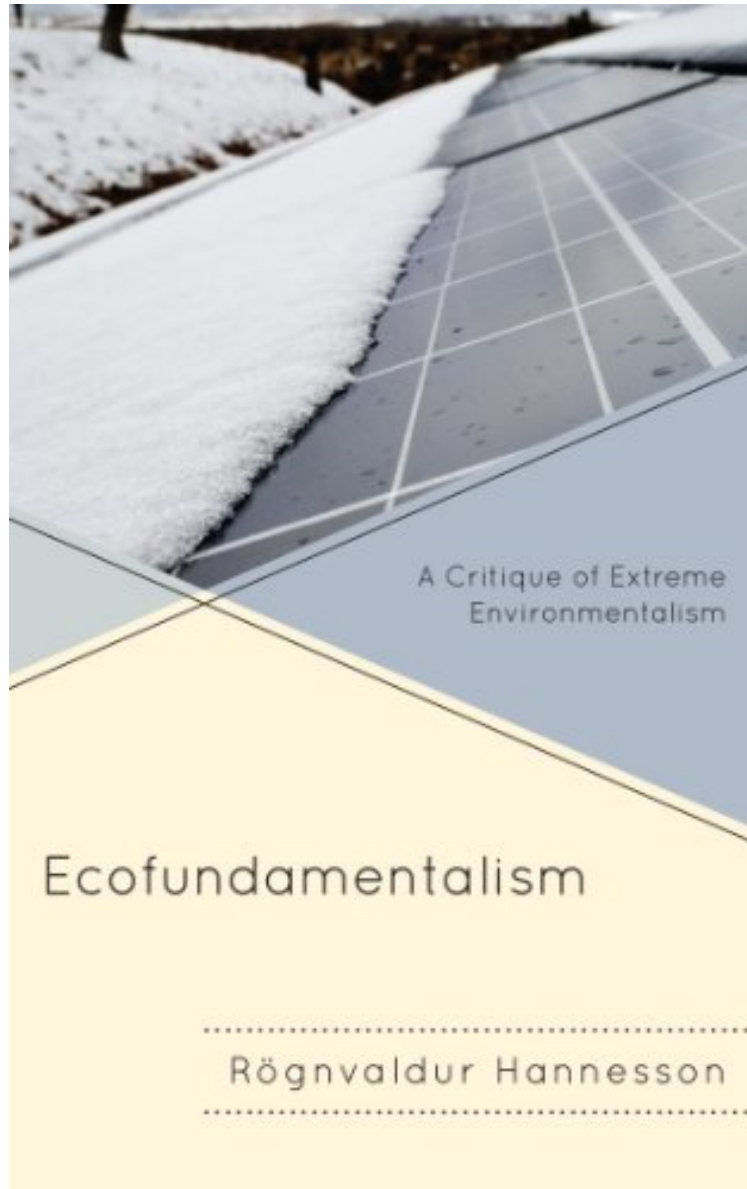


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# Ecofundamentalism: A Critique of Extreme Environmentalism

Rögnvaldur Hannesson

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**Rögnvaldur Hannesson : Ecofundamentalism: A Critique of Extreme Environmentalism** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ecofundamentalism: A Critique of Extreme Environmentalism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Super book! Excellent  
By Tony Meyer  
Super book! Excellent!  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I recently saw Dr. Hannesson speak at the University ...  
By Christopher D Desjardins  
I recently saw Dr. Hannesson speak at the University of Iceland. Dr. Hannesson argues that if you believe

that nature has an intrinsic value and should be conserved because of this that you are an ecofundamentalist, anti-human, and anti-progress. Dr. Hannesson ridiculed the presses' reaction to the Minnesota dentist shooting the lion in Zimbabwe; said that lions and crocodiles should all be exterminated; argued that fish should not be set aside for top predators in an ecosystem (i.e. sorry birds, whales, and seals); argued for the unabated development/clear cutting of the rain forest; and linked carbon dioxide emissions to economic growth and progress. The most precious gem of the evening, however, was his comment that global warming would be welcomed by Icelanders (Dr. Hannesson lives in Norway). Dr. Hannesson came off as extremely arrogant with arguments so inane that I kept thinking he was joking. It's a shame that the University of Iceland gave this fundamentalist any credence by giving him an outlet for his preposterous views. I guess they're "warmer" to crazies in Bergen.

