

World History Assignment

NOTE: This in-class assignment goes along with my Week 13 session on Global Struggles for Environmental Justice. I will inform students ahead of time that computers will be used for this assignment and if any students cannot access computers to bring to class, I will arrange to borrow from the library.

Assignment Description: I instruct students to visit the Environmental Justice Atlas website (<https://ejatlas.org/>), which is an interactive map with several thousand data points of environmental justice related conflicts across the globe over the last several decades. On the site, you can click on any of the data points to learn more information about each individual conflict. You can also filter based on type of conflict, resolution, and what specific environmental issue is being discussed (infrastructure, biodiversity, mineral extraction, etc.) I have students go through the map on their own and choose a conflict of their choice. There will be no restriction on region or time-period. They will also have time to look up additional information on the conflict online if they wish. I provide a series of questions for them to consider (How did you choose your specific case? Describe the type of conflict, the resolution, and who was most affected. What historical context is there for this conflict? What does the conflict tell us about the relationship between humans and the environment during that specific point in time?) during this time as well. Following this, I have students discuss their findings in small groups of their peers. I ask each student to report on their findings and their answers to the questions I posed. After each student in the group has shared, they then discuss similarities and differences between each of their chosen topics. Finally, we discuss the map and their findings as a whole class. I ask for students to volunteer to share what they found or what they discussed as a small group. This then leads into a full-class discussion of the different types of environmental justice-related conflicts around the globe, the prominence of certain types of conflicts in certain regions, and what groups are most affected by these conflicts. This larger discussion will also be an opportunity to discuss the historical context of some of these conflicts.

Timeline of Assignment

- Individual student research and exploration of map: 20 minutes
- Small group discussion: 10-15 minutes
- Full class discussion: 20 minutes