

## EAS 493/593: WEEK 2 SEMINAR

### READINGS: Text

1. Introduction to Part V: A Burden Too Far
2. Chapter 23: The Earth Transformed: Trends, Trajectories, and Patterns
3. Chapter 24: The Earth as Input: Resources

**QUESTIONS:** These, and other questions, will be discussed this week in class (Jan 26<sup>th</sup>)

1. In the Introduction to Part V we are told that our demands for cheap food, and cheap energy, in the developed world are a cause of geo-environmental change. How so?
2. In the final paragraphs of the Introduction to Part V the author(s) call for an international agreements approach to suppress environmental degradation. Is such an approach going to workable? What other approach(es) should be considered?
3. Chapter 23: In geography, scale matters. Describe the impact of scale on consumption. What is different about a local, regional, and global scale when it comes to environmental change?
4. Chapter 24: Position yourself in one of the six perspectives outlined in the chapter respecting resource consumption and the environment. Be prepared to defend one (or more) of these perspectives. In addition, be prepared to argue against one of these perspectives. Basically, from the reading, they are:
  - 4a) The scarcity thesis
  - 4b) "Cornucopians"
  - 4c) Environmental crisis
  - 4d) Ecological economics
  - 4e) Ecological modernization
  - 4f) Political ecology

*See you next Friday!*