

A History of Environmental Politics Since 1945 by Samuel

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Discussion of Chapters 1-5 by
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Chapter 1: The Setting of Environmental Politics

- ◇ Throughout the chapters, Hayes presented and answered many of his own questions:
- ◇ Where do environmental issues fit in the current world of American Public Life?
- ◇ What are some current environmental issues (national, state, local) that we face today?
- ◇ How active are we in pushing those issues to the forefront?
- ◇ What is the role of the media in such issues? Have the role(s) changed?
- ◇ Do the media help bring awareness or unwanted attention to environmental issues? Is it only when the issues presented are in a sensational political

Chapter 1

- ◇ Hayes emphasis on “context rather than follow events alone” p.3
- ◇ “Events can be understood better in historical terms...what happens at on period of time grows out of what happened earlier.” p.3
- ◇ Discuss the last paragraph on p.3-4
- ◇ Do we use this historical approach effectively? Are we effective listeners? Ex: Hurricane Katrina or Carlson’s Book

Chapter 2: History of Environmental Transformation

- ◇ What is the state of environment today?
- ◇ Think on a micro level and examine your communities and DSU then examine on a macro level- state of MS or United States
- ◇ Two main facets of contemporary environmental affairs: scientific inquiry and public action
- ◇ Rise of Environmental Awareness- Do you think we are witnessing a decline? Macro vs. micro level thinking



Chapter 2

- ◆ Level of consumption at DSU
- ◆ The result of business vs. the environment and beautification of nature on campus
- ◆ Is campus cleanup enough? Think about your communities
- ◆ By examining chapter 2, How do you feel the US has used historical data when addressing the present-day issues of the environment in the political arena?
- ◆ Think about the abuse the land suffered from the Native Americans and early settlers. What do you think that we are doing to it?

Chapter 3: The Environmental Impulse

- ◇ Consequences of Urban Consumption
- ◇ Why do we as the “new generation” seem to think that more = better quality of life?
- ◇ Will there every be a healthy balance?
- ◇ P. 24–25, “The environmental impulse is concrete...”
- ◇ Health concerns and rise of cancer awareness



Chapter 4: Nature in an Urbanized Society

- ◇ What is meant by "natural" debate p.36-37
- ◇ Hunting
- ◇ Nature Appreciation and Study changes perspectives towards some feared and disliked animals.
- ◇ Nongame Wildlife
- ◇ Endangered species, predators, specialized animal groups
- ◇ What are we doing to make sure that these programs are ongoing in the future. Are we planning for "right now" or the future generations?



Chapter 5: The Web of Life

- ◇ The Pollution Confusion
- ◇ How Clean is clean debate
- ◇ Do you really want to know?
- ◇ Standardizing air pollution in cities? Think about cities in China and Tokyo, Japan.
- ◇ Water pollution debate leading to the Clean water act of 1972



Conclusion

- ◇ Quality vs. Quantity discussion
- ◇ Just because the world may have a large quantity of something does not mean you can abuse it. If one person does it then someone else will...
- ◇ You have to look at environmental issues at the macro level and micro level because what you may perceive to be true may be an illusion.
- ◇ Presently should we focus on the quality or quantity of what we have?

