

*Beyond ecocidal growth:
the end of more and the start of
better*

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DO SOMETHING, YOU BUNCH OF MANIACS!

WELL! IT'S EASY TO JUST CRITICIZE, YOUNG LADY...

...AND I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT AN ALTERNATIVE ALL WORKED OUT, HAVE YOU?

HYSTERICAL ECO-FANATICS! ALWAYS TELLING PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE...

GET YOURSELF A PROPER JOB!



'STEADY AS SHE GOES'

Green Political Economy

Post-growth political economy

Beyond 'orthodox, undifferentiated economic growth as a permanent feature of the economy' (Barry, 2016)

Beyond GDP measurements of the economy

For four principal reasons

- Ecological sustainability & climate stability;
- Socio-economic equality;
- Human flourishing;
- Democratic politics and democratisation.

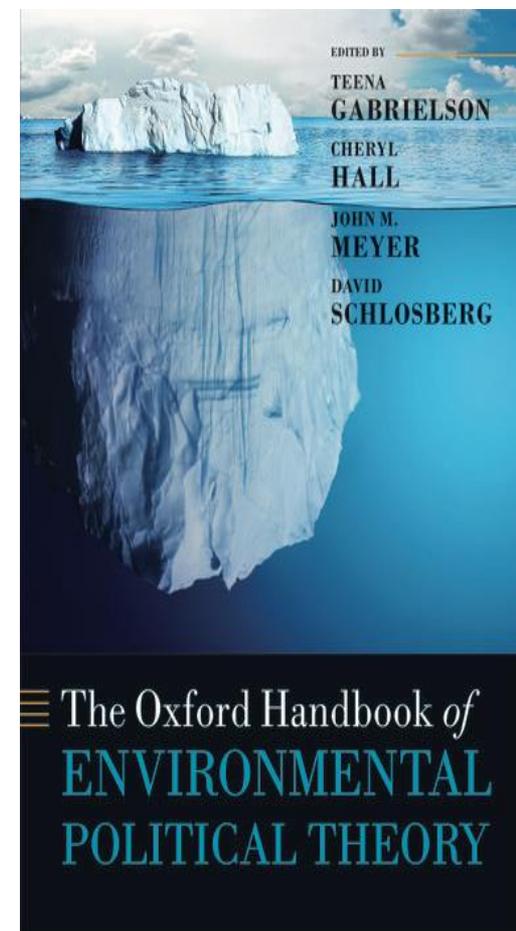
CHAPTER 20

GREEN POLITICAL ECONOMY

*Beyond Orthodox Undifferentiated Economic Growth
as a Permanent Feature of the Economy*

JOHN BARRY

INTRODUCTION: ORIGINS AND OVERVIEW
OF GREEN POLITICAL ECONOMY



Growth, cancer and thresholds

Exponential, undifferentiated economic growth as a permanent objective or feature of the economy

Exponential –

the capitalist economy either ‘grows and goes’ each year or it collapses like a bicycle

