

Summer Sessions 2015
UC Berkeley Dept. of Geography
Lecturer: Meleiza Figueroa

Geography N20

week 5 - 8/5/2015

*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

FILM:



“The Story of Stuff”

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

Film available online: <http://bit.ly/1hlhUVb>

Additional resources: <http://bit.ly/1Dpk5qw>

Consumer Nation:

The Psychology & Industry behind 'buying all the stuff'

- 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)
 - Clip from documentary *The Corporation*: <http://bit.ly/1xmQYKG>
- Consumerism as personal & political pathology
 - Adam Curtis, *Century of the Self* (film): <http://bit.ly/1eG67P4>
 - Hoarders (TV series): <http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/hoarding-buried-alive/>

Environmental Impacts of Stuff: “Externalities” in the Commodity Chain

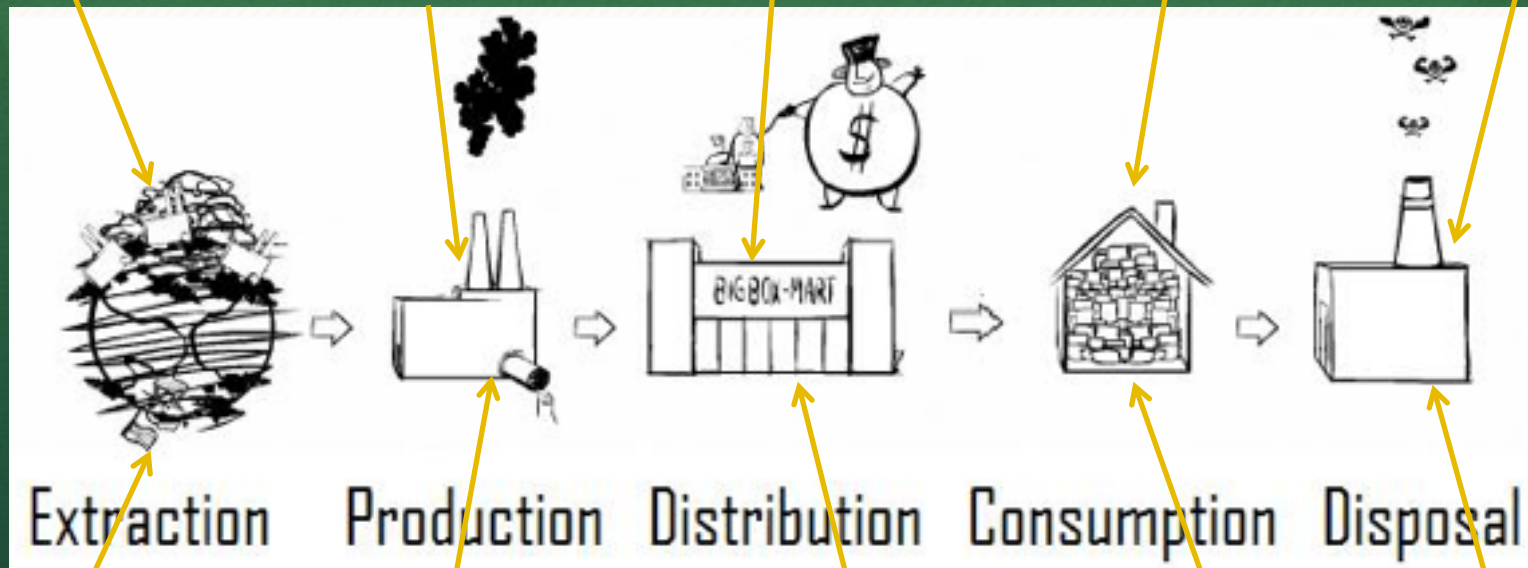
DRC (Dem. Rep. of Congo)
Coltan; ‘Conflict minerals’
(tin, tungsten, tantalum)
<http://bit.ly/1g7NMI1>

India - Bhopal
Union Carbide disaster
<http://bit.ly/1IGhZ1g>

Worldwide:
Environmental impacts
of consumerism
<http://bit.ly/1FWKG9Z>

UN Environment
Programme - Impacts
of consumption
<http://bbc.in/1F8JKhu>

The Great Pacific
Garbage Patch
<http://bit.ly/1IrcKM>



Inner Mongolia - Baotou
Rare earth minerals
<http://bbc.in/1F8JKhu>

Scotland - Greenock
Semiconductors & cancer
<http://bit.ly/1Dp9Sul>

USA - Wal-Mart
Use of coal energy;
destruction of farmland
(~1500ha/yr for new stores)
<http://bit.ly/1DsVZuP>

USA - Compulsive
hoarding disorder
<http://bit.ly/1MNTz0O>

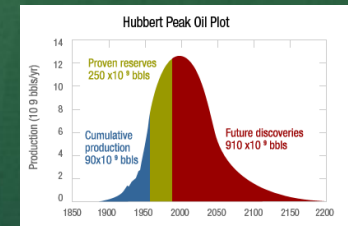
Ghana: Digital
dumping ground
<http://to.pbs.org/1h5grFV>

Importance of OIL

- The ONE commodity without which a globalized economy/global supply chain is not possible
 - No other fuel is as energy-*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
 - Climate change - "Leave It in the Ground" movement: <http://bit.ly/1xGidnX>
 - Mid 2000s: *Fracking* (hydraulic fracking) technology developed
 - Opens up unlimited supply potential (USA, Canada, etc.)
 - *Non-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/11O1OXH>

