoples, environmental justice, and human rights
  - 4.2 Resistance and political action

**Course Syllabus:****1. Development and displacement: general patterns**

*Jan 7 – 14*

**1.1 State policies and patterns of displacement**

\*Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (1987). *Indigenous peoples: a global quest for justice*. (London: Zed Books). Ch. 5 (“Mother Earth”: 43–67, notes 133–5)

\*Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (1986). *Refugees: the dynamics of displacement*. (London: Zed Books).

from Ch. 6 (“States and the control of population movements”):

- pp. 73–4 (ch. intro., “Politicians, planners and people”)
- pp. 82–4 (“States and planned population movements”)

Ch. 8 “People as pawns: removal and relocation programmes”: 99–114

\*Hall, June D., and Arthur J. Hanson (1992). *A new kind of sharing: why we can’t ignore global environmental change*. (Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.)

Ch. 8 “Environmental refugees”: 219–52

**Optional readings:**

Richmond, Anthony H. (1994). *Global apartheid: refugees, racism, and the New World Order*. (Toronto: Oxford University Press.) Ch. 4 (“Environmental refugees”: 75–88).

Jacobsen, Jodi L. (1989). “Abandoning homelands”. In Brown, Lester R. (1989), *The state of the world 1989* (New York: Norton): 59–76, notes 207–10

Harrison, Paul (1992). *The third revolution: population, environment and a sustainable world*. (London: Penguin Books.)

Ch. 9 “A little patch of ground: living on the margin”: 126–39, notes 347–8

Ch. 10 “Quintessence of dust: Kalsaka, Burkina Faso”: 140–55, notes 348

Ch. 11 “The interim is mine: Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire”: 156–66 (no notes)

Ch. 16 “Sorrows come not single spies: Hatia Island, Bangladesh”: 221–35, notes 360

*Jan 14 – 21*

**1.2 Development: historical evolution and contemporary alternatives**

Harrison, Paul (1992). *The third revolution: population, environment and a sustainable world*. (London: Penguin Books.)

\*\*Ch. 1 “One part wisdom: the great debate”: 1–20

\*Ch. 2 “The o’ergrowth of some complexion: three billion years of environmental crisis”: 21–37, notes 332–4

\*Harrison, Paul (1992). *The third revolution: population, environment and a sustainable world*. (London: Penguin Books.)

\*\*Steidlmeier, Paul (1987). “Models of development and social change”. In Weisband, Edward (ed., 1989), *Poverty amidst plenty: world political economy and distributive justice* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press): 89–109. From Steidlmeier (1987), *The paradox of poverty: a reappraisal of economic development policy* (Ballinger Publishing): 200–21.

**Optional readings:**

Gadgil, Madhav, and Ramachandra Guha (1992). *This fissured land: an ecological history of India*. (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press). Ch. 1 (“Habitats in human history”: 11–68).

Hall, John A., and G. John Ikenberry (1989). *The state*. (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.) Ch. 2 (“The origins of the state”: 16–21).

Shannon, Thomas Richard (1989). An introduction to the world-system perspective (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Ch. 3 (“World-system structure”: 38–75, notes 181).

The Ecologist (1993). *Whose common future? reclaiming the commons*. (Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers.) Ch. 2 (“Development as enclosure: the establishment of the global economy”: 21–58; notes 199–202)

Commission on Developing Countries and Global Change (1992). *For earth’s sake*. (Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.) Ch. 2 (“Causes of the global environment/development crisis”: 36–56).

## 2. Famines and violent conflict

*Jan 21 – 28*

### 2.1 Famines and natural and social environments

\*Timberlake, Lloyd (1985/88). *Africa in crisis: the causes, the cures of environmental bankruptcy*. (London: Earthscan Publications.) ISBN 1-85383-013-5  
Ch. 2 “Why famine?”: 9–22

Drze, Jean, and Sen, Amartya (1989). *Hunger and public action*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

\*\*Ch. 1 “Introduction”: 1–19

\*Ch. 2 “Entitlement and deprivation”: 20–34

\*Ch. 4 “Society, class and gender”: 46–61

#### Optional readings:

Crow, Ben (1992). “Understanding famine and hunger”. In Allen, Tim, and Thomas, Alan (eds., 1992), *Poverty and development in the 1990s* (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 15–33.

Drze, Jean, and Sen, Amartya (1989). *Hunger and public action*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.) Parts II (“Famines”: 63–161), III (“Undernutrition and deprivation”: 163–253), and IV (“Hunger and public action”: 255–79).

*Jan 28 – Feb 4*

### 2.2 Population, environment, and conflict

Harrison, Paul (1992). *The third revolution: population, environment and a sustainable world*. (London: Penguin Books.)

\*\*Ch. 1 “One part wisdom: the great debate”: 7–20

\*Ch. 9 “A little patch of ground: living on the margin”: 126–39, notes 347–8

\*World Commission on Environment and Development (1987). *Our common future* [the Brundtland Report]. (Oxford: Oxford University Press.) ISBN 0-19-282080-X

Ch. 11 “Peace, security, development, and the environment”: 290–307

\*Homer-Dixon, T.; Boutwell, J.H.; and Rathjens, G.W. (1993). “Environmental change and violent conflict”. *Scientific American*: 38–45.

