I. Environmental Justice/ Racism
    A. Environmental Racism first used as a term by Rev. Benjamin Chavez with the release of "Toxic Waste and Race in the United States"
    B. Summary of argument
        1. Race is the variable that determines to the greatest degree whether or not a community and its members will be exposed to and suffer from the health consequences of negative environmental practices
        2. toxic or hazardous waste sites, legal and illegal, are more likely to be located in or near minority communities
        3. minorities in urban areas more likely to live in areas with highest air pollution
        4. minorities more likely to live in areas with worst industrial pollution
        5. government regulatory power is less likely to be used effectively in minority communities
            a. laws and regulations enforced less vigorously
            b. lower fines in minority areas, 1/5
            c. slower to put toxic waste sites on Superfund list
            d. employ policy of containing waste, rather than removing it
    C. Environmental racism as Institutional Racism
        1. difference between personal racism and institutional racism
        2. cause of environmental racism is institutional racism
            a. personal racism
            b. institutional racism
                i. ways in which society's institutions are arranged
                ii. different power arrangements
                iii. differential treatment and consequences
            c. both US and global social arrangements are organized in such a way
                i. certain groups are affected to a greater or lesser degree by environmental practices
                ii. deprived of environmental rights
    D. Consequences of Environmental Racism in Urban American
        1. social construction of the urban ghetto
        2. environmental racism/injustice in urban area
            a. highest levels of air pollution are in minority urban America because of concentration of commercial and commuter traffic, and public transportation (hub of bus traffic in NYC is in Harlem)
                i. 50% of A-A children in urban Hartford, Conn have asthma
                ii. A-A die of asthma at 3x the rate of whites

iii. minorities more likely to get and die from cancers related to air pollution

b. site of most toxic and hazardous dumps
   i. South side of Chicago which is African American is surrounded by a triangle of toxic and hazardous waste sites
   ii. majority of illegal toxic and hazardous waste dumping is in urban minority areas
   80% of illegal dumping in areas that are 65% minority

   People of color are three times more likely than Whites to live near one of the largest toxic waste dumps in the country

   iii. minorities more likely to get cancer from toxic waste
   * African-American community of Anniston, Al polluted with PCBs and created cancer cluster

c. slum lording and lead poisoning
   i. in Chicago ten areas with highest rate of poisoning 70% minority, 90% of cases
   ii. 37% of black urban preschoolers suffer from lead poisoning
   iii. California and Dutch Boy

d. Hospital waste dumps
   i. hospital waste sites located in minority urban areas
   ii. NYC main site is in Harlem (after upper class white neighborhood said NIMB)

E. Environmental Racism and Industrial Pollution
   1. 5 of the 6 areas with worst industrial pollution in the U.S. are 78% minority
   2. People of color are twice as likely to live in counties with highest levels of industrial toxins
   3. "Cancer Corridor" 50 miles of Mississippi River in Louisiana, St. James Parish a Black community
   4. See examples: Native Americans

F. Native Americans
   1. long time policy of toxic and hazardous waste dumping on reservations
   2. main sites of uranium mining and nuclear testing
   3. pollution from fracking (chemicals used in fracking have polluted the drinking water and the land and the animals of NA)

4. oil pipelines leak thousands of gallons of oil on native lands
5. pollution from mining gold
6. examples: see below

G. Migrant workers
1. more likely to be exposed to pesticides
2. more likely to be sickened or die from exposure to toxic pesticides
3. less regulation and enforcement

II. Environmental Racism - Native Americans

A. Nuclear Waste
1. 104 US nuclear power plants
2. 22 in Canada
3. Waste
   a. 80, 000 metric tons high level
   b. millions of gallons of high level liquid nuclear waste
   c. spent fuel rods
   d. tailings
   e. mines: 1000 alone on Navajo land
   f. affected: Hopi, Navajo, Lakota, Apache, Laguna Ojibwa, Ok tribes, Alabama-Coushatta, Yakama, and Spokane

B. Western Shoshone
1. 1951 AEC created a nuclear test site in Nevada within W Shoshone Reservation
2. 1951-1992 US and GB 1054, 220 above ground tests
3. government claim very little exposure, equivalent of chest x-ray
4. 1997 National Cancer Institute study:
   a. 160 million persons 200x to 3000x the amount govt claimed
   b. 75,000 cases of thyroid cancer, many still at risk because of long latency period
5. AEC and DofE would wait until winds would blow north and east so radiation wouldn't blow towards Vegas or La, but toward the Shoshone
   a. they would duck and cover
   b. structures not air tight
   c. work outside and hunted when clouds came over
   d. gather water outside
   e. not even evaluated by DoE
6. Government wants land
   a. Shoshone title has been recognized
      i. Treaty of Ruby Valley 1853
      ii. Indian Claims Commission offered to buy land based on 1873 value $26 million now $91 million

7. Shoshone refuse to sell
8. Govt wants to put nuclear waste dump there
    a. Monitored Retrieval Site
    b. govt and nuclear industry have been funding Native tribal organizations research into turning reservations into MRS
9. Govt has decided to dump all nuclear waste in W Shoshone land at Yucca mountain
    a. Nuclear Energy Institute (nuclear industry) spent $12.8 million to their congressional delegates to get this through
    b. get it out of our back yard 1997 Nuclear Waste Policy Act
        Sen Rod Grams of Minn: "We in the Senate have done our part in trying to restore the promises made by the federal government to the ratepayers of this country to move nuclear waste out of our home states."