**"International Day of Protest
Against Chevron"** (May 24, 2014)

produced by Amazon Watch

Online: <http://bit.ly/1SRci3K>

3. FRACKING/SHALE GAS

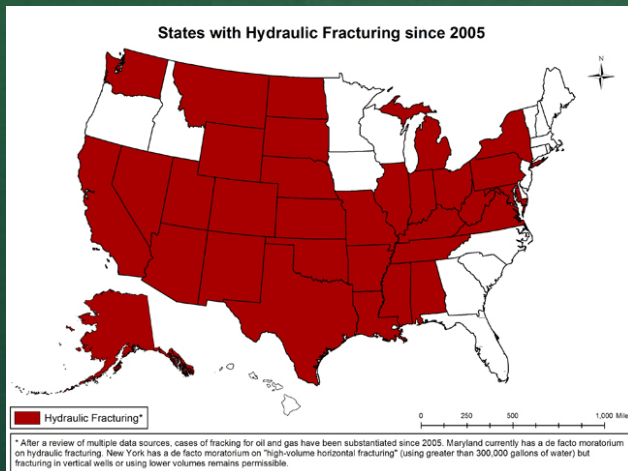
"Gasland" (excerpts)
directed by Josh Fox (2011)

Part 1 Online: <http://bit.ly/1JNeOKI>

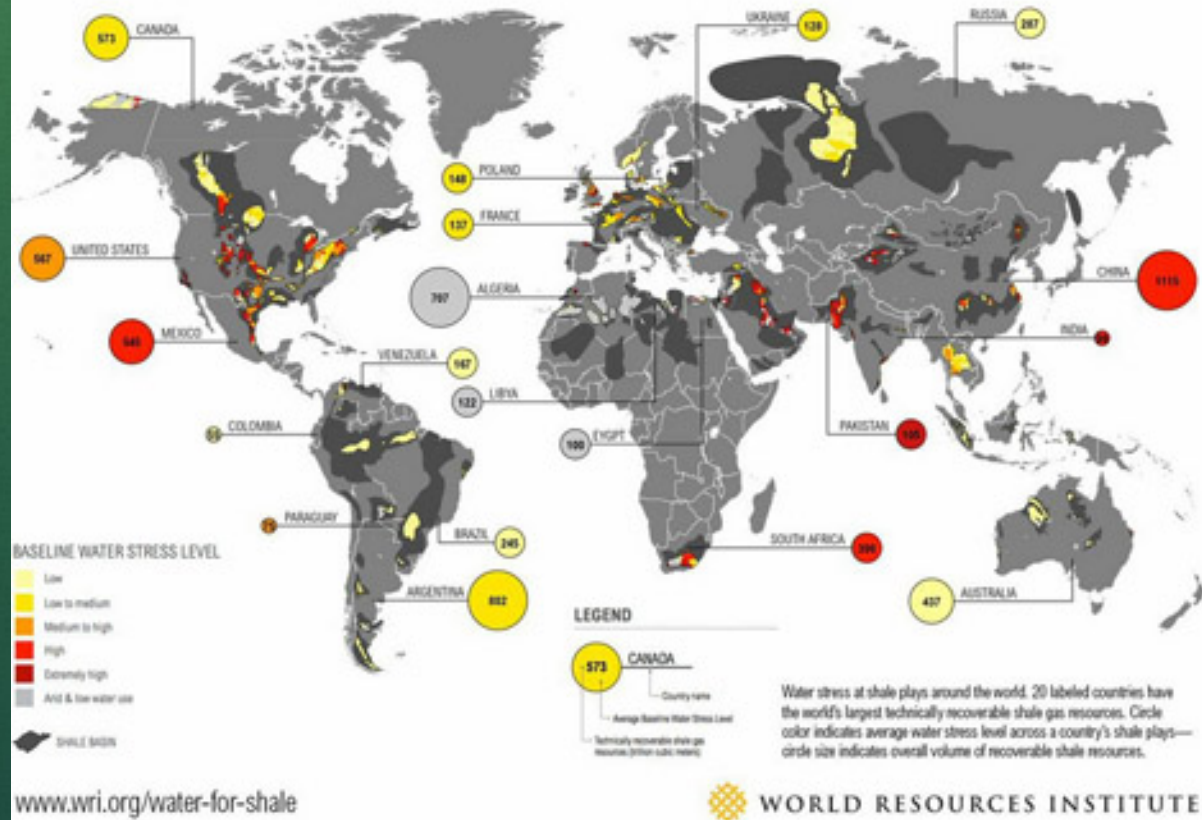
Part 2 Online: <http://bit.ly/1IYiryp>



An Explosive New Extractive Industry: Fracking in USA & The World



Location of World's Shale Plays, Volume of Technically Recoverable Shale Gas in the 20 Countries with the Largest Resources, and the Level of Baseline Water Stress





‘Idle No More’: A New Discourse Arises
indigenous peoples & environmentalists in defense of Mother Earth

FILMS:

1. ‘Idle No More’ (directed by Curtis Kechego): <http://bit.ly/1T42OES>
2. ‘This Changes Everything’ (Naomi Klein / Guardian TV): <http://bit.ly/1IlxVcm>

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)