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**11.363: Response Paper 3**  
**1 March 2005**

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The articles this week describe and analyze the role of transnational environmental organizations in international politics. The authors go to some length to precisely define different moments in the environmental movement, different types of environmental organizations, and different strategies used by those organizations. However, the central idea appeared quite simple: environmental NGOs affect international politics primarily not only through their interaction with states, but also through shaping the values and behavioral norms of individuals and corporations.

Wapner's "Politics Beyond the State" focuses on the impact of transnational environmental activist groups (TEAGs) on international politics. Merely measuring the influence of NGOs on states does not capture the full scope of these organizations' role in global civil society. Rather than applying a "state-centric" international relations lens, Wapner asserts that TEAGs' work to affect norms, cultural values, and perceptions to promote an "ecological sensibility". These changes occur in a number of different actors, from individuals, to corporations, to states and are promoted largely through strategic use of the media and high-profile actions on environmental issues. These tactics expose wide audiences to previously hidden examples of environmental abuse and help to convey the gravity of these abuses. He uses evidence of a growing environmental ethic reported in public opinion surveys and examples of voluntary changes in corporate practices as support for this sort of cultural drift and the impact of TEAGs. The author makes clear that he still believes states play a primary role in world politics, but that this should not obscure an understanding of the impact of NGOs and social movements as well.

Tamiotti and Finger describe a typology of environmental organizations (nature organizations, grassroots/social movement opposition, and global organizations, emerging over time) and the various functions that these organizations most frequently play in global politics (participation in international decision-making; implementation of environmental agreements; and compliance monitoring). While all of these functions are significant, Tamiotti and Finger identify monitoring as an opportunity for greater NGO impact in the international arena. Conservation ecology, political ecology, and global ecology are the theories and movements supporting environmental organizations. The authors argue that NGOs and states interact not through harmonious global governance, but through strategic interplay and unstable, mutual dependency. Their description of states' strategic use of NGOs for information and credibility seems accurate and more nuanced than some of the previous analysis of governance.

Wapner's "Horizontal Politics": while I enjoyed the other Wapner piece, I found this article to be redundant to the other article in terms of main points, and less specific or well written in terms of the details. Essentially, Wapner seems to be making a call for a greater recognition of the role that NGOs (specifically transnational activist or advocacy groups) play in international relations. He offers some examples of the way in which NGOs affect cultural change, though less precisely than he described the generation of an "ecological sensibility" previously. He contrasts this cultural affect on environmental regimes (rules and principles that guide behavior) with the coercion used by states in international relations, while also noting the dialectical "overlap"

between culture and policy. . Wapner notes that perhaps one of the reasons these cultural impacts are not generally discussed is that they are hard to evaluate and measure.