

Outline Chapter 2

1325 - Landlord and peasant rebellion.
Landlords took control over all resources.
Took control of the common lands.

Rise and fall of population. Conflicts over natural resources. Technological advances.

Spread of a capitalist market. Landlords changed the laws. Took control over water mills. Taxes were involved.

Seminantion of resources to gain the highest profit.

"profit Motive"

Farm, Fen & Forest ecosystems early capitalist modes of production accentuated human impact on these three specifically.

Dependent on firewood, later forced to use coal.
Trade & naval power was intense at this time.

Ship building became more difficult due to the decreasing supply of mature oak trees.

Resources depleted due to capitalistic actions.

- 1) BASED ON INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 1, WHAT IS THE THESIS OF MERCHANT'S BOOK? CAN YOU CONDENSE IT INTO ONE OR A FEW SENTENCES?
- 2) FOCUS ON ASSIGNED CHAPTER. HOW DOES MATERIAL IN THIS CHAPTER SUPPORT MERCHANT'S THESIS?
- 3) MAKE AN OUTLINE OF THE CHAPTER (THAT CONNECTS THE MATERIAL TO MERCHANT'S THESIS).

1) BETWEEN THE YEARS OF 1500 AND 1700 A SHIFT OCCURED FROM AN ORGANISMIC TO A MECHANICAL VIEW OF NATURE. THIS SHIFT RAN PARALLEL TO ONE INVOLVING WOMEN'S ROLLS IN SOCIETY.

→ THE SHIFT TO A MECHANICAL VIEW OF NATURE LED TO SOME PRE-MODERN VALUES BEING LEFT BEHIND. IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR SUCH VALUES TO BE RE-INTRODUCED INTO MODERN SOCIETY.

THESE SHIFTS WERE NEGATIVE IN THAT THEY LED TO THE OVER-EXPLOITATION OF NATURE BY MAN-KIND, AND UN-FAIR TREATMENT OF THE FEMALE SEX.

2) THE CHAPTER EXAMINES HOW FORMALLY, "THEORIES ABOUT NATURE... WERE INTERPRETED AS CONTAINING IMPLICATIONS ABOUT THE WAY INDIVIDUALS BEHAVE OR DUGHT TO BEHAVE." DURING THE TIME WHEN PEOPLE VIEWED NATURE IN A MORE ORGANISMIC SENSE, THEY MIRRORED THE ORGANIZATION OF THEIR SOCIETY ON THE ORGANIZATION OF NATURE. SOCIETY WAS VIEWED ECOLOGICALLY, WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL OR BRANCH BEING CRUCIAL TO WHOLE.

CHAPTER 3: ORGANIC SOCIETY AND UTOPIA

I. THREE VARIATIONS OF ORGANIC THEORY OF SOCIETY

A. ORGANIC SOCIETY

1. "THE WHOLE BEFORE THE PARTS, WHILE EMPHASIZING THE INHERENT VALUE OF EACH PARTICULAR PART"
2. MODELED ON NATURE'S "PRIME EXAMPLES" BEE AND ANT COLONIES
3. HIERARCHIAL

B. ORGANIC COMMUNITY

1. COMMUNAL → SHARED PROPERTY
2. LAW EQUALLY DICTATED BY GOD AND NATURE
3. UNDERMINED BY MARKET ECONOMY

C. ORGANIC UTOPIAS

1. SOCIAL REVOLUTION PUTTING NEEDS OF PEASANTS, ARTISANS AT TOP.
2. BASIC UTOPIA = EVERYTHING SHARED, EVERYONE HAPPY

D. HOLISM

1. HARMONY WITH THE LARGER ORGANIC ENVIRONMENT
2. ORGANIC UNITY IN ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY, AGRICULTURE, AND HUMAN BODY
3. HARMONY WITH NATURAL CYCLES

E. WORK

1. EQUAL AMOUNTS OF TIME AT WORK AND LEISURE
2. "UNITY OF MEANINGFUL LIFE WITH PRODUCTIVE HANDS-ON WORK"
3. "TOTAL INTERGRATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE WITH PRODUCTIVE WORK"

F. COMMUNAL SHARING

1. EVERYTHING SHARED
2. GOODS PRODUCED FOR USE RATHER THAN PROFIT

G. ECOLOGY AND UTOPIA

1. SMALL, ECOLOGICALLY BALANCED COMMUNITIES
2. ECOLOGICAL VIEW OF UTOPIAN COMMUNITY

Death of Nature by Carolyn Merchant

Thesis: The way we view nature affects how we treat it.

