
Books

One-world ideologues are major force behind ecological doomsday theories

by Doug Mallouk

Environmental Overkill: Whatever Happened to Common Sense?

by Dixy Lee Ray, with Lou Guzzo
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Is the truth finally catching up with the political fraud known as radical environmentalism? Recently, U.S. media outlets have suddenly taken to puncturing a number of key “greenie” myths that they themselves had been actively puffing up seemingly only the day before.

On April 15, the *Washington Post* let its readers in on a little secret that *EIR* subscribers, among others, have known for quite a while: The so-called ozone hole—to the extent it exists at all—is actually a natural, cyclical, and, therefore, self-repairing phenomenon, not at all the man-made disaster portrayed by the “sky is falling” crowd. In late March, the *New York Times* ran a five-part series demonstrating in detail that the major scares over allegedly toxic substances of the last two decades, from alar to dioxin, were based on a level of scientific incompetence that would make any reasonably intelligent grade-school student blanch. And with publications like the *Detroit News* and the *Baltimore Sun* following suit, we may soon see even the supposedly dead issue of nuclear energy exhumed for renewed public debate in the nation’s press.

This is not to suggest by any means that the U.S. financial establishment and its kept news media have miraculously decided to abandon the last quarter-century of zero-growth malthusian lunacy and to return the country to a sane policy of scientific and industrial progress. On the contrary, the eco-fascist agenda is closer than ever to being implemented, as will become clear below.

Nonetheless, when the chinks in the armor of the anti-science mob have become so glaring that even their erstwhile boosters in the press can’t (or won’t) cover for them, it means

that now, with the right kind of weapons, pro-growth forces might at long last reverse the decades-long environmentalist assault on the agricultural and industrial capacity of the West.

Environmental Overkill, by former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman and former governor of Washington State Dixy Lee Ray, is just such a weapon. Written in collaboration with Seattle newsman Lou Guzzo, it is in one sense a follow-up to her 1990 *Trashing the Planet*, a devastating attack on greenie pseudo-science.

But her latest work has a considerably sharper political edge than any of her previous writings.

Shock troops for the new world order

Dr. Ray wastes no time establishing her fundamental premise: The gaggle of well-funded organizations and the radical activists constituting the core of the present-day environmentalist “movement” are not about saving the biosphere or any other such commendable objective. Their actual function is to pave the way for a world government apparatus that will override the system of independent nations to implement a disastrous program of global deindustrialization.

Is her hypothesis based on some wild interpolation or on access to the secret councils of the movement’s leaders? No, she simply reports what they openly say. Maurice Strong, a spokesman for the proudly pro-genocide Club of Rome, who was made secretary general of the 1992 U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro, blurted out the following “fictional” scenario to a magazine interviewer just before the so-called Earth Summit: “What if a small group of world leaders were to conclude that the principal risk to the Earth comes from the actions of the rich countries? And if the world is to survive, those rich countries would have to sign an agreement reducing their impact on the environment. Will they do it? The group’s conclusion is no. The rich countries won’t change. So, in order to save the planet, the group decides: Isn’t the *only* hope for the planet that the industrialized civilizations collapse? Isn’t it our responsibility to bring that about? This group of world leaders forms a secret society to bring about an economic collapse.”

Making it clear that Strong’s horrific fantasy is in fact

operational, Dr. Ray asks the obvious question: Just what ecological catastrophe is so frighteningly imminent as to cause Americans to give up both a large part of their living standards and their political freedoms for the cold comfort of the new world order? She then proceeds to systematically dismantle both the scientific pretensions and the underlying world outlook of the greenies, upon whom she constantly plays the nastiest dirty trick imaginable: She quotes them.

For example, she offers a cogent explanation of why Mother Nature has so bitterly disappointed the “global warming” scare-mongers by obstinately refusing over the last several years to conform to their computer model projections of a sharp increase in global mean temperature, exhibiting instead a statistically meaningless rise of one-half degree over the 20th century. She shows that not only does man-made production of the “villain” gas, carbon dioxide, pale in comparison to natural sources of that compound; but also that CO₂ from all sources has nothing close to the “greenhouse” effect of that far more dangerous gas, water vapor, the cause of fully 98% of all greenhouse warming!

For comic relief, she cites at length a series of dire warnings made by environmental crusaders in the mid-'70s on the subject of unnatural climatic changes. It turns out that the same Chicken Littles currently demanding draconian cutbacks in industrial activity and a sharp worldwide decrease in living standards to avert the dread threat of global warming were screeching less than two decades ago that we needed draconian cutbacks in industrial activity and a sharp worldwide decrease in living standards to avert the looming disaster of—global cooling and the new Ice Age!

