

## The Origins of Hell on Earth (Planet Critical)

<https://www.planetcritical.com/p/the-origins-of-hell-on-earth>

A good discussion as usual in Planet: Critical podcasts, and always-needed reiteration of some of the main environmentalist talking points.

Particularly good, in this regard, to have Polluter Pays brought to attention. It is one of the four related PP principles stressed by Arizona Toxics Information and others, among the more effective concepts in our corrective environmentalist efforts in the last half or so of the 20th C, the other three being Public Participation, Pollution Prevention and the Precautionary Principle, all four of which are still observed more in rhetoric than in practice.

The question of how/why materialist notions of soul (or, more usually, souls, plural) in Egypt, Greece and other eastern Mediterranean cultures became doctrines of immaterial souls and Platonic "immaterial substance" in general is fascinating and remains largely unanswered despite centuries of study -- by, it is true, mostly thinkers in the big three monotheist cultures, all of which are themselves deeply influenced by the Platonic earwig.

But we need always to be careful not to commit the neocolonial whitewashing that Edward Said called orientalism. In fact, ancient Indic and Chinese thought also had idealist branches, some of which influenced idealist rationalism (including Pythagorean-Platonist mathematical speculation) as well, of course, having strong descendants in current Eastern and Southeastern cultures and the ubiquitous versions of spiritualist creationism and its avatars at large in the West these days.

Similarly, we need to be careful not to lose the values of diversity, ecological and social, in overly simple condemnation of dualism.