

PSCI 2500 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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April 18, 2018

Office hours:
Davis: M-Th 3:00-4:30
JB: Tu 4:00-5:30, W 2:00-4:00

jimbutterfield.org/2500.html

From Monday:

- **** Conditionality**: conditions stipulated by the IMF or World Bank in exchange for loans.
 - Stipulations usually demands reforms reflecting the Washington Consensus (neo-liberalism).

Global Environmental Governance

How, in a system of anarchy and sovereign states, can we protect the global environment?



The Problem

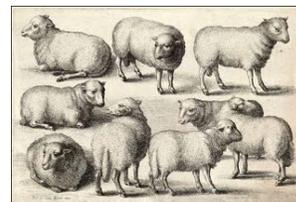
- Environmental degradation on a global scale affect common resources.
- **** Common resources (or common goods)**: resources that are shared and cannot be divided.
- **** Carrying capacity**: the population that can be sustained in a given area within resource limits without degrading the environment.

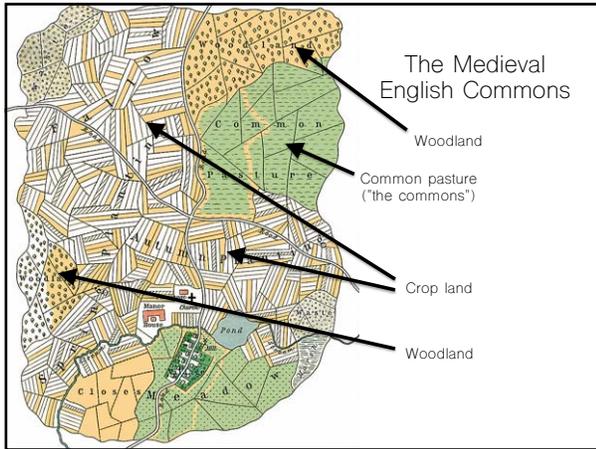
The Key Challenge: How to Avoid The Tragedy of the Commons

- Collective rationality: preserve common resources for the benefit of all.
- Individual rationality: use common resources...
 - ...before others do...
 - ... and because there is no cost to the user/consumer.

The Original "Tragedy of the Commons"

- In medieval England, the commons was shared pastureland for grazing sheep.
- The danger: over-grazing.





The Medieval English Commons

Use of the commons is below the carrying capacity of the land. All users benefit.

If one or more users increase the use of the commons beyond its carrying capacity, the commons becomes degraded. The cost of the degradation is incurred by all users.

Unless environmental costs are accounted for and addressed in land use practices, eventually the land will be unable to support the activity.

Is there a contemporary tragedy of the global commons?

What are the global commons?

The atmosphere and the air we breathe.

What are the global commons?

The oceans.

What are the global commons?

Space.

What are the global commons?



Antarctica (by treaty – no sovereign claims to territory are recognized).

The image shows a map of Antarctica with various territorial claims outlined in different colors. The map is labeled with regions like 'WEST ANTARCTICA', 'EAST ANTARCTICA', and 'SOUTHERN OCEAN'. It also shows surrounding seas like the 'WEDDELL SEA' and 'ROSS SEA'.

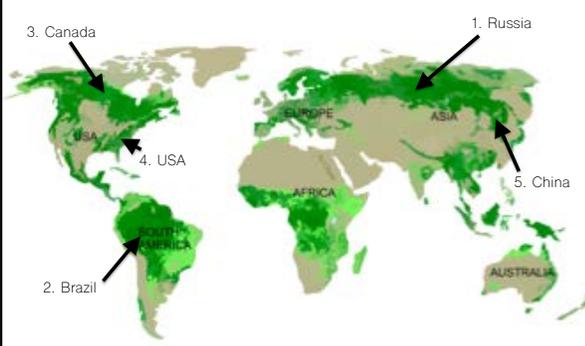
What are the global commons?



Biodiversity – more complicated.

Why? This salamander sits on sovereign territory. But its extinction would be a loss for all.

The image shows a close-up of a spotted salamander with orange eyes perched on a green pine branch.



1. Russia
2. Brazil
3. Canada
4. USA
5. China

The forests of the world are critical to both biodiversity and climate change reversal.

The image is a world map where forested areas are highlighted in green. Arrows point to five specific countries: Russia, Brazil, Canada, USA, and China.

Should this be a global commons?



Even more complicated: the Arctic Ocean.

The image shows a globe centered on the Arctic region. National flags for the USA, Canada, Russia, Denmark, and Norway are placed over their respective territories in the Arctic.

One example of degradation of a global commons: the ocean.

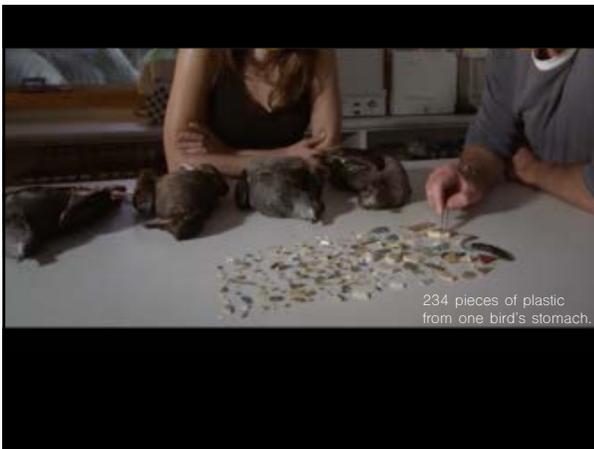


The image shows a shark swimming in the deep blue ocean, viewed from above.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
3x the size of France.