Prior to these so called Scientific Revolution the predominant view of Nature in Western Europe was of Nature as an Organism and by extension female. As Human needs changed during the later middle ages, the restraints this organismic view of nature imposed on society were transferred into sanctions for the exploitation of nature and ~~the~~ the female sex.

Chapter 4 ~~The~~ The World an Organism

Neoplatonist natural magic supports pre-scientific revolution view of the world because it's animistic and incarnates non-humanistic materials (e.g. mining)

Everything on the earth makes up the collective "Mother Earth" with this in mind, everything was respected with an animistic view for their ~~spirits~~ spiritual form/presence.

- Organismic ~~thought~~ thought contributed to the rudimentary ecological, philosophical framework out of which ecological science and the conservation of natural resources developed.
- Variations of the organic framework of the Renaissance shared certain presuppositions about nature.
- Aristotle's spherical hierarchy of beings contributed to the interconnectedness of Everything.
 - Neoplatonistic Magic ^{presupposed the idea that nature ~~was~~ ^{could be manipulated} by man} ~~provides a hierarchy to help people realize~~
 - Naturalism viewed nature as a constantly growing, changing, organism
 - Vitalism animated the four elements and put them in dynamic relation to each other
 - Unites ~~en~~ gnostic, stoic, christian, and neo platonist ideas

Ch 5

In this chapter, Merchant discusses the developing notion that women and nature were ~~two~~ ^{multi}-sided: virgins/mothers and witches. ~~and~~ Nature and women were disorderly and in need of man's control.

* Copernicus's ^{heliocentrism} displaced the female earth from the center of the cosmos and replaced it with the masculine sun. This led to a cascade of mixed feelings about nature's value as people struggled with a new world view. The work of Kepler and Galileo challenged the organic view ~~of~~ Kepler of the cosmos and supported the developing mechanical model.

* What followed was an increasingly ~~and~~ pervasive view in art, literature ~~and~~ theology, and public opinion, of woman/nature as dangerously sexual, disorderly, threatening the fabric of society. ~~The~~ ~~supported~~ The witch craze was outgrowth of the fear of ~~the~~ women subverting the social order.

* Science and the witch -
Science originally defended witches, arguing against their responsibility for their actions, being that, based on the humoral system, they were excessively melancholy. However, these early defenders were replaced with the opinion that the melancholy humor was no excuse, and that women were "active instigators"

Super

Not

Christine

*Woman's place in Nature

in The great order of Things, woman's place in Nature is below man's. "Women are devalued by their tasks & roles." There was a strong feeling that women rulers were an abomination, a "woman's role was that of an obedient servant." This could be read as "Nature's role is that of an obedient servant." "If a woman is presumptuous enough to rise above a man, she must be repressed and bridled."

The ~~the~~ fear of the threat of disorder led to the demonization of both women and Nature, and paved the way for the new experimental scientific method to "constrain Nature and probe into her secrets" in order to "improve and civilize society."

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Death of Nature, Carolyn Merchant

① There was a major change in the perceptions of nature from animate to inanimate which resulted in the deterioration of nature and throughout history the fall of women and nature have been almost inter-changeable.

② • As the world shifted from organic to mechanic and the economy moved from sustainable to capitalist. The role of women changed from active to passive.

→ Production

- jobs for women
 - * brewing
 - * mid-wifery
 - * weaving

→ Reproduction

- lose control over mid-wifery
 - * men mid-wives against women getting more educated.
- female anatomy viewed as imperfect
 - * 'incomplete males'
- Superiority for males
 - * even at a biological level the 'perfect, round eggs' were male.
 - * soul of child comes from male
 - * 20th century 'science' has tried to prove female is weaker species

What is Merchant's thesis?

The ^{manipulation of the} views of nature as being ^{and scientific} stereotypically female, in addition to patriarchal society, technological advances, and capitalism encouraged man to feel entitled to exploit nature.

Chapter Seven

"nature exists in three states - at liberty, in error, or in bondage"

- ↳ state 1: nature nurturing herself
- state 2: nature as chaotic, "a common lawless"
- state 3: man as an authority over nature

"the recovery of the power over nature lost when adam & eve were expelled from paradise"

↳ it was caused by the temptation of a woman, so it is man's right to exploit woman / and thus nature to regain that power

"female imagery became a tool in adapting scientific knowledge to a new form of human power over nature"

↳ "the transformation of the earth as a nurturing mother and womb of life into a source of secrets to be extracted for economic advance"

The new Atlantis

↳ As society became more patriarchal and capitalist, women's roles in the workplace, business world, and even the home became diminished, causing women to be more dependant on men, and giving men more power over women and thus nature

↳ also, restrictive clothing laws kept women in their societal place

Capitalism

↳ change in artisan's roles

BACON

1) "...reconceptualizing reality as a machine rather than a living organism, sanctioned the domination of both nature and women."
-XXI

3) Outline of Chap 8: The Mechanical Order

p.193 "The removal of animistic, organic assumptions about the cosmos constituted the death of nature..."

