

# Green Politics: A Dilemma of Cutting Edge Activism and Praxis

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**Abstract:** Green Politics is a recent one spanning little more than a decade, yet it has already analyzed from different perspectives. The green politics is not confined to a country or a region, recognized with four basic principles ecology, social justice, grassroot democracy and non violence. The shifting and heterogeneous character of such politics is of class but not for a class with universalistic claim. The green politics are concerned less with materialistic goal with cultural stakes and the vindication a fundamental values. The organizational structure and new social movement are not just instrumental for the movement goal but they also tend to be part of the goal. The new approach in politics emphasize pragmatic view on environmental movement with alliance of ecumene.

**Key words:** Green Politics, Ecocentrism, Praxis, Anthropocentrism

## I. INTRODUCTION

This new movement integrates the political concern in ecological framework and thereby giving primacy to ecological concern. As far as activism is concerned the battle for planet needs to be waged on all fronts within international organization, political structure for the post revolutionary installment of ecological benign social relationship before setting about solving the earth problems. The green politics has had impact on local, national and international politics that goes beyond its level of direct political representation. It has generated new area of political study and analysis as journalists, academicians and other observers seek to come to terms with these new political development. This approach also underlines between the cleavage of ecocentrism and anthropocentrism as recurrent nature of a new ecological paradigm in wake a green praxis. The green politics represents a radicalization of concern regarding the impact of prevailing structure and practices within industrial society upon both human and non human life. It has diverse ideological and political antecedents excludes status quo affirming conservative and technocratic elements within environmental movement embrace segments of women, peace, international justice, animal rights, human rights and inextricably bound to whole biosphere process. This new social movements, particularly the environmental, anti-nuclear, peace, women's, and Third World movements, may be distinguished by their success in politicizing new issues and generating new lines of conflict that have served to erode the established left-right political cleavage between

labour and capital to the point where, it can no longer be automatically applied as 'a universal solvent' absorbing whatever conflicts are present in a political system (Inglehart and Rabier 1986). The shifting and heterogeneous character of new green movements is such that venturing anything more than broad generalizations concerning these diverse new forms of opposition in Western society is a hazardous undertaking. In view of the importance of the relationship between new social movements and the Green movement, however, it will be helpful to crystallize to salient characteristics of new social movements that have attracted the attention of close observers like peace, environmental quality. This new social movements are concerned less with material goals than with symbolic and cultural stakes and the vindication of fundamental values (Melucci 1980). Their critiques are directed as much toward civil society as the economy or the state, since they are not only politicizing neglected areas of domination (of women, the Third World, welfare recipients, ethnic minorities, animals, and ecosystems) but also generating new lifestyles and new forms of consciousness. In terms of the issues that have been problematized, the emphasis in collective action is generally seen as moving away from 'materialist' political questions concerning production and distribution and towards 'post-materialist' issues concerning health and lifestyle, sexuality and gender, cultural identity, human survival, and humanity relationship to nature and environment.

The introduction to Green thinking defines 'Green' as 'quite simply, concern for life on earth and Green politics, leads to the 'minimum criteria for being Green' with the principle 'reverence for the Earth and all its creatures (Porritt 1984). Green politics, standing alongside social justice, grassroots democracy and non violence with approach the Green movement only through the prism of the conventional political spectrum in this way is to miss the revolutionary character of the new themes introduced by the Green movement. This kind of characterization also obscures the cumulative development of new social movement concerns (Eckersley 1992). That is, we may chart a shift in the emphasis of new social movements from participationist (read freedom with little emphasis on life) to a survivalist (read life, with little emphasis on freedom) and finally to an emancipatory perspective (representing a creative synthesis of life and freedom in a new ecological framework). Moreover, this new emancipatory ecopolitical theme provides a more fruitful means of exploring the nature of the relationship between

the Green movement and other new social movements. In particular it provides a window into the ideological debates within the Green movement as to how the concerns of other new social movements are to be integrated under the banner of an ecological politics.

## II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GREEN MOVEMENT AND POLITICS: ECOCENTRISM V/S ANTHROCENTRISM

Although there now exists an extensive body of literature on Green politics and new social movements, there is nonetheless a considerable degree of confusion concerning exactly where the Green movement is supposed to fit in the 'new' and very generalized pattern of politics described above. The problem concerns the Green movement's exact identity, in particular, whether it is to be understood as

(i) essentially the environmental movement (this, of course, is an extremely broad and heterogeneous movement containing many different philosophical currents);

(ii) a broader based new social movement that represents an ecumenical and pragmatic alliance between the environmental movement and other new social movements with the environmental movement having no greater influence than these other new social movements, or

(iii) a broader based new social movement that seeks to integrate the concerns of other new social movement that seek to integrate the concern of other new social movement within an ecological framework, thereby giving primacy to ecological concerns. Green movement it also provides the most encompassing theoretical framework within which the concerns of new social movements may be integrated. Green movement is challenging and revising this long standing tradition. Accordingly, theorists who apply new social movement typologies to the Green movement are more likely to locate the Green movement within the humanist tradition and thereby lose sight of its radical ecocentric component or at least mistake it for something else.

The issues of Green politics concern is the 'new paradigm' of politics (i.e. the politics of new social movements) as 'preservation of peace, environment, human rights, and unalienated forms of work all of which are interpreted as issues to do with human autonomy and identity. Green politics, there is a range of different ecological frameworks that may be adopted, and from an anthropocentric and purely instrumental resource conservation perspective to a thorough going ecocentric or ecology-centered perspective that seeks the mutual unfolding of the human and nonhuman worlds. In terms of the meaning (as distinct from status) given to this central ecological framework, then, this group can be further subdivided in terms of this ecological spectrum into 'anthropocentric Greens' and 'ecocentric Greens'.

The label 'Green movement' has been applied by theorists, journalists, and general observers to each of these understandings. This confusion concerning the identity of the Green movement is partly a reflection of its infancy (i.e. it is still in the process of shaping its identity) and partly a reflection of its fiercely grassroots democratic nature, which encourages local diversity and experimentation and resists uniform organizational models and strategies along with the dogmatic notion of a correct ideology and identity.

## III. CONCLUSION

The Green movement has had an impact on local, national and international politics that goes well beyond its level of direct political representation. Not surprisingly, it has generated new areas of political study and analysis as journalists, academics, and other observers seek to come to terms with these new political developments. This essay has sought to clarify the character and identity of the Green movement and also highlight some of the new values defended by the Green movement that have thus far been underplayed or ignored by theorists of new social movements. Although the identity of the Green movement is by no means settled, it is clear that the Green movement is more than the environmental movement and, increasingly, more than just a pragmatic alliance of new social movements. Moreover, the new values heralded by the Green movement have generated a gradual realignment in every countries politics that cuts directly across traditional party cleavages. Whatever the outcome of this realignment, the intractable nature of environmental problems suggests that Green politics in one form or another will be here to stay.

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