

## 8.13 The Environment and Natural Resources from 1968 to 1980

Theme: Geography and the Environment

**Learning Objective 8.0:** Explain how and why policies related to the environment developed and changed from 1968 to 1980.

### National Energy Policy

KC-8.1.II.D: Ideological, military, and economic concerns shaped U.S. involvement in the Middle East, with several oil crises in the region eventually sparking attempts at creating a national energy policy.

- \_\_\_\_\_ over support of Israel
  - Gasoline shortage in the US
  - Consumers conscious of gas-mileage, hurts American \_\_\_\_\_
  - Speed limits lowered to \_\_\_\_\_ mph
- Attempts at self sufficiency
  - Nuclear Power most efficient, unpopular after \_\_\_\_\_ meltdown

### Environmental Movements

KC-8.2.II.D: Environmental problems and accidents led to a growing environmental movement that aimed to use legislative and public efforts to combat pollution and protect natural resources. The federal government established new environmental programs and regulations.

- Problems and Accidents
  - Use of \_\_\_\_\_ - impact in Rachel Carson's in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cuyahoga River - oil slick in river caught fire
  - \_\_\_\_\_ toxic waste site, cleaned up with \_\_\_\_\_
- Legislative Efforts
  - Wilderness Act (19684), \_\_\_\_\_ (EPA) 1970, Clean Air Act (1970), \_\_\_\_\_ (1970)  
Endangered Species Act (1973), Clean Water Act (1977), Superfund Act (1980)

### Recap

- The United States looked to increase its energy independence after the oil embargo
- Environmental disasters prompted government action and regulation of environmental use and natural resources

**Part II**

**Short Answer Questions**

Answer the following in AT LEAST three sentences.

1. Explain how and why policies related to the environment developed and changed from 1968 to 1980.

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***Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson (1962)**

The history of life on earth has been a history of interaction between living things and their surroundings. To a large extent, the physical form and the habits of the earth's vegetation and its animal life have been molded by the environment. Considering the whole span of earthly time, the opposite effect, in which life actually modifies its surroundings, has been relatively slight. Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species—man—acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.

During the past quarter century this power has not only increased to one of disturbing magnitude but it has changed in character. The most alarming of all man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with dangerous and even lethal materials. This pollution is for the most part irrecoverable; the chain of evil it initiates not only in the world that must support life but in living tissues is for the most part irreversible. In this now universal contamination of the environment, chemicals are the sinister and little-recognized partners of radiation in changing the very nature of the world—the very nature of its life. Strontium 90, released through nuclear explosions into the air, comes to the earth in rain or drifts down as fallout, lodges in soil, enters into the grass or corn or wheat grown there, and in time takes up its abode in the bones of a human being, there to remain until his death. Similarly, chemicals sprayed on croplands or forests or gardens lie long in the soil, entering into living organisms, passing from one to another in a chain of poisoning and death. Or they pass mysteriously by underground streams until they emerge and, through the alchemy of air and sunlight, combine into new forms that kill vegetation, sicken cattle, and work unknown harm on those who drink from once pure wells. As Albert Schweitzer has said, "Man can hardly even recognize the devils of his own creation."

1. Provide an Attribution for the document:
2. Use the document to support the thesis: "Policies related to the environment became more stringent as the impact of a growing population took a toll in rural and urban areas."
3. Choose one of the analysis topics from HAPP and provide a 2 sentence analysis of the document.
4. Give an A-C-E response on a piece of outside evidence that is relevant to the document and topic of the thesis

**Clean Air Act, 1963**

(a) Findings

The Congress finds—

(1) that the predominant part of the Nation's population is located in its rapidly expanding metropolitan and other urban areas, which generally cross the boundary lines of local jurisdictions and often extend into two or more States;

(2) that the growth in the amount and complexity of air pollution brought about by urbanization, industrial development, and the increasing use of motor vehicles, has resulted in mounting dangers to the public health and welfare, including injury to agricultural crops and livestock, damage to and the deterioration of property, and hazards to air and ground transportation;

(3) that air pollution prevention (that is, the reduction or elimination, through any measures, of the amount of pollutants produced or created at the source) and air pollution control at its source is the primary responsibility of States and local governments; and

(4) that Federal financial assistance and leadership is essential for the development of cooperative Federal, State, regional, and local programs to prevent and control air pollution.

(b) Declaration

The purposes of this subchapter are—

(1) to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population...

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**7. Choose one of the analysis topics from HAPP and provide a 2 sentence analysis of the document.**

**8. Give an A-C-E response on a piece of outside evidence that is relevant to the document and topic of the thesis**