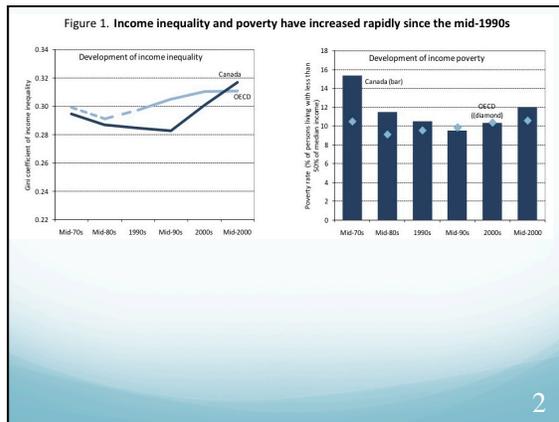


PHIL 224
Environmental Ethics, Week 6
Paul Thagard

- Use of laptops (tablets, etc.) is discouraged, and limited to the last two rows.



1



What is Justice?

- Right-wing view: justice is equal freedoms.
- Left-wing view: justice is equal wealth.
- Fairness view (Rawls difference principle): Inequalities must benefit least advantaged.
- Needs view: justice requires that all people have their vital needs satisfied.

3

Environmental Justice

Fair treatment of all people with respect to environmental risks and benefits.

Environmental discrimination occurs when a group suffers disproportionately from environmental factors.

Environmental discrimination against Canadian aboriginals?
Land expropriation and ongoing land claims.
Poor environmental conditions on reserves.

4

Current Environmental Issues Affecting Aboriginals

- Grand River land claim
- Alberta oil sands
- Mohawk opposition to Oka niobium mine
- British Columbia land claims

5

Environmental Racism

Environmental racism = discrimination practiced through the environment.

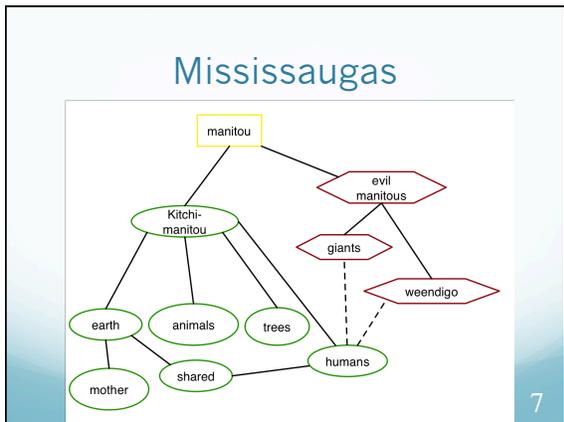
Mohawks have close ties to land: different world view.

Arguments for First Nations Sovereignty: historical land claims, self-preservation

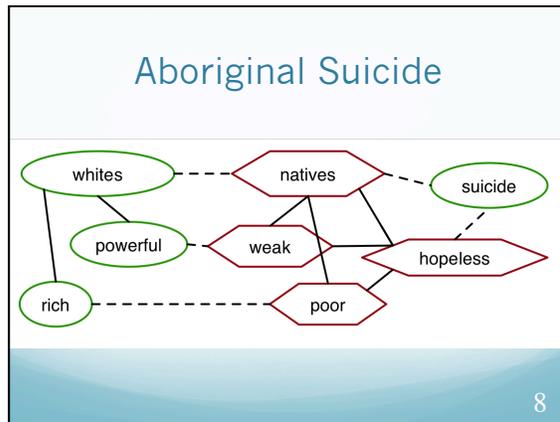
Governance issues: Iroquois practices vs. Indian Act band councils

Change of values: world needs to move toward aboriginal values.

6



7



8

Discussion Question

- Have Canadian aboriginals been victims of environmental racism?
- Please close laptops.

9

Environmental Impact

Move from utilitarian methods to social justice based on rights?

Overflights have bad consequences: sleep, hunting, anxiety. Problems for Innu: subsistence economy

Fairness of environmental impact assessments:

- Temporal fairness
- Geographic fairness
- Economic fairness
- Cultural fairness

10

Sustainability

- Sustainable development
- Environmentally friendly economic growth
- Elimination of poverty
- Capacity to endure: Human well-being and biological diversity. Resilience.
- Should historical injustices be corrected?

11

First Nations Issues

- Principle: The costs of resource development should be born by those who will reap its benefits. (Contrast: moral hazard)
- In hydroelectric and other developments, costs have been imposed on Native communities without consultation.
- Why First Nations are reluctant to cooperate
 - Financial compensation misunderstands nature of losses: Avoid monetization
 - Historical grievances
 - Need for co-planning and co-management

12

Problems for research on aboriginals:

Difficulty of authentic representation.

Role of stereotypes and attitudes.

Natives are peaceful, spiritual, guardians of the land.
Savages.

Omission of aboriginal concepts from research
findings.

Differences between Native and non-Native concepts
and ideologies.

13

Discussion Question

- How can environmental problems involving aboriginals best be resolved?
- Can non-aboriginals understand these problems?
- Please close laptops.

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