Taylor Patterson

Ecuador Field Experience

Title: Hypotheses from Ecuador

Chapter 8

This last chapter in the book happens to be the most important out of all of them. The other chapters provided a great deal of information but this one sums up all of the ideas and all of the information gathered throughout her research. This chapter is going to give us recaps on what was said in the chapters throughout and what she wanted us to really take in from the text.

The hypothesis that I chose from this chapter is “Environmental movement organizations (ecodependents) will compete with each other over funding, thus weakening the movement). This hypothesis has played a big role in Ecuador and how they receive funding for groups/organizations. I find this hypothesis to be important because if the organizations don’t come together and constantly fight to see who's better then nothing will get done and then groups will start to fail. These groups rely on funding from other countries and they primarily focused on the environmental pillar of sustainability and when sustainable development became a buzz word they expanded to include the economic pillar of sustainability to their portfolio. With the help of transitional funding, ecodependants exerted their political power and created numerous changes in the state. This included new institutions dedicated to the environment and national conferences to discuss sustainability.

The other hypothesis that I chose because I couldn’t choose only one is “increased resource extraction will lead to increased environmental disruptions”. This hypothesis was talked about a lot throughout this book and mostly talked about when the Yasuni-ITT pipeline was put in and prepared for drilling in the earth. I think this hypothesis has already shown that it is in fact correct. The effects of extracting from the earth has damaging effects on the earth by greenhouse gases being admitted into the air during the extraction. The waged grassroots, local campaigns against extraction that raised awareness and led communities to seek alternatives to extraction.

This book overall was great and I think Tammy Lewis organized her 40 years of knowledge pretty well. The only thing that I didn’t like about the book was that her thoughts and Ideas were all over and some chapters I didn’t know what to put until I read ahead and really understood what she was talking about or the point she was trying to get across. The information throughout this book has been eye opening and before reading I never truly knew how much of an impact the United States has on Ecuador. When 911 happened here in the country you never heard about Ecuador taking a toll from the collapse of their economy because our world was crashing down but in that moment so was there's. It might be weird to compare those two stories like this but we were both going through a terrible event. I feel like as an environmental scientist I have gained insight about what those two words really mean. It's not just recycling and picking up trash on the side of the road, its taking a stand for what you know is right and having your planet have a voice. We the people need to stand up for each other and come together and start to make some changes. I think Tammy’s knowledge was abundant and I overall really enjoyed how she put this book together. We need Ecuador without Ecuador there would be no earth.

*Lewis, T. L. (2016). Ecuador's environmental revolutions: ecoimperialists, ecodependents, and ecoresisters. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.*