

XI Globalization and the Environment

A. Sustainable Development

1. With the diffusion of industrialization and increased economic interaction, geographers wonder if the increased rate of production and development can be maintained while natural resources are being rapidly depleted.

2. Sustainable Development is a rate of growth and resource consumption that can be maintained from one generation to another.

a) The UN Commission on Sustainable Development calls for careful use of resources (care for soil, avoid over-fishing, preserving forests, & Air Bill)

B. Ecotourism

1. B/c transportation tech has improved so much humans can travel to places once considered too distant
2. Many exotic landscapes and "Unspoiled" areas are being transformed to meet tourists desires, often at the expense and destruction of local communities + environments.
3. Ecotourism comprises tourist operations that aim to do as little harm to the environment as possible.
Ex) Instead of tearing down a forest to build a theme park, Ecotourism might build an attraction around hiking the forest.

C. Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming

1. Geographers are concerned about the rising average global temperature, caused in part by the spread of industrialization and pollution
2. The greenhouse effect is caused by industrial outputs such as carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere that create a vapor that transforms radiation into heat, causing Earth's temp to rise.
3. Global Warming Theory argues that the Earth's rise in temperature is causing negative consequences, such as melting the polar ice caps which would cause sea levels to rise.