Everyone has heard of environmentalism, but what is it? Is it ideology or religion? Like socialism, environmentalism is a political program, but even more diffuse. Environmentalists hold diverse opinions, from wanting to take care of nature in human interest to putting nature above man. The latter is religious environmentalism, with nature taking the place of the supernatural. This book is a critique of this type of environmentalism, appropriately named ecofundamentalism. This may be a minority or even marginal opinion, but it seems to shape people's thinking to an unwarranted degree. In the worst of cases, it would bring the end of civilization as we know it. Without massive monocultures, supported by pesticides and fertilizer, we could never feed ourselves. Almost 90 percent of our primary energy comes from fossil fuels, without which there would be no air travel, cars and trucks, reliable electricity, and even much of our food supply. Putting a premium on biodiversity and getting serious about greenhouse gas emissions would force us to go without these things, putting us back in the Middle Ages. Fortunately, there is no need to heed any of these environmentalist prescriptions. Contrary to the notion that economic growth is unsustainable and our core problem, it is actually the core solution. Economic growth and technology has made it possible for food production to outpace population growth since the industrial revolution. Economic growth is one reason why population growth worldwide has fallen so that the "population bomb" may never explode. It has also made us largely independent of the weather except for growing our crops. Meanwhile, ecofundamentalism would cause more harm than good.

In this book, world-renowned fisheries economist Hannesson states that his goal is to debunk environmentalism of the ecofundamentalist variety as ahistorical, unscientific, and an outright threat to progress. Putting aside his technical and statistical tools to critically evaluate his subject, the author defines ecofundamentalists as people who put nature above humans and accuses them of being hypocrites benefiting from the comforts of the industry they deride and of self-aggrandizement promoting doom and gloom. According to the author, ecofundamentalists may be a minority and represent marginal opinion, but they are capable of shaping public thinking to an unwarranted degree. He does admit there are limits to the use of nonrenewable resources, but if experience is any guide, he concludes, people will probably do just fine. To environmentalists who urge precaution, Hannesson says the only way to learn about the dangers of a product is by using it. Possibly his most striking opinion is that people have learned the laws of nature and turned them to their advantage. A nonanalytical critique, this book is recommended as a reasoned counter to some of the arguments of environmentalism. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers. (CHOICE) Professor Rógnvaldur Hannesson, an authority on natural resource management, has written a well-argued, even if polemical, book against ecofundamentalism, which, for him, puts nature before man. . . . Hannesson has written an instructive, concise book, successfully debunking many myths about the environment, with sober analysis rather than rhetoric. (Journal of Economic Literature) Ecofundamentalism: A Critique of Extreme Environmentalism is a valuable book for presenting a careful and reasoned counter to some of the arguments of environmentalism. Rógnvaldur Hannesson is an accomplished scholar and an environmentalist in his own right. His arguments point to the critical need for positive analysis of the tradeoffs encountered in confronting environmental and natural resource problems in order to enhance the wellbeing of the planet and its inhabitants of all kinds. (Gary Libecap, University of California, Santa Barbara) Rógnvaldur Hannesson is a world-renowned fisheries economist, but in this book he puts aside his technical and statistical tools to critically evaluate "ecofundamentalism" through an economic lens anyone can understand. If you are an open-minded environmentalist, you will have to re-evaluate your position on many issues including global warming, and if you are an "ecofundamentalist," your foundation will be shaken. (Terry L. Anderson, PERC) About the Author Rógnvaldur Hannesson received his PhD in economics at the University of Lund, Sweden.