

PHIL 224
Environmental Ethics, Week 8
 Paul Thagard

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



1

International Environmental Justice

- Are countries morally responsible for their actions, or just the people who run them? Asbestos.
- Other issues of international justice?



2

Distributive Justice

Distributive justice concerns the allocation of the benefits and burdens of economic activity.

Environmental justice: benefits and burdens with respect to the environment.

Harm principle: harming others is wrong and must be compensated.

Sharing principle: benefits and burdens should be shared equally.

3

Other Principles

Cragg and Schwartz: The costs of resource development should be born by those who will reap its benefits.

Needs principle: people in all countries should have vital needs satisfied.

Tension: libertarian versus egalitarian values.
 Intermediate: utilitarian and difference principle.

4

Global Warming

1. Water shortages because of retreating glaciers.
2. 1 billion lose their livelihoods to desertification.
3. 200 million environmental refugees.
4. 17 million Bangladeshis without homes by 2030.
5. More than 60 million more Africans with malaria.
6. 182 million sub-Saharan Africans diseased.
7. Homes of 94 million people flooded.

5

Arguments Against Equal Sharing of Resources

1. Land has been legitimately acquired and transferred.
2. Some countries have depleted their resources.
3. Well-being requires security of tenure.

6

Discussion Question

- What obligations do countries have to other countries concerning environmental justice? Discuss with reference to asbestos or global warming.
- Please close laptops.

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