

KEY TERMS

What is ecofeminism?

"Ecofeminism is an activist and academic movement that sees critical connections between the domination of nature and the exploitation of women..."

-- Lois Ann Lorentzen, University of San Francisco, and Heather Eaton, Saint Paul University (2002).

"Ecofeminism is a movement that sees a connection between the exploitation and degradation of the natural world and the subordination and oppression of women. It emerged in the mid-1970s alongside second-wave feminism and the green movement. Ecofeminism brings together elements of the feminist and green movements, while at the same time offering a challenge to both. It takes from the green movement a concern about the impact of human activities on the non-human world and from feminism the view of humanity as gendered in ways that subordinate, exploit and oppress women."

-- From the introduction to "Feminism & Ecology" by Mary Mellor, New York University Press, 1997, p.1

What is feminism?

"Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression."

--bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody*.

"Feminism is a belief that although women and men are inherently of equal worth, most societies privilege men as a group. As a result, social movements are necessary to achieve political equality between women and men, with the understanding that gender always intersects with other social hierarchies."

--Estelle Freedman

What is patriarchy?

"The word "patriarchy" comes from Greek; *patria* means father and *arché* means rule, and thus patriarchy means rule of the father. The anthropological definition of patriarchy is that men tend to dominate in society through their positions of power; the majority of higher economic, political, industrial, financial, religious and social positions are governed by men. Olausson (1992) uses in her work the definition of patriarchy from the Webster Dictionary: "Patriarchy is a social organization marked by the supremacy of the father in class of family in both domestic and religious functions, the legal dependence of wife or wives and children and the reckoning of descent and inheritance in the male line" (p.102).

--Naheed Qasim, Shehnaz Mehboob, Zainab Akram and Hajira Masrour in *International Journal of Asian Social Science*

"Systemic societal structures that institutionalise male physical, social and economic power over women. Some feminists use the concept of patriarchy to explain the systematic subordination of women by both overarching and localised structures. These

structures work to the benefit of men by constraining women's life choices and chances...the roots of patriarchy are often located in women's reproductive role and sexual violence, interwoven with processes of capitalist exploitation. The main 'sites' of patriarchal oppression have been identified as housework, paid work, the state, culture, sexuality, and violence. Behaviours that discriminate against women because of their gender are seen as patriarchal 'practices'; for example occupational segregation, exclusion, and unequal pay."

--Hazel Reeves and Sally Baden, BRIDGE Institute of Development Studies

What is deep ecology?

"The distinguishing and original characteristics of the deep ecology movement were its recognition of the inherent value of all living beings and the use of this view in shaping environmental policies. Those who work for social changes based on this recognition are motivated by love of nature as well as for humans. They recognize that we cannot go on with industrialism's "business as usual." Without changes in basic values and practices, we will destroy the diversity and beauty of the world, and its ability to support diverse human cultures."

--Alan Drengson, "Some Thought on the Deep Ecology Movement."

"Deep ecology is founded on two basic principles: one is a scientific insight into the interrelatedness of all systems of life on Earth, together with the idea that *anthropocentrism* – human-centeredness – is a misguided way of seeing things. Deep ecologists say that an *ecocentric* attitude is more consistent with the truth about the nature of life on Earth. Instead of regarding humans as something completely unique or chosen by God, they see us as integral threads in the fabric of life...The second component of deep ecology is what Arnie Naess calls the need for human self-realization. Instead of identifying with our egos or our immediate families, we would learn to identify with trees and animals and plants, indeed the whole ecosphere."

--Michael E. Zimmerman, "Introduction to Deep Ecology."

What is Matriarchy?

1. "They practice small scale agriculture and achieve equality through gift-giving as a social custom."
2. "...egalitarian, matrilocal and matrilineal...Women and men are defined by their connection to the maternal clan which holds land in common."
3. "They have well-developed systems of consensus decision-making that insure that everyone's voice is heard and considered."
4. "They honor the principles of care, love and generosity which they associate with motherhood and teach both genders to express. They often view the Earth as a Great Mother."

--By Carol P. Christ (summarizing the work of Heidi Goether-Abendroth's book *Societies of Peace: Matriarchies Past, Present and Future*. (from: feminismandreligion.com)