        DOE: "Native responsibility to hold nuclear waste emanates from the 'superior Native understanding of the natural world' and the fact that we are 'our brother's keeper.'

    c. operating reactors still have to store waste for five to ten years
    d. 15,000 shipments + will lead to 268 accidents as shipments pass through areas with 50 million

C. Navajo and uranium mining - 1950 to 1980
    1. The birth of the atomic age created the need for uranium ore
    2. some of the richest deposits of uranium ore are found on the Navajo reservation and the Laguna Pueblo
        a. Four Corners
        b. Colorado Plateau
    3. between 1950 and 1980 uranium was mined
        a. mining companies heavily subsidized
        b. Kerr-McGee
    4. many of the workers were Navajo, in both mines and processing mills
        a. who were poor and desperate for the wages that mining pays
        b. and responding to the appeal of their country
    5. however, neither the tribal councils nor the miners were told about the dangers
        a. by the start of the Manhattan Project, it was known that uranium and radium caused lung disease, cancer, and other fatal problems
        b. studies by Public Health Service confirmed this beyond a doubt but the AEC

        i. sole purchaser said it had no responsibility for the safety of the mine
        ii. and the mining companies resisted taking any safety measures
        iii. Secretary of the Interior took no action to protect the workers
    c. "They dug the uranium ore with pick and shovel in the small mines called 'dog holes' or blasted the rocks with dynamite, breathing radon gas and silica-laden dust. They ate food tainted with uranium oxide and drank the contaminated water that dripped from the mine walls. They carried uranium home to their wives and children on their shoes, clothes, and bodies."

        i. no ventilation system
        ii. no protective gear
        iii. 20 years to impose limits for radiation exposure
        iv. after the deaths, mining cos and the gov argued over who should compensate the victims or if any compensation was due (few years after closing 1 in 5, cancer of lungs, pulmonary fibrosis)
        v. deaths are particularly bad decimate small communities leave families in poverty
    d. Navajo fought congress and the courts in 70s and 80s
        i. disregard for the rights of native peoples
        ii. "discretionary function" - no court review of certain court functions (Federal Tort Claims Act)
    e. in 1990 Congress passed Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
        i. bureaucratic nightmare that natives have to traverse
        ii. slow processing of claims
        iii. demands which subvert the intent of the law
        iv. this included the human guinea pigs, fallout victims, other workers exposed
6. Not just death
    a. left behind over 1000 mines uncapped
    b. piles of radioactive mine waste (tailings)
    c. rain leaching uranium into ground water
    d. small open pit mines filled with water inviting children to swim
    e. Laguna Pueblo
        i. 3000 acre open pit mine
        ii. untouched for seven years after operations stopped

iii. Pueblo started own reclamation

f. Shiprock
    i. radioactive mill
    ii. 70 acres of spent uranium with 85% of radioactivity
    iii. about 20 yards from the San Juan river

g. Durango
    i. Mt. Uranium tailings pile 2300 feet high

III. Environmental Racism - Native Americans

A. Mohawk

1. Akwesasne "Land Where the Partridge Drums"
2. 25 sq miles on St. Lawrence border between NY and Canada
3. home to 8,000 Mohawks
4. GM factory Superfund site
    a. 823, 000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated materials
    b. land , water, and bodies
5. Traditionally fishers
    a. whales polluted
    b. turtles polluted- Mohawk legend - Turtle Island
6. "This used to be a fishing village. That's all gone now. There's only one family that still fishes. We can't farm here because of all of those air emissions. Industry has pretty much taken the entire traditional lifestyle away from the community here.

    a. 65% of Mohawks on Adwasnes have diabetes
    b. from fish to spaghetti
7. history of polluting Mohawk land
    a. 1900s Aluminum Company of America factory
    b. 1950s cheap power from St Lawrence and Moses Sanders Power Dam lured giant corporations
        i. GM and Reynolds
8. Reynolds
    a. 400 pounds of fluorides per hour, reduced in 1973 to 75 pounds per hour
    b. but
        i. stock losses
        ii. vegetation
9. Today 25% of all NA industry is located on or near the Great Lakes which are drained by the St Lawrence
10. Canada as designated Akwesasne Mohawk Res as most contaminated
11. US side, GM had 258 acres near res

    a. five saturate lagoons
    b. numerous PCB laden sludge pits
    c. lead, chromium, mercury, cadmium,
12. GM one of the worst polluters in the world
    a. 1994 Multinational Monitor Top Ten worst corp
    b. potentially responsible for 200 Superfund sites
13. EPA fined GM for multiple violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act and added site to Superfund for cleanup
14. EPA resolve has weakened from "treatment" to "containment"
    a. limits amount of cleanup to 1/3
    b. saves GM $15million
15. GM cleanup
    a. sand and gravel over contaminated areas
16. Women's Milk Project
    a. women are first environment
        i. baby, mother, family
        ii. everything the mother feels, eats, and sees affects the baby
    b. bioaccumulation analysis from fish to wildlife to breast milk
    c. 200x the PCP levels for mothers who ate fish from the St. Lawrence
        i. example one woman: PCBs, HCBs, DDC, mirex (a flame retardant)
        ii. fish is traditional food
    d. same in studies of fetal umbilical cords
17. GM fights every step of the way
    a. did some dredging in 1998-99
    b. but shipped them off to some unlucky site in Utah
    c. may identify more hot spots, and may do more remediation
18. fight is going international POPs, persistent organic pollutants "dirty dozen"
19. Every one carries 500 measurable chemicals in their body that were not in existence prior to 1920
    a. effect brain development and behavior
    b. endocrine functions
    c. immune systems
    d. reproductive systems
    e. 72,000 are used on a regular basis, less than 20% have been tested