

SOCIAL CHANGE & THE ENVIRONMENT

How Social Change Transforms Social Life

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- Four Social Revolutions
- From *Gemeinschaft* to *Gesellschaft*
- Capitalism, Modernization & Industrialization

How Social Change Transforms Social Life

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- Social Movements
- Conflict, Power and Global Politics
 - From G-7 to (Almost) G-9
 - Dividing up the Worlds
 - Two Threats to the G-8
 - Africa Connections
 - Information Technology



Theories and Processes of Social Change

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- Cultural Evolution
 - Unilinear
 - Multilinear
 - Cultural Progress
- Natural Cycles
- Conflict Over Power



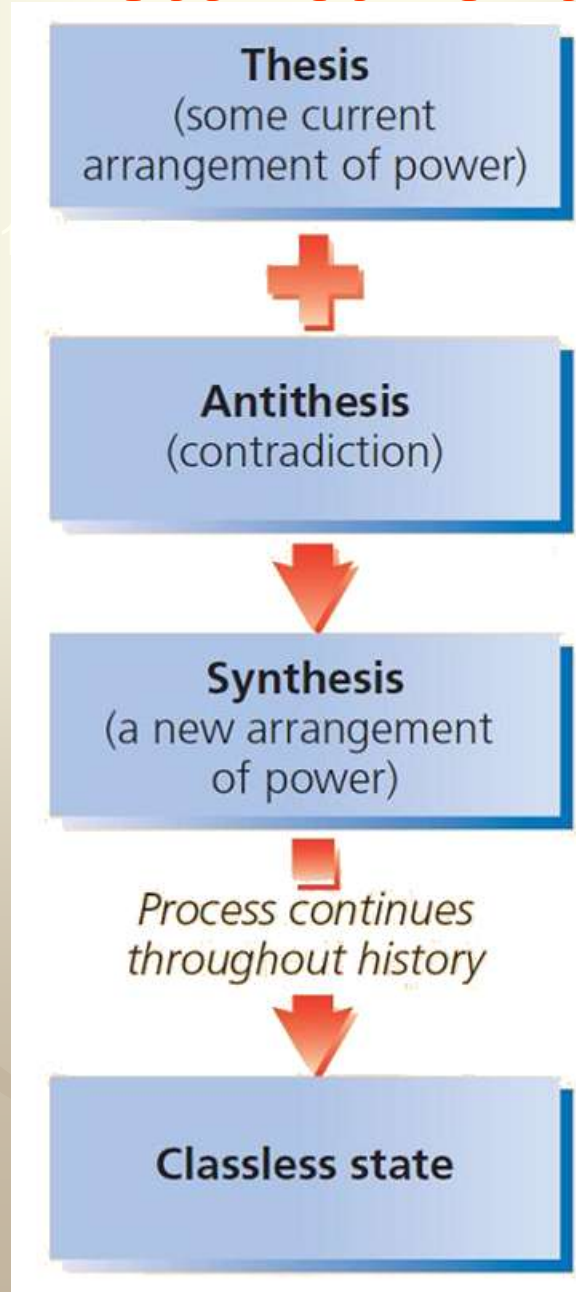
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Marx's Model - Conflict Over Power

- Thesis (Current Arrangement of Power)
- Antithesis (Contradiction)
- Synthesis (New Arrangement of Power)
- Classless State

Marx's Model of Historical Change



Theories and Processes of Social Change

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Ogburn's Theory

- Invention
- Discovery
- Diffusion
- Cultural Lag



Theories and Processes of Social Change

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Evaluation of Ogburn's Theory

- Too Unidirectional
- The Way People Adapt to Technology
Only Part of the Story
- However, He Never Said Technology was
the Only Force for Social Change

How Technology Changes Society

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- Technology is Tools and Skills
- Postmodern Societies Possess Technology that Greatly Extend Human Ability



The Social Significance of Technology

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- Changes in Social Organization
- Changes in Ideology
- Changes in Ostentatious Consumption
- Changes in Social Relationships

The Impact of the Automobile

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- Displacement of Existing Technology
- Effects on Cities
- Effects on Farm Life and Villages
- Changes in Architecture
- Changed Courtship and Sexual Norms
- Effects on Women's Roles

The Cutting Edge of Change

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- Computers in Education
- Computers in the Workplace
- Computers in Business and Finance
- Changes in the War

Cyberspace and Social Inequality

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- Access to Libraries of Information
- World Linked by Almost Instantaneous Communication
- National and Global Stratification Represents a Digital Divide



The Growth Machine vs. The Earth

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- Environmental Problems in the Most Industrialized Nations
- Industrial Growth at the Cost of Natural Environment
- Major Polluters in Most Industrialized Nations



Note: These are the waste sites so outstandingly threatening to public health that they made the national priority list. New Jersey is in a class by itself. This small state has 18 more hazardous waste sites than its nearest competition Pennsylvania, with 96.