#### Optional readings:

Epp-Tiessen, Esther (1991). “Missiles and malnutrition: the links between militarization and underdevelopment”. In Swift, Jamie, and Tomlinson, Brian (eds., 1991), *Conflicts of interest: Canada and the Third World* (Toronto: Between The Lines): 241–66.

*Feb 4 - 11*

### **2.3 Environmental scarcity and conflict**

\*\*Suhrke, Astri (1993). "Pressure points: environmental degradation, migration and conflict". Project on Environmental Change and Acute Conflict. Washington, DC: American Association for the Advancement of Science. 43 pp.

\*\*Percival, Valerie, and Homer-Dixon, Thomas (1995). "Environmental scarcity and violent conflict: the case of Rwanda". The Project on Environment, Population and Security. Washington, DC: American Association for the Advancement of Science. 18 pp.

#### **Optional readings:**

Timberlake, Lloyd (1985/88). *Africa in crisis: the causes, the cures of environmental bankruptcy*. (London: Earthscan Publications.) Ch. 9 ("Conflict, refugees and the environment": 162–73).

Chege, Michael (1994). "What's right with Africa?" *Current History* 93: 193–7. (Takes position between "romantic ultra-nationalists" and "Afro-pessimists".)

Kaplan, Robert (1994). "The coming anarchy". *Atlantic Monthly* Feb 1994: 44–76. (An example of what Chege refers to as "Afro-pessimism".)

## **3. The displacement of indigenous peoples**

*Feb 11 – 24 (cuts across Reading Week)*

### **3.1 Introduction and the contemporary global pattern**

T Bodley, John H. (1975/90). *Victims of Progress*, 3rd edn. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield).

- "Introduction": 1–2

Ch. 1 "Progress and tribal peoples": 3–23

\*Durning, Alan T. (1993). "Supporting indigenous peoples". In Brown, Lester R. et al. (1993), *The state of the world 1993* (New York: Norton): 80–100, notes 219–28

N.B. For this week's topic, read only pp. 80–96 (notes 219–27). The remainder is left for topic 4.2 later in the term.

\*Cultural Survival (1993). *State of the peoples: a global human rights report on societies in danger*. (Boston: Beacon Press.) "Charts and Tables": 72–82

#### **Optional readings:**

Perry, Richard J. (1996). *...from time immemorial: indigenous peoples and state systems*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.)

Ch. 1 "A long view": 3–24

Ch. 2 "Ideas and ideology": 25–42

Ch. 8 "Conclusions from cases compared": 223–52

*Feb 24 short mid-term test; the term essay instructions are distributed*

*Feb 24 – Mar 4*

### **3.2 Dams in Asia and agribusiness in Central America**

\*\*Nguyen, Thi Dieu (1996). "The state versus indigenous peoples: the impact of hydraulic projects on indigenous peoples of Asia". *Journal of World History* 7(1): 101–30. (Focuses on the Batang Ai dam in Sarawak, Narmada, and Three Gorges.)

\*Weinberg, Bill (1991). *War on the Land: Ecology and Politics in Central America*. (London/New Jersey: Zed Books.)

Ch. 2 "Ecological destruction as the roots of war": 6–15

Ch. 3 "Cotton cultivation and ecocide": 16–20

Ch. 4 "Tropical rainforests as a political safety valve": 21–5

Ch. 5 "Beef production as the spark for regional war": 26–32

Notes: 172-74; Biblio 187–92

#### **Optional readings:**

Burger, Julian (1987). *Report from the Frontier: The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*. (London: Zed Books).

Perry, Richard J. (1996). ...from time immemorial: indigenous peoples and state systems. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.) Ch. 7 ("Other states and indigenous peoples [Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Southern Africa, East Africa, Siberia]": 201–22).

*Mar 4*

The mid-term test results are returned. (The last day to drop the course without academic penalty is Mar 7.)

*Mar 4 – 11*

### **3.3 History I: establishing colonial control**

T Bodley, John H. (1975/90). *Victims of Progress*, 3rd edn. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield).

Ch. 2 "The uncontrolled frontier": 24–41

Ch. 3 "We fought with spears": 42–56

Ch. 4 "The extension of government control": 57–75

Ch. 5 "Land policies": 76–93

*Mar 11 – 18*

### **3.4 History II: the colonial "civilizing" mission**

T Bodley, John H. (1975/90). *Victims of Progress*, 3rd edn. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield).

Ch. 6 "Cultural modification policies": 94–113

Ch. 7 "Economic development": 114–36

Ch. 8 "The price of progress": 137–51

**Optional readings:**

Berger, Thomas R. (1991). *A long and terrible shadow: white values, native rights in the Americas, 1492–1992*. (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre.) Ch. 6 (“John Marshall and the Indians”: 66–84, notes 169–70).

