

BIOCENTRIC OR BUST-

“Native Americans interacted with their environment on many levels. Fortunately, they did so in a sustainable way. They hunted, gathered, and they fished using methods that would be sustainable over centuries and even millennia.”

So here’s a question I’ve been asking lately:

How do I want the land where I live to be in a thousand years?

The answers to that question depend of course on answers to: How does the land want to be in a thousand years? And those answers depend on answers to: How was the land prior to the arrival of civilization?

We can safely say the land itself knows better than we what it wants and what is best for it. The questions then become: How well can we perceive what it wants, and how can we help it get there?

Before all you **biocentrists** freak out at me putting my own desires into this discussion, let’s first consider: every being affects its surroundings. If I purchase land and set it aside, that has an effect on that land (many effects, actually, on the land and many other things, including my psyche and the economy). If I purchase land and clearcut it, that will have different effects (on the land, my psyche, the economy, and other things). A deer eating foliage affects the land (and many other things). A mountain lion eating deer affects the land (and many other things). Someone blowing up a dam affects the land (and many other things). Someone refusing to blow up a dam affects the land (and many other things). Note that I’m not saying that all effects are equal, I’m merely saying that we’re all part of a web of relationships.

Let’s also consider that we all have preferences. Paving over paradise and putting in a parking lot reveals one set of preferences. Ripping up asphalt reveals another. Doing nothing and letting paradise be paved reveals another. And doing nothing and letting plants rip the pavement back out expresses yet another.

Not only are all writers propagandists, by dint of what they do or don’t include, but we—all of us—actualize preferences through every act we take or don’t take. Further, just as those writers who claim to be “objective” are the least honest and most foolish, any of us who claim to not impose some preference by our every action or inaction are wrong and just plain silly.

But the real reason you **biocentrists** don’t need to freak out is that when you take a long-term perspective, the dissonance between anthropocentric and biocentric viewpoints disappears, or at least becomes much less. I am excluding the perspective of those who eagerly look forward to a future ever more dominated (and ruined) by technology. Those who advocate a technologically controlled future are not only not taking a long-term perspective (peak oil, anyone?)



How about overshoot and crash?) but they’re simply insane. They are not in touch with physical reality (that’s what “**high technology**” does—it separates us from physical reality). They aren’t even truly anthropocentric, but rather **techno-centric** (or maybe power-centric, or control-centric).

A truly anthropocentric perspective especially in the long term, is **biocentric**.

It must be, since the anthro relies on the bio. No bio, no anthro.

Any anthro who isn’t bio must be really stupid. Or made stupid by a stupid culture.

I don’t believe many farmers (consciously) want to denude the topsoil and poison the land where they live. Yet that’s what they do. Their enacted preference is for production over the health of the land. If they were to shift their preferences, if they were to act as though their descendants would still be on the land in a thousand years, they would act dramatically differently than they do now. Indeed, they would not—could not—practice industrial farming. There are questions as to whether they could farm at all. The same is true for other “professions.”

Living on the land in a way that doesn’t harm the land is not, I believe, generally at wide variance with what the land itself wants. Further, the only way to live on the land in the long run is, obviously, to live on the land in a way that the land does want. Over time, if you want something different than what the land wants, you may harm some of it, but it will destroy all of you.

Although it’s obvious that we are living in a way that the land does not want, discerning what it does want is not always simple, at least for those of us who have been made mad and stupid civilization.

Derrick Jensen

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The Kids are Socialists Because Capitalism is Dickslapping the Planet

Capitalism doesn’t have a plan, you know. It only goes in one direction and it doesn’t care what you want.

The most advanced capitalist states are literally at the stage of collapse and yet we deny that perhaps the problem is capitalism. Capitalism is a system that we can prove with any science is fucking the planet and yet the rich can convince most this is progress. This is like burning your hands on a hot stove and thinking the problem is anything but fire.

Capitalism not only eats babies, it makes sure those babies suffer horrific and needless deaths first because suffering is less costly than care. Better if their parents are helpless to do anything but watch. Teaches the rest the lesson.

Capitalism does better the more people are made to suffer. Why? Because those who are made to suffer are the easiest to domesticate and farm for profit. Learned helplessness. Come on. Our freedom is leashed because capitalism profits that way.

Capitalism wants your parents to die long, drawn-out, painful deaths from preventable diseases because managing slow, painful death is a hugely profitable enterprise employing tens of thousands of people. Don’t question what makes good-paying jobs, idiot. Fastest growing career sector.

Capitalism is why there are six empty houses in this country for every homeless person but thousands still freeze to death. Capitalism is why we waste 40 percent of our food while children die of starvation. Capitalism is why 200 species went extinct today. Capitalism is why we’re all going to war for oil under the North Pole. Capitalism is why your kid is going to die in a water riot.

Capitalism is the state religion of sociopaths.

If your kid is a Socialist, at least you raised a kid with a fucking heart.

If you’re not a Socialist, I don’t even know where to start.

-Holly Wood

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-Rachel Carson

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