OUTLINE

- Short Video on Environmental Justice History
- Definitions
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  - Env. Equity
  - Env. Racism
- Causes & Proposed Actions
- Short Video on Contemporary Example
- Cities Shape People’s Experience
- People Shape Cities Formation
SHORT VIDEO

Brief history of Environmental Justice (4 min)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30xLg2HHg8Q

DEFINITION

An **Environmental Justice** area is any census tract where 20 percent or more individuals live in poverty, and/or 30 percent or more of the population is minority.

**Environmental Racism** refers to socially marginalized racial minority communities which are subjected to disproportionate exposure of pollutants, the denial of access to sources of ecological benefits (such as clean air, water, and natural resources), or both.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

An **Environmental Justice** area is any census tract where 20 percent or more individuals live in poverty, and/or 30 percent or more of the population is minority.

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

**Environmental Equity** is a broad term that is used to describe the disproportionate effects of environmental degradation on people and places.
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

The term **Environmental Racism** was coined in 1982 by Benjamin Chavis, African American civil rights leader, born in Oxford, North Carolina.

In his youth, Chavis was an assistant to Martin Luther King Jr., who inspired him to work in the civil rights movement.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

**Environmental Racism** is racial discrimination in environmental policy-making and enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of communities of color for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the presence of life threatening poisons and pollutants in communities of color, and the history of excluding people of color from leadership of the environmental movement.

(Chavis, 1994: xii).
WE ALL SHOULD ACT

In theory, the principle of environmental justice means that we can no longer ignore who benefits and loses in the environmental game or in whose backyard the unwanted facility is located (Wenz, 1988).

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

A healthy environment is a basic right of all the Earth’s inhabitants, a right reaffirmed by the Rio declaration (UN, 1992). Yet we know that environmental risks are unevenly distributed within and between societies, and we know that these risks affect populations differently.
ENIRONMENTAL RISKS

The ambiguity in the research results is a consequence of four factors:

1) the environmental threat chosen for analysis;

2) the geographic scale or areal unit chosen for measurement;

3) the sub population selected; and

4) the time frame

WHICH COMES FIRST?

The issue posing the greatest difficulty in environmental justice research is which came first?

- Were the LULUs or sources of environmental threats sited in communities because they were poor, contained people of color and/or were politically weak?

- Or were the LULUs originally placed in communities with little reference to race or economic status and, over time, the racial composition of the area changed as a result of white flight, depressed housing prices and a host of other social ills?

LULUs = [Locally Unwanted Land Uses]
WHY ENV. INJUSTICE OCCURS?

• The reduction of land-values due to sources of pollution and degradation of environment may attract low-income groups

• Market dynamics can possibly lead to a situation where sources of pollution may move-in within neighborhoods with low-income groups and people of color

• Environmental law enforcement is more lose in areas with disadvantaged communities

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Environmental Law Enforcement
- Environmental Remedies
- Grassroot Activism
SHORT VIDEO

Environmental Justice: Contemporary Example (7 min.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJX_MXaXbJA

HOW CITIES SHAPE OUR EXPERIENCE
Three Different Ways:

1. Determinism

2. Possibilism

3. Probabilism


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1- Determinism

Determinism is the belief that the environment determines the patterns of human culture and societal development. It is where the environment set limitations and constrains. It is not limited to the built environment (walls, fences, ...etc) but also includes natural barriers (such as cliffs, hills,...etc)
Possibilities and constrains within which people make choices based on cultural issues

3- Probabilism

Built Environment Provide possibility for choices, but some possibilities are more probable than others
BUILT ENVIRONMENT SHAPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE

2- Possibilism

BUILT ENVIRONMENT SHAPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE

3- Probabilism
The built environment also influence:

- Public Health
- Happiness
- Social Bonding
- Community Interaction

*Environmental planning, urban design, land use patterns, and transportation systems that promotes walking and bicycling will help create active, healthier, and more livable communities*

