Winter is Coming: Climate Change and the Future of Mother Earth
Housekeeping

• Emails from yesterday
  • Format for final paper
  • Introductions to group presentations
  • Reading response for this week

• Extended Office Hours: Weds-Thurs 12:30-3:00 pm
  • Will bring books for people to look at

• Midterms

• Tomorrow - Global revolts; China; time for group work
“The Story of Stuff”

storyofstuff.org (2007) | written/directed by Annie Leonard

Film available online: http://bit.ly/1blhIUv
Additional resources: http://bit.ly/1Dpk5qv
Global ‘Consumer Class’ = 1.7 Billion

USA = Largest proportion
- 5% of population - 25% of resources
- Houses 38% bigger than in 1970

Advertising Industry = $600 billion worldwide
- $189.9 billion in US alone
- US Consumers *made, not born, to shop* (trained from childhood)

Consumerism as personal & political pathology
Environmental Impacts of Stuff: “Externalities” in the Commodity Chain

- **DRC (Dem. Rep. of Congo)**: Coltan; ‘Conflict minerals’ (tin, tungsten, tantalum) [http://bit.ly/1g7NML1](http://bit.ly/1g7NML1)
- **India - Bhopal**: Union Carbide disaster [http://bit.ly/1lGhZ1g](http://bit.ly/1lGhZ1g)
- **Inner Mongolia - Baotou**: Rare earth minerals [http://bbc.in/1F8JKhu](http://bbc.in/1F8JKhu)
- **USA - Wal-Mart**: Use of coal energy; destruction of farmland (~1500ha/yr for new stores) [http://bit.ly/1DsVZuP](http://bit.ly/1DsVZuP)
- **USA - Compulsive hoarding disorder**: [http://bit.ly/1MNtz0O](http://bit.ly/1MNtz0O)
- **Ghana**: Digital dumping ground [http://to.pbs.org/1h5grFV](http://to.pbs.org/1h5grFV)
- **UN Environment Programme - Impacts of consumption**: [http://bbc.in/1F8JKhu](http://bbc.in/1F8JKhu)

**DRC** (Dem. Rep. of Congo) - Coltan; ‘Conflict minerals’ (tin, tungsten, tantalum)

**India - Bhopal** - Union Carbide disaster

**Inner Mongolia - Baotou** - Rare earth minerals

**Scotland - Greenock** - Semiconductors & cancer

**USA - Wal-Mart** - Use of coal energy; destruction of farmland (~1500ha/yr for new stores)

**USA - Compulsive hoarding disorder**

**Ghana** - Digital dumping ground

**The Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

**UN Environment Programme - Impacts of consumption**

**Worldwide**: Environmental impacts of consumerism
Importance of OIL

- The ONE commodity without which a globalized economy/global supply chain is **not possible**
  - No other fuel is as energy-\textit{dense}, flexible, or portable
  - Non-renewable resource - located in contentious areas
  - ‘Resource curse’ (Nigeria, Bolivia, etc.)
  - U.S. dollar hegemony and wars to control oil supply (Iraq)

- **Peak Oil (aka ‘Hubbert’s Peak’ theory)**
  - Moment at which finite supply will permanently decline
  - Contradiction of an inherently expanding economic system
    - 1970s: Club of Rome; today: Peak Oil, Transition Movements
  - Mid 2000s: \textit{Fracking} (hydraulic fracking) technology developed
    - Opens up unlimited supply potential (USA, Canada, etc.)
    - Non-\textit{regulated} extractive activity; harmful effects
    - Use of extremely toxic chemicals; seismic destabilization
FILMS:

1-2. CRUDE OIL

“Chevron Texaco: Ecuador’s Black Plague”
Online: http://bit.ly/1I0OQXH

“International Day of Protest Against Chevron” (May 24, 2014)
produced by Amazon Watch
Online: http://bit.ly/1SRei3K

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3. FRACKING/SHALE GAS

“Gasland” (excerpts)
directed by Josh Fox (2011)
Part 1 Online: http://bit.ly/1I1NsOKI
Part 2 Online: http://bit.ly/1IYJryp
An Explosive New Extractive Industry: Fracking in USA & The World
‘Idle No More’: A New Discourse Arises
indigenous peoples & environmentalists in defense of Mother Earth

FILMS:

### Contending Discourses:
Could there be an alternative after all?

**TINA (There is No Alternative):**
- Hegemonic neoliberalism
  - Flexibility & fluidity; homogeneity; ‘global’ culture & governance
  - Organize society using ‘free’ markets; quantifying/commodifying logic
  - Level playing field; self-regulating model of economy
  - Privatization & Individualism
  - ‘LIVING BETTER’ (thru market behavior; consumption, production, technical innovation)

**Counter-movements (still evolving):**
- Heterogeneous; rooted in territory, local cultures, traditions, & problems; importance of land & sovereignty
- Environmentalism; rights of ‘Mother Earth’; quality of life & dignity
- Inequality & Injustice; anti-austerity
- The ‘commons’; sense of a shared fate
- ‘LIVING WELL’ (prioritize collective values & action; connection between humans/nature)