The entirely concocted ozone scare gets similar treatment. Referring to the definitive book on *The Holes in the Ozone Scare*, by Lyndon LaRouche's associates Rogelio Maduro and Ralf Schauerhammer, Dr. Ray points out that just the 1813 volcanic explosion of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia produced as much atmospheric chlorine (allegedly responsible for depletion of stratospheric ozone) as 282 years of human production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) at peak levels—a good 100-odd years into the future; that, contrary to the computer-simulated projections of the fuzzy “theorists,” ultraviolet radiation levels hitting the planet have secularly decreased; and that even in the worst case, the increased radiation “risk” from hypothetical ozone loss over an entire century is about equal to moving 100 miles closer to the equator—say from Baltimore to Richmond.

Yet to solve this non-problem, a global ban on CFCs (critical for refrigeration and air-conditioning) will go into effect as early as 1995, with catastrophic impact on the worldwide cold chain, threatening 20-40 million people with death through starvation and food-borne disease.

Once more, Dr. Ray gets the most damning self-indictments straight from the scenarists. Listen to former deputy assistant secretary of state for environment Richard Benedick, whom she describes as an “unelected population-control bureaucrat,” expounding upon the great “achievements” of



Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, speaking at the National Press Club last spring, exposed the one-worldists behind the June 1992 so-called Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which determined to ban CFCs by the end of the century in his book *Ozone Diplomacy*: “The most extraordinary aspect of the treaty was its imposition of short-term economic costs to protect against *unproved future dangers*” that, he readily admits, “*rested on scientific theories rather than firm data*,” at a time when “no measurable evidence of damage existed.” Benedick further notes that the treaty mandated “replacing products that had become synonymous with modern standards of living even though the requisite technologies did not yet exist” and brags that “the signatory countries sounded the death knell for an important part of the international **chemical industry**, with implications for billions of dollars in investments and hundreds of thousands of jobs in related sectors” (all emphasis is Dr. Ray’s).

The only thing Benedick fails to add is that this historic agreement was reached through the subtle diplomatic tactic of threatening vicious trade embargoes especially against Third World countries reluctant to sign on—a textbook-classic example of how the new world order mafia uses a “green” cover to crush national sovereignty and economic development. As Dr. Ray comments: “Preventing Third World countries from building modern refrigeration systems is one of the stated goals of the population control environmentalists.”

How DDT refuted Malthus

Dr. Ray goes on to develop a frontal assault on the hoary malthusian premise that an arithmetic growth in food production is colliding with a geometric increase in population, necessitating a culling of the human “herd.” Describing the truly revolutionary advances in agriculture made through modern hybridization techniques, soil science, and controlled pesticide and fertilizer use, Dr. Ray quickly dispenses with the silly anti-pesticide polemics of the low-technology

“organic farming” crowd and poses the fundamental issue: If, for the first time in 6,000 years of recorded human progress, mankind has finally achieved the technological capacity for food self-sufficiency, who would want to attack that? Her answer: Those who are committed to depopulation out of political preference, not scientific necessity.

DDT is the case-in-point she uses for illustration. Without any adverse effects on human health, this remarkable insecticide prevented more human death and disease than any man-made chemical in recorded history, before being banned in 1972. And that, says Dr. Ray, “was just the problem with DDT. It saved human lives.”

“For example,” she continues, “in response to a reporter’s question about banning DDT, Dr. Charles Wurster, who was then chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, stated that in his opinion there are too many people and ‘this is as good a way to get rid of them as any.’ Another statement of Dr. Wurster’s was brought out in congressional testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture in 1971: ‘It doesn’t really make a lot of difference because the organophosphate [pesticide] acts locally and only kills farm workers, and most of them are Mexicans and Negroes.’ ” Dr. Ray notes that “there is no record of any media or public reaction to this shocking statement.”

Having thus established that the environmental radicals are actually technophobes and racist depopulationists rather than *bona fide* defenders of the environment, she develops some examples of how their hostility toward industrial progress has actually resulted in major harm to the biosphere. Most notable is the undeniable damage done to the world’s rain forests and global climate patterns by slash-and-burn agriculture, the subject of much anguished bleating from the greenies. Citing a 1992 report prepared by the Schiller Institute, Dr. Ray points out that ironically this reversion to primitive methods of food and fuel production has been caused principally by two factors: first, the insistence by the International Monetary Fund that debt-strapped nations cut their energy imports to near-zero in order to service the debt; and second, the loud demands of the environmentalists themselves that oil-poor countries like Brazil scrap any plans for nuclear energy in favor of biomass—burning animal waste and, yes, wood as an energy source.

Eco-follies and crimes

Otherwise, *Environmental Overkill* is a highly useful catalogue of greenie inanities ranging from comical escapades to real crimes against humanity. Among them:

- The cost of preserving the habitat of the celebrated Spotted Owl in losses to the timber and related industries amounts to \$96 million per pair of owls! This is a fairly hefty price to pay for a critter that is neither endangered in fact nor even a species. By comparison, the cost of cleaning up sea otters affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill was a mere \$80,000 per otter.

