

Environmentalism

- Environmentalism can be described as a social movement or as an ideology focused on the welfare of the environment.
- It seeks to protect and conserve the elements of earth's ecosystem, including water, air, land, animals, and plants, along with entire habitats such as rainforests, deserts and oceans
- environmental issues include the management of natural resources, overpopulation, commercial logging, urbanization and global warming.
- It is an alternative to the anthropocentric or human centered stance adopted by all other ideologies.
- It argue for re-cycling, economy in the use of resources and protection and conservation of wildlife and countryside.
- The term 'environmentalism' defines concern for the natural world and its protection from excessive human depredation. It constitutes no clear political or ideological agenda.
- Many European countries have green political parties, in Germany, where Green Party politicians have served in coalition governments, have enjoyed modest success.

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- **Conservative environmentalism:**
- ‘conservation’ and slow, incremental change in society.
- conservatism is often linked to anti-industrialisation, anti-urbanism and pro-hunting, the countryside and hunting being vital elements in environmental protection.
- stress the importance of the generational links between those who have gone before, those who are alive today, and those yet to be born
- **Socialist environmentalism:**
- Socialists argue that capitalism exploits both humans and the natural world
- Planning, tax, regulations and other reforms are needed now to encourage a green lifestyle, including recycling, greater use of public transport and energy efficiency
- **Liberal environmentalism:**
- the ‘market’ can help solve most environmental problems.
- The key issue is that ‘public goods’, such as fresh air, fish and water, an aesthetically pleasing environment and wild animal species, are ‘free’
- The failure of the market adequately to protect the environment derives from interference by government regulations – which distort markets – and from the lack of value placed on the environment by people and businesses.

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- **Feminist environmentalism:**
- This term applies to the belief that a link exists between the male oppression of women and male oppression of Mother Earth as a consequence of male power and male ideologies of domination of the human and natural world.
- Women have a special role in green politics because of their crucial role as mothers and carers.
- **Fascist environmentalism:**
- Earth, forests and mountains are of special significance to the 'soul' of a nation or race.
- Both Italian Fascism and German Nazism invoked rural and peasant values as the backbone of their movements, even though their militarism involved an expansion of industrialisation to provide the materiel for war.
- **Anarchist environmentalism:**
- Nature left to its own devices exhibits a degree of self-government, harmony, balance and diversity – 'anarchy' – attractive to anarchists, who believe the world's problems spring mainly from formal structures of government.
- Several other social and political movements are highly consonant with green attitudes, such as animal rights, vegetarianism, nature conservation and even folk music, canal restoration and real ale