

# Alternative Worlds III: Eco-socialism, Degrowth, and South America's Buen Vivir

Eco-socialist vision

Diagnosis

Aims

Ideology

Logic of capitalism

The case for utopian thinking

Critique of eco-socialism

Degrowth and doughnut economics

Buen vivir (living well)

Ecuador and the Andes

Roots in environmentalism of poor

# Aims of eco-socialism

- Collective ownership of means of production and distribution of goods and services
- Cooperation and communalism over competition. Harmony with environment
- Rejects authoritarian state and command economies of socialism's past
- The scale of governance differs: local producer and consumer cooperatives, bio-regionalism. Centralized coordinating body? A different globalization
- End of imperialism and warfare driven by capitalism
- End of subjugation of nature
- Freedom under socialism is two-pronged
  - Freedom over labor
  - Freedom as socialized wealth

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## Ideological and Political Underpinnings

1. Marxist intellectual tradition
2. The rise of ecological thinking
3. Environmental Justice movements
4. Conviction that environmental crisis is inevitable under capitalism  
Some say this will happen even if there is a transition to renewable energy

## Critique

1. Capitalism won and socialism failed. It can't work
2. Socialism leads to laziness and lack of innovation

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# DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

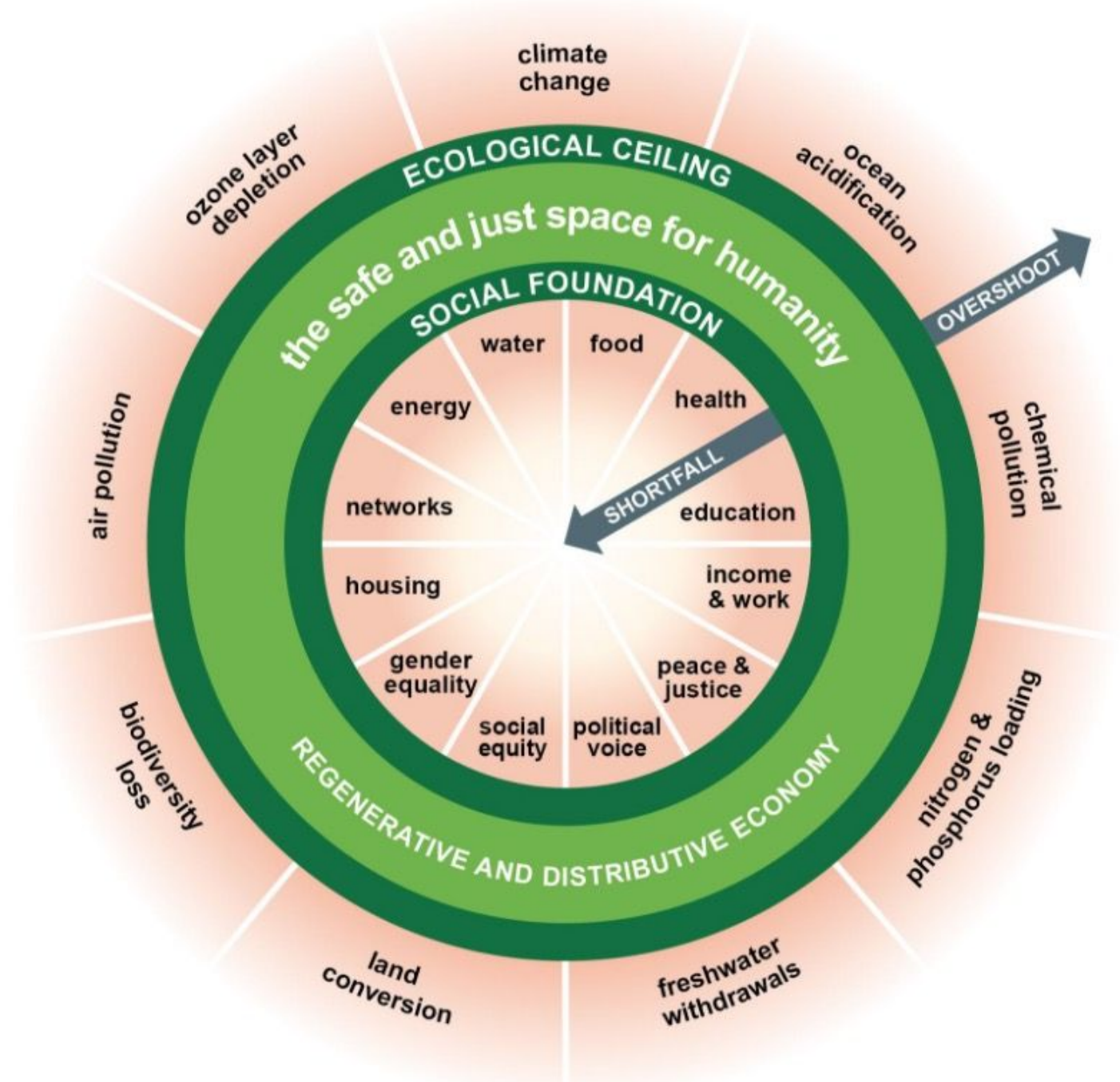
Seven Ways to Think Like a  
21st-Century Economist



KATE RAWORTH

I read this book with the excitement that the people of his  
day must have read John Maynard Keynes's *General Theory*.  
It is brilliant, thrilling and revolutionary. George Monbiot





climate change

ozone layer depletion

ocean acidification

ECOLOGICAL CEILING

the safe and just space for humanity

SOCIAL FOUNDATION

water food

energy

health

networks

education

housing

income & work

gender equality

peace & justice

social equity

political voice

REGENERATIVE AND DISTRIBUTIVE ECONOMY

air pollution

chemical pollution

OVERSHOOT

SHORTFALL

biodiversity loss

nitrogen & phosphorus loading

land conversion

freshwater withdrawals

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## **Ecuador's new constitution:**

“We hereby decide to build a new form of public coexistence, in diversity and harmony with nature, to achieve the good way of living”

## Attendance question

You suddenly have 5 million dollars. However, there are strings attached. You must use this money to address the climate crisis in accord with your environmental ethics. You must select one of the following options:

- A. Give it to an organization of scientists who are working with private investors to make carbon sequestration viable
- B. Keep it for yourself and your friends to buy green products for a life time
- C. Put it towards a venture capital fund working to establish an electric car company
- D. Give it to an alliance of environmental justice organizations who are taking on big oil in sacrifice zones around the world
- E. Give it to several environmental organizations in the U.S. working to Implement policies such as a carbon tax and a green jobs initiative to boost renewables.