Social ecology is an ideological, political and cultural branch of ecology that searches for the answers to ecological questions in the social sphere. It's main hypothesis is a critique of the domination mentality, highlighted by the structure of civilization, as being the root of all ecological and social problems.

**CIVIC LITERACY**

**Purpose + Structure of Government**

Social Ecology supports a decentralized government, allowing for a community based state to form and for citizens to be engaged and heard by their representatives. It does not support capitalism, which I will address more thoroughly in the ECONOMICS section, for it views capitalism as being inherently oppressive and particularly so in the highly centralized world we live in today.

**Positive Change**

Social Ecology only exists *because* there are problems with the human collective that are affecting the planet. Therefore it is all about actualizing utopia. I could go on and on about problems it proposes solutions for, but the rest of my writing will demonstrate that sufficiently.

**Social Sciences**

Social ecology covers all seven social sciences. I will give an example for each in the form of a statement SE supports.

Economics - Capitalism is an example of an evolving domination mentality, illustrated by it's "grow or die" philosophy that is inherently deadly in a world with finite resources. An example of this claim is that the GDP increases when forests are clear cut and more people are diagnosed with cancer.

Sociology - The male will commonly attempt to dominate the female in interactions for security, leaning back on the framework of thousands of years of institutionalized patriarchy.

Social Science - The centralized form of oligarchy that exists as American government today creates an environment in which the average person has very little freedom to change the system, and therefore is forced to live out a hopeless story.

History and Anthropology - The era pre-domination mentality was the Neolithic era which was a time of peace between the sexes, reciprocity, collective ownership, and no ecological destruction (in comparison to what is common today.) An example of this is called a gift economy, which is prevalent in many tribalistic societies. In this economy, the person who gives the most to others is given the most respect.

Psychology - The domination mentality must be fixed within the minds of each individual, it exists there as a parasite, colonizing the mind with the ethical crisis of abuse of power.

Geography - The physical world is being destroyed for as long as man dominates others, he cannot help but to dominate all else.

**Perspectives**

An example of a perspective I commonly debate with is the idea of green capitalism. Within the frameworks of our super capitalist world, socialism and communism are destined to fail because they are not designed to accumulate capital. We live in a system that awards greater power with greater freedom, and in a free-market world, power comes with money Therefore, socialism and communism will deliver a starving society within the frameworks of a capitalist world. Incentives for money are the destruction of the ecosystem and lowering workers wages. We need to design an entirely new world system if we are to see past capitalism and our problems.

**ECONOMICS**

**Systems**

An example of economic systems I have compared are capitalism, communism, and mutualism. The founder of social ecology, Murray Bookchin, wrote about how communism is an incomplete evaluation of capitalism. He writes that this is because oppression and domination go beyond class society, that the framework for this is statist hierarchy and to fix the problems of oppression would have to also get rid of hierarchy. So while I believe that Marx's critique of capitalism is very enlightening, his solution is not ideal. Bookchin takes it back to tribal times for clues as to how we may improve our world. Mutualism is the most common type of ecological interaction, and it simply means a mutually beneficial interaction. Examples of this economically within tribal life include reciprocity and collective ownership. Within a sharing (collective) economy, all is owned by all. If something is not being used, it belongs to whoever needs it until they no longer need it. Those who share most have most respect, and no one has abundance unless everyone has enough.

I will now give an example of each of these system's impact on society / culture:

Capitalism - citizens are powerless without money and therefore slaves to the system.

Communism - citizens are powerless to their government and therefore may feel their lives are meaningless.

Mutualism - citizens are a part of a big family in which all the work they do directly contributes to the family's health and they get to see it happen (and therefore may feel connected to each individual).

**Allocation**

Within a capitalist economy it makes the most sense to allocate resources to those that will pay the most money for it. This could work by either allocating them to where demand is the highest (supply probably scarce) or where wealth is concentrated.

**Market Forces**

Supply and demand are market forces, meaning they drive and determine the climate of the market. For example, if supply is high demand will be lower.

**Ideology**

My claim for the role of government in economy is based off of the ideals of a sharing economy - those who give the most deserve the most respect. This philosophy would create leaders who use their power to make sure every citizen is happy and healthy. My evidence is the clear egalitarianism demonstrated by communities that live this way.

**Change**

I will give an example for each area of a way that current economics influences change.

Environmental - According to the laws of society which equate profit with growth, destruction of nature in the form of "resources" is also equated with growth.

Political - The most power is given to those with the most money, therefore politicians are more likely to act on receiving power and money than social improvement which is not incentivized with $ or power.

Social - Social change is determined by the majority of people and therefore least wealth, this means that change from the lower classes is the most difficult to achieve as it is not backed by money and power and also has no incentive.

**Decisions**

I will give an example that serves as a cultural / capitalist critique for each.

Consumer : In a society growing more and more dominated by $, the role of the consumer is increasingly the only meaning and larger than life purpose the common person can fit into.

Producer : Will have incentive to charge the least to make most sales and profit, to allow this to happen they must find cheap goods and labor to sell.

Saver : A saver must commonly sacrifice present goods and services for future ones from the accumulated wealth they saved.

Investor : Investors must attempt to predict the unpredictable - the future.

**HISTORY**

**Cause and Effect**

An example of a historical event I will give cause and effect for is the climate crisis. Humanity has incentivized and rewarding the stealing of peoples homes, the stealing of their labor, and the stealing of the Earth's resources. This is the cause and the effect is the climate crisis.

**Historical Themes**

Colonization is a common historical theme. It is how the wealthiest places have commonly grown to have the culture they have. I infer that this theme is due to the incentivization of stealing things - money associated with power.

**CULTURE**

**Beliefs and Practices**

Example: Lack of Wealth...

Capitalism: is caused by not working hard enough.

Sharing Economy: is caused by a dysfunctional society.