

Who is a Bioregionalist?

A bioregionalist is any person who subscribes wholeheartedly to these simple statements:

Earth is my home: I am an Earthling.

A continent of Earth is my home.

A region of Earth is my home.

This fresh sense of home is simple, but it has implications:

The United States, Canada, or Mexico or some other nation is not my home; it is just my nation.

My state or province is not my home; it is just my state or province.

My zip-code district is not my home; it is just my zip-code district.

Western civilization is not my home. No civilization is my home; it is just my civilization.

If you are a tribal person, your tribe is not your home; it is just your tribe.

Tribal people have been bioregionalists compared to civilized people, but they are not bioregionalists because they are tribal. They are bioregionalists because they have honored all the living and inanimate beings in a specific region of the planet.

When we apply the bioregional sense of home to envisioning the future of human society, we do not see tribes or civilizations. We see a planetary confederation of semiautonomous Earth-regions.

When we apply the bioregional sense of home to envisioning the future of political and economic systems, we do not see a global economy ruled by wealth and unrefered by local regions of people. We see popular consensus-building taking place in each local region and then extending into an Earth-sensitive governance of the entire economic playing field for all players across the whole planet.

When we apply the bioregional sense of home to envisioning the future of human cultures, we do not see planet-wide uniformities conceived by product-advertisers. We see local families of plants, animals, and humans forming unique expressions of aliveness in each region of the planet.

Bioregionalism means dreaming a new dream. This new dream is not something grandly idealistic; it is a realistic direction for avoiding untenable ecological disaster. While we may learn many lessons from a thousand centuries of tribal society and sixty centuries of civilization, **something new is now called for**. Both civilizational hierarchy and tribal intimacy are obsolete patterns of living that are no longer appropriate for the real situation in which we dwell. It is time for us to dream a new dream. **Bioregionalism is a name for that new dream.**