

Chapter 19 Transforming Cultures - Beginning with Individuals

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What causes people - individuals and societies - to become more ethical?

Abstract: Human ecology is about the relationships between humans, our cultures and our ecosystems. It is fundamentally concerned with the principles of ecological sustainability and social justice. At this point in history it is critical that we change our behaviour to follow these two principles.

History shows that societies have sometimes become more ethical. We need to know what causes these improvements. I submit that the main causes are as follows:

- personal, emotional experiences
- inspired moral leadership
- laws based on moral principles

My presentation will be based on a subjective, experiential approach. I will use real-life stories and images to illustrate major ethical issues. We can then discuss the examples used, in our usual objective manner. Our ultimate aim should be to determine the truth about what improves people.