There are numerous processes that occur in the society that shapes and alternate the built environment (such as behavior, policy, people’s health, people’s waste management, culture of immigrants, lack of low enforcement, availability of construction material, ...etc)

We will focus and unpack the following as example:

1. Immigration
2. Colonialism
3. Slum Formation

1. IMMIGRATION

Immigrants in the United States send more than $20 billion every year back to Mexico, which contribute to speeding development in a form of real estate construction boom

This construction boom + flow of construction material to Mexico motivates migration and changes social and cultural life for migrants and their families. They live in homes that is influenced by homes in the US.

At the same time, migrants are changing the landscapes of cities in the United States: for example, Chicago and Los Angeles are home to buildings explicitly created as headquarters for Mexican workers.
PEOPLE SHAPING BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1. IMMIGRATION

a) Remittance House
The materiality of the remittance house demonstrates the desire of individuals to express themselves; an expression that subsequently influences the desires of those who have never migrated. The primary vehicle for such expression is the house façade, which acts as a two-dimensional canvas broadcasting migrants’ successes abroad, as well as their tastes newly acquired in the spaces of migration.

b) Seven/Eleven
Beyond the remittance house, migrants who have spent varying amounts of time in the United States are returning to homelands to open businesses that are sometimes modeled on their work experiences in the U.S. copying national and global franchises.
1. IMMIGRATION

c) Cemeteries

Colonialism is not a modern phenomenon. World history is full of examples of one society gradually expanding by incorporating adjacent territory and settling its people on newly conquered territory. The ancient Greeks set up colonies as did the Romans, the Moors, the Ottomans, the French and the British.

Colonialism is the policy of a nation seeking to extend or retain its authority over other people or territories, generally with the aim of developing or exploiting them to the benefit of the colonizing country.
2. COLONIALISM

British Arch. in Penang, Malaysia
Spanish Arch. in Tucson, USA
French Arch. in Cambodia
Dutch Arch. in New York

A slum is a highly populated urban residential area consisting mostly of closely-packed, decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or uncompleted infrastructure, inhabited primarily by impoverished persons.

Slums lack reliable sanitation services, supply of clean water, reliable electricity, law enforcement and other basic services.

Slum residences vary from shanty houses to professionally built dwellings which, because of poor-quality construction or provision of basic maintenance, have deteriorated.
EXAMPLES

1. CARACAS, VENEZUELA, SOUTH AMERICA
In the center of Caracas, Venezuela, stands the 45-story "Tower of David," an unfinished, abandoned skyscraper. But about eight years ago, people started moving in.

2. MOKOKO, NIGERIA, AFRICA
Makoko, a city on the water in Nigeria that is completely planned and designed by its inhabitant.

3. ZABBALEEN, CAIRO, EGYPT, AFRICA
Zabbaleen District, a slum area in Cairo that has lots of immigrant came to Cairo in the 40s.

4. SHANXI, GANSU, CHINA, ASIA
Shanxi, Gansu is an underground village in China. In an area known for its soft soil. It shows that humanity's ability to survive and make a home - anywhere.

1- TOWER OF DAVID, CARACAS, VENEZUELA
2- MAKOKO, NIGERIA, AFRICA

3- ZABBALEEN, CAIRO, EGYPT AFRICA
4- SHANXI, GANSU, CHINA, ASIA

https://www.ted.com/talks/iwan_baan_ingenious_homes_in_unexpected_places
HOMEWORK
Due March 17th

The environmental injustice is caused by many factors, explain some of these factors and, in your opinion, does Locally Unwanted Land Uses LULUs, occurred in disadvantaged communities OR the composition of communities change to result in concentration of people of color around LULUs (1 page)

Slum formation around the world happens by poor marginalized communities. Name the reasons they are formed and what can we learn from such informal developments. (1 page)

Class Website: https://environmentalpolicyclass.wordpress.com

THANK YOU
Questions???