



# The Culture of Extinction: Toward a Philosophy of Deep Ecology

Frederic L. Bender

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## The Culture of Extinction: Toward a Philosophy of Deep **Ecology**

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Global warming, air and water pollution, ozone-layer depletion, species extinction—these are all the results of what philosopher Frederic L. Bender calls our "culture of extinction." Bender criticizes many of industrial society's basic assumptions, for example, that we humans are superior to animals, that the Bible justifies our dominion over the Earth, or that we are evolution's highest products. He also reveals the underlying connections between mechanistic science and Earth's devastation under capitalism, and he points out that major modernist philosophies, from Bacon and Descartes to 20th-century empiricism, are in the service of the culture of extinction. In conclusion, he offers a way of integrating the many insights of the different environmentalist movements and discusses practical steps to make our culture more environmentally friendly.



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