A. The Rise of Mechanism in France

- French Mechanists
1. Martin Marsenne (1588-1648)
 2. Pierre Gassendi (1592-1655)
 3. René Descartes (1596-1650)

B. Hobbes Mechanism and the Social Order

Thomas Hobbes (1640's) continued work begun by French Mechanists.

1. Image Leviathan (p. 211)

a. order, peace, and control

b. Compare with images on p. 110 & 191

new conceptions of self as rational master of passions in a machine-like body

• replaced self as integral part of close-knit organic parts united to cosmos & Society.

• mechanistic world view rises; allows manifestation of next chapter "Mechanism as Power"

p. 214 → Hobbes in Leviathan: father was over given the household
domination }
p. 214 }

Mechanism as Power

Thesis: Prior to the Scientific Revolution nature was viewed as a living entity (the benevolent mother) which gave life and nourishment, as well as order and structure. This living entity, although unable to enforce her rules, served as an ethical constraint to the people. Eventually people realized that through the use of tools mother Earth's bounty could be greater. The use of tools evolved into machines which were used to "take" her harvest as opposed to her giving it to them. Throughout the Scientific Revolution the Earth lost its vitality and spirituality and the Earth was viewed as cold, empty, and inert. As the Earth was viewed as inanimate the ability to destroy it was greater. The loss of mother Earth also left a need for a new world order. Instead of Earth's natural order, humans created the idea of the earth as a machine. As God was the clockmaker, humans followed in his footsteps to make the earth its own machine.

RESTRUCTURING REALITY AROUND THE METAPHOR OF THE MACHINE.



MECHANISM ^{MODELED} ~~OR ORDERED~~ WORLD AFTER MACHINE
MATHEMATICAL LAWS

HUMAN BEING AS OPERATOR

WINDMILLS, WATERWHEELS, CLOCKS,
PUMPS, MILLS, FORGES, BELLOWS,
CRANES, PULLEY,

INCREASING USE OF MACHINES

WINDMILLS - POWER CLOCKS - ORDER

GOD - ORDER & POWER

GEARED THINGS

TRANSFORMATION OF ^{HUMAN} LIFE UNDER MACHINES & INDUSTRY

GOD - COSMIC CLOCKMAKER CREATED WORLD, SET IT IN MOTION

THE WORLD IS A BIG, ~~WORLD~~ INANIMATE MACHINE, NOT A BIG, LOVING LADY

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT NATURE OF REALITY
WENT PARTICLES ~~ARE~~ ^{ARE} ACTED ON BY OUTSIDE FORCES
REALITY CAN BE TAKEN APART INTO MATHEMATICALLY DISCRETE PARTS FOR ANALYSIS

REALITY BUILT LIKE A MACHINE

MADE OF PARTS // MADE OF ATOMS

GIVE PARTICULATE INFORMATION // CONSISTS OF DISCRETE INFO BITS

ORDER & REGULARITY // ASSUMES TO FOLLOW LAWS & RULES

OPERATED IN LIMITED SPECIFIC PART OF TOTALITY // BASED ON CONTEXTFREE ABSTRACTION

GIVE US POWER OVER NATURE // GIVES US POWER TO CONTROL & MANIPULATE

↑
MACHINES

↑
17th C. MECHANISM

CH 8 MECHANISM AS POWER

J. MARIS

Carolyn Merchant, Death of Nature

Allison
Becky
Cooper
Rebecca
Valoree
Kevin

Thesis:

- ① Greed killed nature, and through exploitation we will destroy ourselves. ② The mechanistic viewpoint, developed & supported by men, was responsible for death of (female) nature.

Chapter 12

Focus on Newton & Leibniz, two leaders of Scientific Revolution. Both are widely known for work in math & physics. Both are examples of how one can have vigorous mathematical understanding of nature without accepting every aspect of mechanical philosophy, esp. that "nature is dead."

Newton: Mechanist in public (Principia, Optics)
quote on p. 277

But he expressed doubts in unpublished work, especially when thinking about fermentation & living things.

Vitalist in private (Queries)
quote on p. 286

Leibniz: Expressed both mechanist & vitalist ideas.

See quote "Some philosophers..." (p. 289)