- Anchorage, Alaska found a unique way to comply with

an Environmental Protection Agency regulation mandating a 30% increase in removal of organic waste from its sewage. Having concentrations of waste too minute to measure, the city invited three local fish-processing plants to dump fish waste in the sewers so that officials could then have it removed!

- More ominously, EPA is now handing out tidy sums such as the \$50,000 given to the Chicago-area Sierra Club “Swamp Squad”—a group of vigilantes who spy on any developer or landlord who might be draining an insect-ridden, disease-bearing marsh for some useful human purpose. And bounties are now being paid to people who bring any environmental infringement by their neighbors to the attention of the authorities.

- “Don’t Confuse Me With The Facts” Department: Congress allocated \$500 million in 1980 for a definitive study of the effects of acid rain. The first report in 1987 said that the harm done to forests and lakes was not catastrophic, but minor and treatable, with moderate amounts of acidity even downright beneficial to crop yields. The first study director, Dr. J. Laurence Kulp, was promptly fired by the EPA, and his replacement, Dr. James Mahoney, was directed to rewrite the report and repudiate its findings. He refused. The study was then ignored, Congress passed the Clean Air Act of 1990, and the nation now has a \$40 billion bill to combat acid rain.

Lacking: a positive vision

There are two related areas where Dr. Ray’s work falls distinctly short. One is her citation of University of Maryland business administration Prof. Julian Simon’s writings as a healthy alternative to the murderous zero-growth policies of the eco-fascists. Simon is not the optimal travel guide on the road to industrial progress. While his refutations of various malthusian doomsday scenarios with respect to soil erosion, depletion of natural resources, and the so-called population explosion are both accurate and useful, his polemic against the greenie Cassandras takes the form of turning himself into the Polyanna of the Free Market: “Things aren’t getting worse, but better” would not be an unfair paraphrase of his dismissal of any looming ecological crisis.

In fact the world is facing a breakdown of the biosphere that does, indeed, threaten human existence, as the case of Africa portends. This is absolutely not due to any naturally inherent limits to growth, but precisely because of the entirely unnatural policy of “free market” looting that the IMF has imposed. Not to recognize this threat and not to attack its ideological underpinnings would be the most gigantic error that genuinely pro-growth forces could possibly make.

The second shortcoming is Dr. Ray’s inadequate discussion of non-regressive approaches to such real problems as pollution control and genuine environmental maintenance. Here presents itself a great opportunity to explain the enormous environmental (as well as economic) benefits of superseding existing automotive transportation technologies with a combination of magnetically levitated train systems and

non-polluting, hydrogen-fueled cars; or the profound advantages of eliminating fossil fuel pollution with highly efficient energy technologies such as magnetohydrodynamics, rather than trying to catch every tiny particulate with smokestack scrubbers; or even the enormous "greening" effect that the long-stalled development of major freshwater projects would have in the western United States. But Dr. Ray does none of this, confining herself to the rather pedestrian suggestion that planting lots of ivy in major urban areas would help absorb unwanted emissions of carbon monoxide.

Whence comes this apparent lack of boldness and vision? Simple: In a national political climate dominated by hysteria over the federal deficit, on top of almost three decades of drug-ridden cultural decay, the very idea of great pioneering projects to drive the nation sharply forward is met with snickers and sneers. To combat this cynicism, the forces of scientific optimism absolutely need the depth of outlook of an Alexander Hamilton—who pulled the young United States out of a bankruptcy crisis, not through fiscal austerity, but by massively increasing "government spending" on large-scale productivity-boosting infrastructure projects. Without that, it is possible for even top-rate scientists like Dr. Ray to get dragged down.

Environmentalists thrown on the defensive

These flaws are dwarfed by the positive accomplishments of the book. Just how defensive the environmentalists have

become is made evident by the June 11 issue of *Science*, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, whose outgoing president Dr. Sherwood Rowland is considered the godfather of the ozone depletion theory. Backtracking to admit that there are some "uncertainties" and that ozone depletion proponents have engaged in certain "exaggerations," *Science* nonetheless doggedly defends the core of the theory and fearlessly exposes an insidious political plot to spread skepticism about it.

The pipeline of information against the ozone hoax, we are told, begins with Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, is picked up and transmitted by Dixy Lee Ray through her books, and ends up being retailed to the large audience of talk-radio mega-star Rush Limbaugh, somehow even seeping into the "mainstream" media in the process. That the LaRouche movement has now hooked up in a grand conspiracy with the likes of Bush-man Limbaugh (and perhaps also the editorial board of the *New York Times*) against the beleaguered greenies is certainly a novel and highly imaginative construct. But remember, it comes from the people who gave us the ozone scare in the first place.

Let us extend compassion to these creatures. For example, no one should attack the poor environmentalists just for ignoring all the empirical data and sticking to their story on global warming. After all, thanks in large measure to political fighters like Dixy Lee Ray, they themselves are suddenly feeling an awful lot of heat.

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