Undifferentiated –

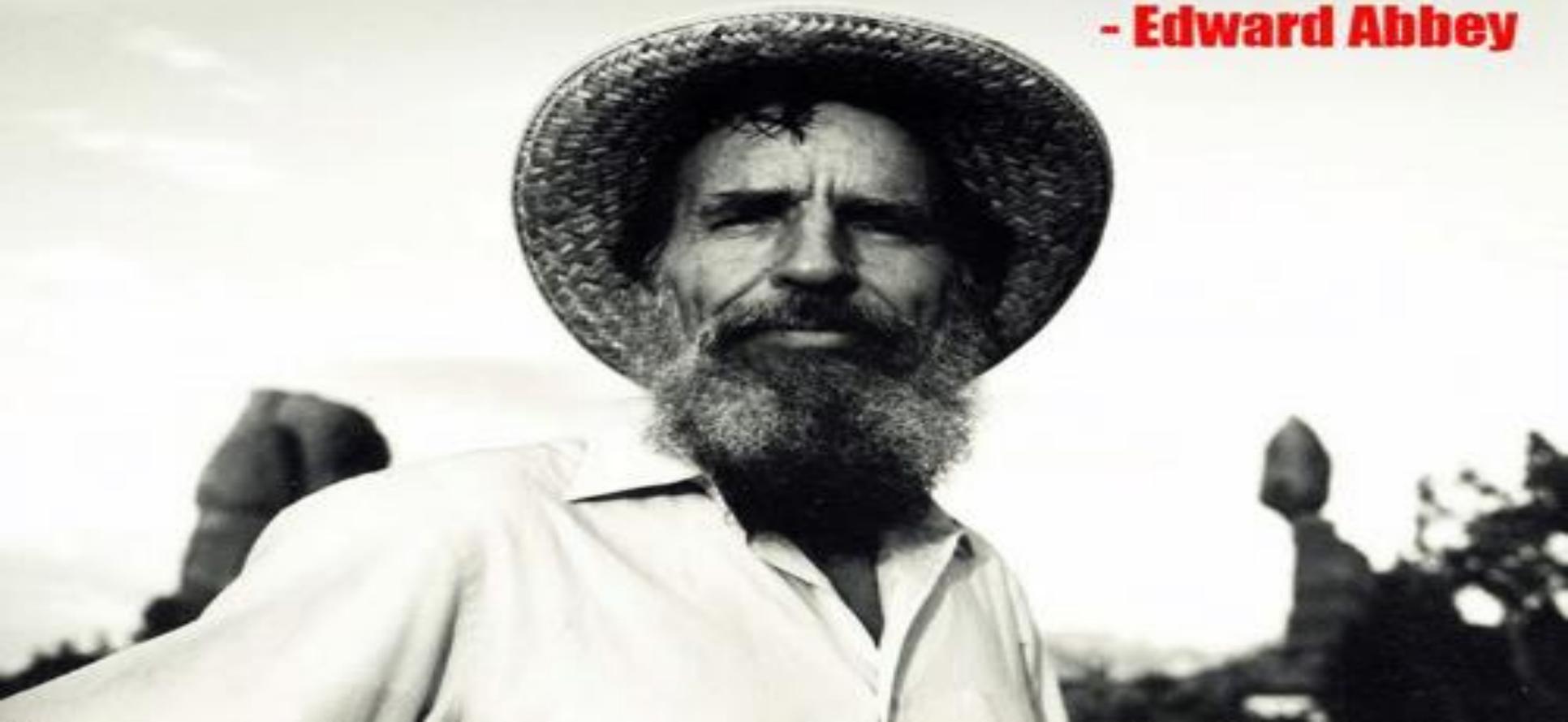
1. does not distinguish between economic activity/purchases/exchange that adds to human individual or collective wellbeing;
2. a post-growth/degrowth economics does NOT mean EACH sector of the economy is contracting – it’s a macro level analysis

Permanent –

Growth is legitimate and positive when societies are poor- but continuing with growth indefinitely is risky, passes thresholds when it causes more problems than benefits and therefore should be viewed as a temporary objective of an economy

“Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.”

- Edward Abbey



Economic Growth: What Are We Measuring?

- GDP: Total expenditure on all goods and services produced within a country

- Adds to GDP:



- Also adds to GDP:



- Not included in GDP:



"The gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile."

- Robert F. Kennedy



1968....

WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT



**ANOTHER 'GREEN
GROWTH' STRATEGY**

But
wait..
market
incentives and

No...wait.....
that's complete
bullshit



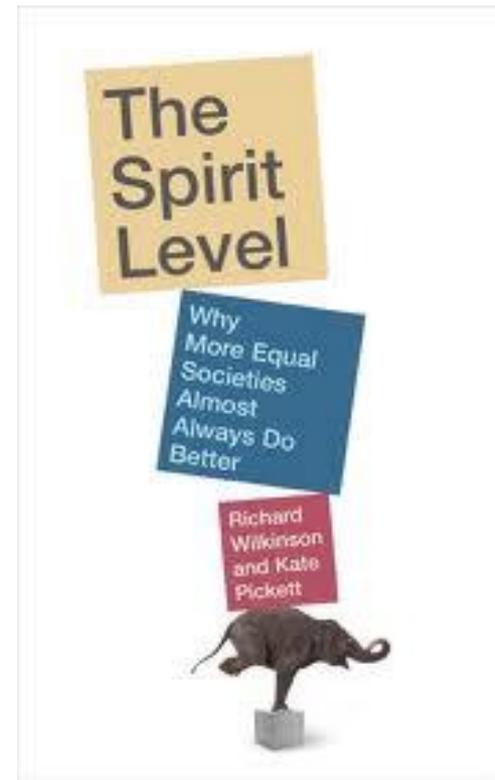
Economic growth is a *substitute for equality and is now a net disbenefit*

Economic growth under capitalism *reproduces and requires inequality and no longer adds to human flourishing*

“Economic growth, for so long the great engine of progress, has, in the rich countries, largely finished its work. Not only have measures of wellbeing and happiness ceased to rise with economic growth but, as affluent societies have grown richer, there have been long-term rises in rates of anxiety, depression and numerous other social problems.

The populations of rich countries have got to the end of a long historical journey”.

(Wilkinson and Pickett, 2009: 5-6)



**WHY IS IT EASIER TO
IMAGINE THE END O THE WORLD**



**... THAN THE
END OF CAPITALISM?**

“The most alarming sign of the state of our society now is that our leaders have the courage to sacrifice the lives of young people in war, but have not the courage to tell us that we must be less greedy and less wasteful.”

Wendell Berry, 1993



Conclusion – the great decoupling

Focus on decoupling economic activity from carbon energy

But more than that – decouple human flourishing and wellbeing from economic growth

What do we want – jobless growth? Or work-rich post-growth?

Limits to quantitative-material dimensions of human life – food, energy, resources, metals etc.

No limits to qualitative human development – education, love, community, solidarity, meaningful free time

DO GOOD LIVES HAVE TO COST THE EARTH

PHILIP PULLMAN, A. C. GRAYLING, OLIVER
JOHN BIRD on Love and Happiness ADAM
ANITA RODDICK, LARRY ELLIOTT on Growth
HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL, ROSAMUND
on Good Food WAYNE HEMINGWAY, STANLEY
BAYLEY, KEVIN McCLOUD on Good Design
CAMERON, HILARY BENN on Good Politics
HODGKINSON on Having a Good Time

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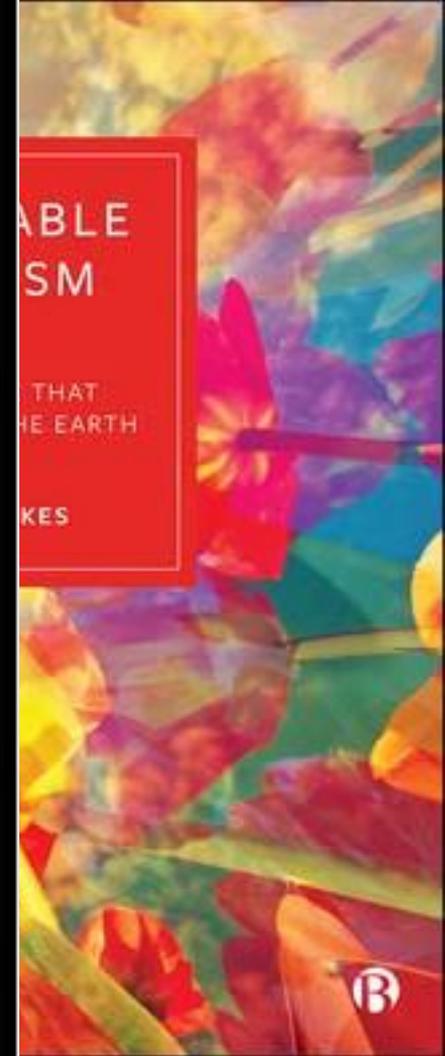


ENOUGH IS

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POLICIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

PLENTY

ANNE B. RYAN



ABLE
SM

THAT
THE EARTH

KES