Perry, Richard J. (1996). *...from time immemorial: indigenous peoples and state systems*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.)  
Ch. 3 “Mexico”: 45–84  
Ch. 4 “United States”: 85–123  
Ch. 6 “Australia”: 161–198

**Mar 18 – 25**

**3.5 Canada past and present**

\*Waldman, Carl (1985). *Atlas of the North American Indian*. (New York: Facts On File.)  
from Ch. 4 (“Indians and explorers”)

- pp. 73–8 (“The White penetration of North America”, “The fur trade”)

from Ch. 5 (“Indian wars”)

- pp. 93–5 (“The Beaver Wars”)

- pp. 159–64 (“The Canadian Indian wars”)

from Ch. 6 (“Indian land cessions”)

- pp. 165–8, 169–72 (Ch. intro., “The spread of European diseases”, “European use of Indian lands and resources”: intro, [skip “Spain”], “France”, “England”)

\*Fleras, Augie, and Elliott, Jean Leonard (1992). *The nations within: aboriginal-state relations in Canada, the United States, and New Zealand*. (Toronto: Oxford University Press.)

Ch. 4 “Aboriginal policy [in Canada]”: 39–54

\*\*Canada, Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996). *People to people, nation to nation: highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*. (Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada.)

Ch. 2 “Restructuring the relationship”: 23–58.

**Optional readings:**

Perry, Richard J. (1996). *...from time immemorial: indigenous peoples and state systems*. (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.) Ch. 5 (“Canada”: 124–60).

Mercredi, Ovide, and Turpel, Mary Ellen (1993). *In the rapids: navigating the future of First Nations*. (Toronto: Viking/Penguin.) “Conclusion: paddling more peaceful rivers”: 229–48

Frideres, James S., et al. (1974/93). *Native peoples in Canada: contemporary conflicts*. (Scarborough, Ont.: Prentice Hall Canada.)

**4. Social justice and political action***Mar 25 – Apr 1***4.1 Indigenous peoples, environmental justice, and human rights**

\*Penz, G. Peter (1993). "Colonization of tribal lands in Bangladesh and Indonesia: state rationales, rights to land, and environmental justice". In Howard, Michael C. (ed., 1993), *Asia's environmental crisis* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press): 37–73

\*Bay, Christian (1984). "Human rights on the periphery: no room in the ark for the Yanomami?" In Bodley, John H. (ed., 1988), *Tribal peoples and development issues: a global overview*. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co): 258–70

**Optional readings:**

Goulet, Denis, and Charles K. Wilber (1988). "The human dilemma of development". In C.K. Wilber (ed., 1973/88), *The political economy of development and underdevelopment* (New York: Random House, 4th edn.): 459–67.

*Apr 1 – 8***4.2 Resistance and political action**

T Bodley, John H. (1975/90). *Victims of Progress*, 3rd edn. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield).

Ch. 9 "The self-determination revival": 152–78

Ch. 10 "Human rights and the politics of ethnocide": 179–207

\*Durning, Alan T. (1993). "Supporting indigenous peoples". In Brown, Lester R. (1993), *The state of the world 1993* (New York: Norton): 80–100, notes 219–28

N.B. For this week's topic, the remainder of this article: 96–100 (notes 227–8).

**Optional readings:**

Hall, June D., and Arthur J. Hanson (1992). *A new kind of sharing: why we can't ignore global environmental change*. (Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.) Ch. 9 ("Networking: the potential power of indigenous peoples' worldwide campaign for rights": 253–93)

Drucker, Charles (1985). "Dam the Chico: hydropower development and tribal resistance". In Bodley, John H. (ed., 1988), *Tribal peoples and development issues: a global overview* (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.): 151–65.

Amnesty International (1992). *Human rights violations against the indigenous peoples of the Americas*. (New York: Amnesty International USA.) Ch. 4 ("Campaigning for indigenous rights": 79–98).

*Apr 15 (Wed.)*

final papers are due (by 3:00 p.m., to be delivered to the drop-box for this course, outside 308 Lumbers Bldg.)

## **Course Readings:**

### **Reference material:**

All required readings are from

- (i) the course text: Bodley, John H. (1975/90), *Victims of Progress*, 3rd edn., (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield);
- (ii) a course reading package.

These items will be available for purchase at the York University Bookstore.

Other references useful in getting started with the research for the presentations and essays:

Burger, Julian (1987). *Report from the Frontier: The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* (London: Zed Books).

Cultural Survival (1993). *State of the peoples: a global human rights report on societies in danger*. (Boston: Beacon Press.)

Burger, Julian et al. (1990). *The Gaia atlas of First Peoples: a future for the indigenous world*. (New York: Doubleday.)

*Fourth World Quarterly*.

*Cultural Survival Quarterly*.

Newsletter of IWGIA [International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs, Copenhagen].

Publications of Survival International.

Sometimes Amnesty International issues statements concerning violations of the rights of indigenous peoples.

### **Contact Information for Peter Penz:**

Centre for Refugee Studies  
York University  
Room 322, York Lanes  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3  
Tele: (416) 736-5663  
Fax: (416) 736-5837  
Email: ppenz@yorku.ca

