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Dave's Reactionary Paper

Posted: May 3, 2005 8:16 AM

O'Rourke and Macy, "Community Environmental Policing"

The authors outline how "bucket brigades" are a viable example of environmental monitoring by the community. They go on to suggest that this may eventually lead to community policing, but there are obstacles in the way of this happening. Specifically, these brigades were effective when they reached a critical mass in company violations that caused a conformation in air quality standards. Are there any cases of preventative community monitoring being implemented or is most of the research on reactionary monitoring? Would it be different and as effectual?

Weber, "A New Vanguard for the Environment"

Weber outlines Grass-roots Ecosystem Management (GREM) as the new environmental movement. He outlines how it differs from prior movements using their views on nature, science and technology, and the characteristics of their institutions. He then goes into some of the larger implications stating how some dismiss this movement as ineffectual not being held to standards of accountability, while others find it a highly adaptive, effective outlet for merging governance, civil society, and the private sector. Again, I have to wonder if this will be a viable solution given the seriousness of environmental problems today. It is a useful tool for community involvement, but how preventative is it? Most of these examples seem again, reactionary.

Fisher and Green, "Understanding Disenfranchisement"

The authors present a theory on disenfranchisement that is necessary to overcome in order to achieve a goal of governance from below, especially as it pertains to sustainable development where the actor is civil society or a nation. The article works as a "how to" manual in solving civil society or developmental problems. We are taken through the reasons for disenfranchisement as well as the solutions which have been disaggregated into three parts: endogenous resources, transnational connectivity, and geopolitical status.

Coban, "Community-based Ecological Resistance"

This article is a case study describing how Turkish civil society actors have resisted a government and corporate sponsored campaign for gold mining. The author outlines that characteristics of community based resistance movements, the elements that should be incorporated in a political project to sustain the community and environmentally symbiotic relationship, and how this movement expanded its geographic scale as well as the political and economic consequences for other movements. Among the interesting points are how demands to save the environmental and community are both key factors in the development of resistance. His description of a battle of the symbiosis (community and environment versus the corporation and government) is provocative. How relevant is this model/example for implementing in other situations? This seems to be my thematic question for the course. The author states, "Like other similar movements, the Bergama resistance developed around the demand for the cessation of the harmful activity and a return to the earlier conditions of the community's way of life." The goal was cessation of activities. How effective again are reactionary movements? How does the movement go on the offensive? I feel like this last line is too often the case, "Ultimately, no matter whether it wins or loses it has already made a difference." I realize that as a social movement it has made an impact in changing Turkish politics, but how effective is it?