PART I

SOCIAL MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE
ENVIRONMENTALISM AND THE FAMILY OF ANTI-SYSTEMIC MOVEMENTS: TOWARD A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF MOVEMENTS?

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This paper is not intended to be about environmentalism. Despite the nearly exclusive treatment that we give to the environmental movement, we hope that the underlying message presented here will be bigger than environmentalism as an independent movement. Environmentalism is just one of many social concerns that demand attention in the coming millennium. At the beginning of 2009, the world found itself embroiled in a resurgence of the bloody conflict against Palestinians, a global financial crisis, a continuing humanitarian catastrophe in Darfur, two unmanageable wars of United States (USA) imperialism, and intractable ethnic and gender inequalities that have plagued the history of humanity—just to name a few global problems. Issues such as climate change and environmental justice are just pieces of what could be a larger struggle for a “better world.” Many of the social problems that we face today share common causes (such as neoliberal capitalism and imperialism), and activists of all varieties can benefit from mutual empathy and collaboration.

Within this context, we argue that the environmental movement can be a key actor in bringing about (or strengthening) a “movement of many movements—coalitions of coalitions,” a stimulating concept used by Klein (2004). Klein argues that a movement of all varieties, from all nations, can work together to fight against the privatization of the world—the phenomenon that places profit over people. Global movements can branch out to become numerous local movements, and local movements can tie into global movements. We argue that

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1 Special thanks to Madeline Baer for her contribution to this chapter. Christopher Chase-Dunn, Ellen Reese, and the Transnational Social Movement Research Working Group (University of California, Riverside) were also indispensable for the publication of this paper. Thanks also to Sylvia Escarcega, Marc Becker, and Lauren Hunt for their help with earlier drafts. And, of course, thanks to David Fasenfest for bringing this collection of works together.