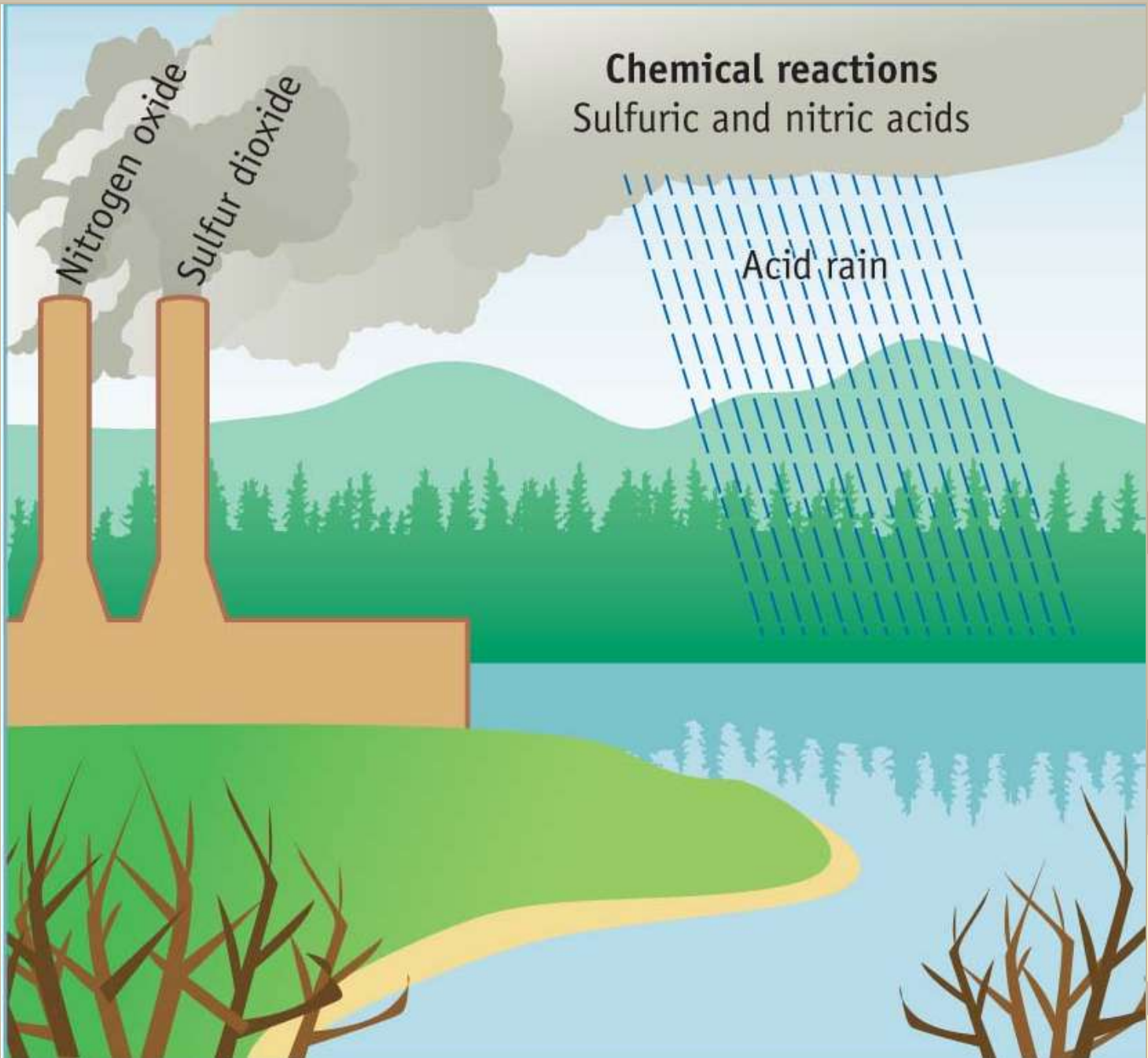
Source: By the author. Based on *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2007*:Table 368.

The Growth Machine vs. The Earth

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- Fossil Fuels and the Environment
 - Ozone Depletion
 - Greenhouse Effect
 - Global Warming





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The Growth Machine vs. The Earth

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- Fossil Fuels and the Environment
- The Energy Shortage & Multinational Corporations
- Environmental Injustice



Environmental Problems in Industrializing & Least Industrialized Nations

- Exported Pollution from Industrialized Nations
- Destruction of Habitat
- Disappearance of Rain Forests

The Environmental Movement

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- Green Political Parties
- Activists Seek Solutions in...
 - Politics
 - Education
 - Legislation



Environmental Sociology

Main Assumptions:

- Physical Environment a Significant Variable
- Human Beings Depend on Natural Environment
- Human Actions Have Unintended Consequences
- The World is Finite; Limits to Economic Growth

Environmental Sociology

Main Assumptions:

- Economic Expansion Requires Extraction of Resources from Environment
- Increased Extractions Lead to Ecological Problems
- Ecological Problems Restrict Economic Expansion
- Governments Create Environmental Problems

Environmental Sociology

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- Technology and the Environment: The Goal of Harmony
- Abuse of Environment Not Inevitable
- Must Discover Ways to Reduce or Eliminate Harm to the Environment