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Dissertation: "Awakening to Ecocide"

Abstract: Human beings have systematically and rapidly engaged in the destruction of the natural world. Since long before modern times, the conscious or unconscious degradation of the environment, with its attendant pollution, atmospheric warming, soil loss, and elimination of species, has been accelerating, and is now climaxing at the most rapid pace ever recorded or studied. Humans are the primary disrupter of the natural balance and we remain as the principal disturbance to the self-healing quality of the natural world. People, for the most part, are acting as if this destruction, also known as "ecocide" is not occurring. Social, economic, and political structures both domestically and on the transnational level continue to support the status quo of humanity's destructive patterns. This study uses a depth psychological lens to examine the possible root causes of ecocide. It provides a reflective space for discussing the propensity to ecocide in the human psyche, then it investigates what distinguishes those who are conscious and working to change our current destructive paradigm from those who are ignoring it.