The image is an aerial view of the ocean surface covered with a dense layer of plastic waste, including bottles, bags, and other debris.





We return to the question:
 How, in a system of anarchy and sovereign states, can we protect the global environment?

Let's look at global governance with respect to climate change.

Evolution of Global Environmental Governance*

- Bruntland Commission (UN), 1987: Our Common Future.
 - **** Sustainable development:** development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

* Dealing directly or indirectly with climate change.

Evolution of Global Environmental Governance*

- Earth Summit, 1992.
 - Raised awareness of climate change, threats to biodiversity.

* Dealing directly or indirectly with climate change.

Evolution of Global Environmental Governance*

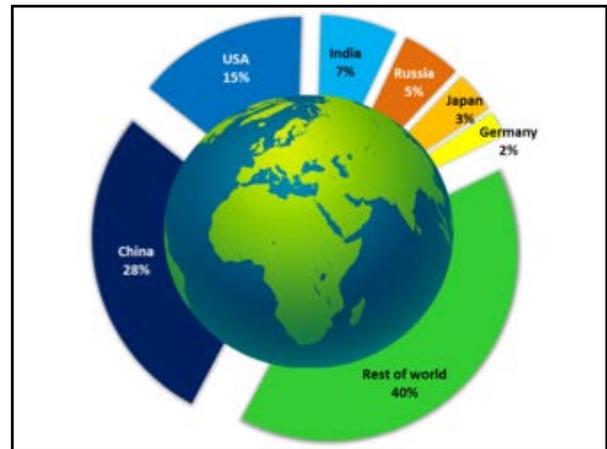
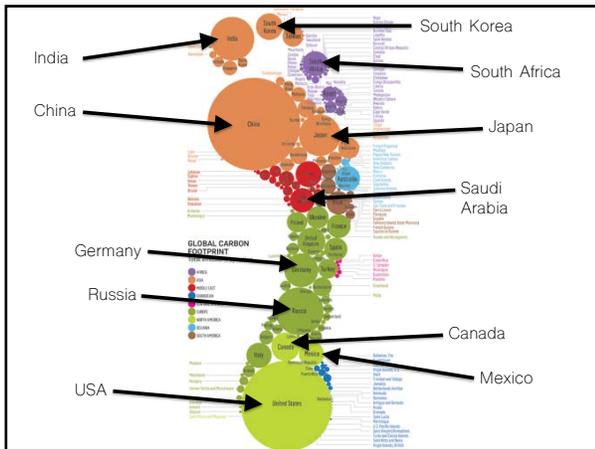
- Kyoto Protocol, 1997.
 - Binding limits on carbon emissions for 37 countries plus the EU.
 - US signed but neither ratified nor fulfilled.
 - Canada, Russia and Japan pulled out in 2011.
 - No binding limits paid on major polluting developing countries (e.g., Brazil, China, India).

* Dealing directly or indirectly with climate change.

Evolution of Global Environmental Governance*

- Paris Accords, 2015: 195 countries agreed to reduce carbon emissions.
 - Each country sets "nationally determined contributions." Strictly voluntary.
 - 2017: US announced intention to pull out by 2020.

* Dealing directly or indirectly with climate change.



Agreements: Other Environmental Issues

- Marine resources (whaling, fisheries, seals).
- Trade in endangered species.
- Ozone layer depletion.
- Hazardous substances.
- Migratory birds.
- Desertification.
- Forest preservation.
- Biodiversity.

Convention on Biological Diversity

Practical steps?

TASSO AZEVEDO

What can we learn from one country about fighting global climate change?
https://www.ted.com/talks/tasso_azevedo_hopeful_lessons_from_the_battle_to_save_rainforests

- ### Azevedo's Approach
1. Disconnect development from carbon emissions.
 2. Restructure incentives (not on fossil fuels).
 3. Where, when and who is emitting greenhouse gases.
 4. Leapfrog the routes of development: skip fossil fuels for those currently without energy.
 5. Share responsibility between governments, business and civil society.

The Aldrich Article

- Four general approaches:
 - Business as usual (i.e., do nothing).
 - Incrementalism: change things here and there keeping pain at a minimum.
 - Adaptation: making significant adjustments (such as significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuels).
 - Transformation: the hardest, most radical, and therefore least feasible.

See today's assigned article on Vietnam for its adaptation strategy.

Notes on the Final Exam

- Next Wednesday, 12:30-2:30 ← NOTE THE TIME!!!
- Format: identical to the first two exams (multiple choice, short answer, and essay), but:
 - longer (two hours)...
 - ...and worth twice as much (200 points).
- Most of the exam will come from the last third of the class.
 - But starred items from the *entire semester* will be included (approximately 60 terms).

Notes on the Final Exam

- Next Wednesday, 12:30-2:30 ← NOTE THE TIME!!!
- Two parts:
 - Part A: 12:30-1:45
 - Ten-minute break
 - Part B: 1:55-2:30

Notes on the Final Exam

- Most of the exam will be closed-book, closed-notes.
- But a second essay question will be given in the second hour that will be open book and open notes.
- So, BRING YOUR TEXT AND YOUR NOTES TO THE EXAM.

The study guide will be posted yet today or early tomorrow.



Use it. Don't let this be you.